

# Commission Updates

*for the September 2020 Community Assembly*

## Acts of Chapter

An interest in homelessness, eviction, food insecurity has persisted among the members of our committee. Last year Acts of Chaheologies and spiritualities, seeking justice for homeless and immigrants, fulfilling Earth's sacred mandate, and peace and nonviolence. We learned in the process from Marty Roers's report to us that no working group on homelessness had formed, a gap. Currently we find among our committee members both high interest and experience in this affordable housing need. We are looking for concrete ways and partners for getting involved in the issues.

## Ministry Commission

The Ministry Commission continues to meet monthly via zoom. The commission welcomed two new members, Kay Welsch, Consociate, and Mary Nicholas Vincelli, CSJ.

As the Province organizes to launch a bold vision for the next five years, activating the Province and Congregation Acts of Chapter goals and directives, the Ministry Commission has begun grounding research of Province core ministries.

The commission is meeting with ministry directors to learn what they are doing currently, their challenges and their immediate needs and short-term goals.

In July, Martha Nemesi, director of Learning in Style, outlined her plans for a hybrid learning model for students. The training and organizing task was significant. Martha put out a request for used laptops and iPads that are Wi-Fi enabled. There remains a need for more.

There is a strong need for volunteers for one-on-one zoom conversations with students. Volunteers are needed for all levels of English learning. Call Darlene Baber at LIS, 612.870.1815 to volunteer. You can do one ½ day once a week, or more if you are able.

Martha closed the clothes closet in the garage and opened a free food shelf. Gift cards from Aldi's and Cub are most welcome. The need is great and endless.

In August, the Commission met with Sue Gilson, executive director of St Mary's Health Clinics. The focus is on the uninsured, 98% of patients are Latino, average age is 46 and 60% are women. Since covid-19, the clinics have paused direct in person care, with the exception of the clinic in Shakopee, on a

health care site. The clinics hope to gradually re-open a clinic in Minneapolis and St Paul. St Mary's is providing virtual visits via phone or laptop. Medication pick-ups continue at Carondelet Center.

Sue Gilson continues to build relationships and partnerships in the health care provider community. Once past covid, there are expansive plans for future development. Currently St Mary's received a grant from COVID Emergency Funds for patient's basic family needs, such as rent, utilities, food and gas cards. Patients have access to the food shelf at St Kates.

The clinics have an on-going need for physician (family and general practice particularly) and nurse volunteers.

The September Ministry Commission meeting invites Joan Mitchell, CSJ and Sonja Ausen, interim director of Wisdom Ways to the meeting.

The Ministry Commission has one open position for a community member who has familiarity with the CSJ mission and ministries. Contact Mary Louise Menikheim, Chair.

## **Relationship and Association Commission**

Major accomplishments of the subcommittees of the R&A Commission during this time period include:

- **Increasing Diversity:** Presented a proposal for intentional action on racial justice to the various commissions for input, then to the Community Assembly for affirmation. Intentional action in the form of a racial justice assessment by a third party organization began upon affirmation.
- **Telling our Story:** Action to collect video footage, interviews, and pictures of various community members for online media.
- **Hospitality and Ritual:** Updated the Charter to include the 2019 St. Paul Province Chapter Directions and 2019 Congregational Chapter's Calls to Action.

R&A subcommittees have been reconfigured for 2020-2021 and now include Communications, Strengthening Relationships, and Nurturing St Kate's Connections.

## **Justice Commission**

The CSJ Justice Commission re-convened for their opening meeting of the 2020-2021 year on Thursday evening of this week. The Commission is excited to welcome new members to the commission including Lisa Fink, Consociate Candidate; Ellen Hiestand, St. Kates Intern; Deb Sheats, Consociate and Liaison to St. Kates, Karina Sieber, St. Joseph Worker; and Lori True, Ritual and Liturgy Services. The Commission is enthusiastically embracing a new meeting format to help the Commission, the Working & Task Groups, and the CSJ Community better engage and focus on the signs of these unique times, the

Chapter directions, and moving us all to examine “what do we need to be doing to boldly respond right now to these signs.”

Many of the Working & Task Groups continued to meet and work throughout the summer and now into the Fall. New people are always welcome to come to check out the groups, especially during this time of virtual meetings. Contact the Justice Office for times and Zoom links if interested.

The Justice Commission and many CSJ community members have been active in promoting civic engagement right now. A final quick reminder as well and as Joan Wittman shared in the CSJ Ministries Foundation September Fest on Thursday evening, voting is not only a right, but “it is a privilege.” We encourage everyone to REFLECT – REGISTER - and get out to VOTE this Fall. Watch for upcoming candidate circle conversation over the next few weeks.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

***VOTE* in 2020!**  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE



The image features two women, one older and one younger, both wearing white face masks with the word "VOTE" printed in large black letters. The older woman on the left has a purple circular sticker on her mask that says "I WILL VOTE". The younger woman on the right has a purple circular sticker that says "I WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE". Below the photo is a dark blue banner with white text. The banner reads "CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE" in all caps, followed by "VOTE in 2020!" in a large, bold, serif font, and "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" in all caps below it. In the bottom right corner of the banner is the logo for the Justice Commission, which includes the text "Justice COMMISSION" and "Sisters of St. Joseph of Carmel & Conception" in a smaller font.