

Newman Parish Peace and Justice Small Group Meeting

January 5, 2022

Present: Laurie Hittman, Lou Hoeschen, Betty Hurst, Chris Maslonkowski, Donna Raleigh, Connie Russell, Kathie Schneider and Calvin

Leader: Lou Hoeschen Recorder: Donna Raleigh

1. Lou called the **meeting to order** at 8:00 a.m. on Zoom
2. **Opening Prayer** reflection from our book: core elements are awareness and connectedness
3. **Prayer Requests**
 - Lou**—for her sister Geri who is having surgery on her broken arm tomorrow
 - Connie**—for a world-wide increase in empathy
 - Donna**—for all people who are making major changes in their lives
 - Laurie**—for Paul and Dani as they transition to employment in Colorado
 - Kathie**— gratitude for Calvin’s and Kathie’s second anniversary. Thanksgiving for Calvin
 - Chris**—prayers for her son and pregnant daughter-in- law who has covid
 - Betty**—prayers for her walking partner, John, from Advancing Hope Fund, and for all people who suffer from traumatic childhoods
4. The **meeting minutes** from December, 2021 were approved as amended. Donna will send out the minutes to the distribution list. Star the item about Parish calls during Advent since this was not completed.
5. **Old Business**
 - **Afghanistan refugees**—Instead of collections of “stuff,” volunteering and contributing money works best. Also, you can go on the website and donate through on-line purchasing. Can volunteer to do activities with the children and/or the women—mostly it’s interacting with the people. We can encourage parish members to donate and to volunteer. Connie will contact Father Dan and Mary about a short item in the bulletin.
 - **Review of website**—Ken was going to do this. Move this item to next month’s meeting agenda
 - **Beacon House Toy Project**—an unexpected snow storm impacted volunteers on Friday night and Saturday. The team had a sub list and also some other volunteers came in early and stayed later. Everything went well. The team is very grateful for God’s guidance. Sixty families with 195 children were served. This is less that we have had for a long time. Factors contributing to the decrease include new organizations that offered holiday gift giving and Family Promise staff determined that federal monies impacted participation. We were not the only ones with lower numbers. But the good part was that the families who participated got a lot of stuff—a bonus to those families.
6. **New Business**
 - a) **Works of charity**—we have the same budget we had last year, \$15,000. In our discussion we allocated money to the charities now listed on the spreadsheet which will be emailed with the minutes. Donna will follow-up on the existence of a

program for men leaving prison similar to EXPO's Free for women's program. The tiny homes project has served 52 households and 83 people since its inception. Laurie will contact John Kempf and Kathy Schultz about the Indian mission. Kathie will research the item for the military.

b) **New book**—we chose from the following recommended books:

His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope by Jon Meacham

Shoutin in the Fire by Dante Stewart

Better Not Bitter by Yusef Salaam

Biased by Jennifer Eberhardt

Demystifying Disability by Emily Ladau

Finding Jesus at the Border by Julia Lambert Fogg (not on book share but available on audible)

Mercy in Action by Pope Francis (Not available yet, but we want it listed in the minutes)

We chose *Demystifying Disability* By Emily Ladau. Please read the introduction and the first 3 chapters for next month. Kathie will ask Emily Ladau to Zoom with us in March, 2022.

c) We will discuss Synodality in February

8. **Book Discussion-What Happened to You?** Chapter 1

- Nakatanega —how you strengthen families which strengthens the community. Maori community in chapter 9. This approach to child rearing makes total sense. The relational part is a key component. P. 249 Ideal ways to develop relationships and apply the ways to those with trauma experiences.
- Human Services is using the Family First model. Some evidence is being gathered locally. However, the payoff is long term—5-10 years from now.
- Relates to politics in the sense that some candidates for local offices are in favor in that approach and others want to trim our local human services department.
- Western medicine is about the symptoms and the fix. Not about the disconnectedness from the community. Need to ask do you feel safe? Who are your friends? How do you spend your time? If individuals can feel connected and know that someone cares their healing is improved.
- We look at people differently after reading this book.
- Mike Huggins gets a lot of credit for the Clear Vision approach to strengthening the community. One of the groups has been talking about trauma in childhood.
- This book gives us hope. Need people organizing things that help the community. Have good people on the city council and the county board right now.

- Ending, p 278

8. **Closing Prayer**- also a reading from our book.

9. **Next meeting**-Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 8am on Zoom. Kathie will lead; Connie will record.

Laurie will set up the Zoom link for February and we will ask Ken to do the set up for the March meeting.

a) Agenda:

- i. Call to Order
- ii. Opening Prayer
- iii. Old Business
 - i. Charity Funds Distribution
 - ii. Synodality discussion
- iv. New Business
- v. Book Discussion
- vi. Plans for our next meeting

10. **To Do's:**

- i. Donna—research EXPO services
- ii. Laurie—contact John and Kathy Kempf
- iii. Kathie—research the military item on the spreadsheet
- iv. Kathie—contact Emily Ladau
- v. All—read introduction and first 3 chapters of *Demystifying Disabilities*.