

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, August 5 — Blessing of SJA delegates and tabling at both masses.

Saturday, August 25 — “Welcome home delegates” party at Nancy/Rick’s (1pm). See details below.

Sunday, September 23 — Delegates share experiences with SJA parishioners. After both masses.

— Also —

Skype call with TNII at 10am in Arc.

Saturday, September 29 — Annual SJA Sister Parish retreat. Watch for details.

Friday, October 12 - Sister Parish movie and tamales dinner night. Need volunteers; see below.

Sunday, October 21 — Solidarity Walk at SJA after 11am mass. All are welcome!

See **additional announcements** at end of document.

SJA Sister Parish Monthly Meeting Minutes - August 1, 2018

Attendees: Louise, Cathy, Nancy, Rick, Rosey, Meghan, Julie, Zamara, Luis, Rita, Tica

Cathy opened and closed with prayer.

Community Sharing

News from SJA

- Rosey’s grandson graduated from high school and joined the Army; he is in basic training now. Rosey will be traveling this fall and will meet him to offer support. Her intentional homeless status has been going for a year and it has been a good experience.
- Louise will be traveling with her 14-year old grandson (a “grandma trip”).
- Pedro and Olga (2018 delegates) will surely remember visiting the Somali Museum in Minneapolis. Now this museum has partnered with the MN History Center to do an exhibit called “Somalis + Minnesota”. Nancy and Rick report that it shines a positive light on Somali refugees and is good to see.
- We continue to send prayers to Paty and her family for the recent death of her sister, Francisca. The whole parish prayed for her last week.
- We enjoyed our last Skype call with TNII - the delegates introduced themselves and we had a lively and loving conversation.
- Nancy and Julie represented SJA on the Sister Parish NAC call attended by several Northern communities plus Julieta and Carrie. We discussed the issue of immigration from the perspective of both Northern and Southern communities.
- At SJA, the Eco-Spirits “camp” is happening this week (activities such as Native American tour, visit to recycling facility, etc.) They are celebrating 20 years as a ministry. Over time, this ministry has been moving toward environmental justice.

Northern Current Events

- Local ISAIAH organizer Carlos Urrutia was recently taken into detention by federal agents while at the courthouse, and the local community is protesting his rough and undignified treatment.

- Primary elections in MN are coming up. Luis feels Patricia Torres Rey is a qualified candidate for House of Representatives (replacing Keith Ellison), having known her from his children's school. Others mentioned that there are good candidates all round for this seat.
- This weekend along the border, there will be a "Flood the Desert" action — an act of civil disobedience — sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist church along with No More Deaths. These people will need our prayers.

Southern Current Events

- A disturbingly high # of activists/community organizers have been killed recently in Guatemala and Central America while fighting for land rights, indigenous and human rights, and environmental justice.
- Berta Cáceres of Honduras, world renowned environmental activists and human rights defender, was murdered over two years ago. Those who did the killing were captured (but not those who planned the murder) — however the case is not moving quickly since the public prosecutor is withholding evidence.

North to South Delegation — August 10 - 20, 2018

- We have 9 delegates — Meghan, Rick, Nancy, Cathy, Phil, Sarah, Patricia, DaniLuz, Mary B.
- Preparations are going well.
- The delegates will be blogging while in TNII — watch the SJA website.
- Delegation **de-briefs** are planned as follows:
 - 8/25 (1-3 pm) — an informal "welcome home delegates" potluck gathering at Nancy and Rick's house (1499 Osceola Avenue, Saint Paul MN 55105).
 - 9/23 after both masses — delegates will divide up and present slide shows to all parishioners who are interested.

Annual Retreat on September 29 (9am - 1pm)

- Bernie Evans is speaker and will address the topic of hope in challenging times.
- Mary has reserved a party room at Becketwood.
- Sub-committee has been formed — Patricia, Nancy, Mary, Cathy & Meghan. Will meet after delegation.

Next Skype call - September 23 at 10am in Arc. TNII will decide agenda.

Outreach Fund Sub-committee

- There are open questions about upcoming financial needs so the sub-committee tasked with determining how extra Outreach funds are spent will not meet to finalize this issue until those questions are resolved.
- However, the SP committee did agree on one expenditure from these extra Outreach funds. **We approved sending \$500 plus \$10 SP admin fee = \$510 to Sister Parish to be provided to TNII for their church capital campaign.** We felt it appropriate to expedite this payment quickly based on a Skype discussion with TNII in which it was jointly agreed that this would be one of the priorities when deciding how to use the extra funds.

Next South to North Delegation

The committee's preference is to invite a delegation from TNII to visit us in **August 2019**. This is preliminary — we will need to check finances and then discuss with SP and TNII.

Pen Pals

Tica reported on pen pal program. We will carry some letters with us.

October 12 Movie and Tamales Night

- Pre-screening date on August 26 — Rita, Meghan, Zamara, Luis, Louise, Cathy.

- NEED PLANNING VOLUNTEERS - send email to Zamara (zcuyun@hotmail.com) if you can help.
- Preliminary date for making tamales is October 6 —Zamara will check on kitchen availability first. Will need volunteers to make tamales — more info coming.
- Luis and Jeff need to discuss tech set-up.
- Need information about fee for showing movie.

Solidarity Walk on October 21

Planning team = Nancy and Cathy.

Walk will take place after 11am mass at SJA. Watch for more details.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Next month, Nancy will take notes and Rita will do prayers.
- Marnita's Table (a local justice organization) is hosting a community celebration — Building Bridges and Breaking Bread — for the opening of the 38th street bridge in their neighborhood. Sponsored by MNDOT, among others. 38th St. bridge, August 16, 4-8. Dinner served at 5:45. Open Table conversations. Eat for Equity is providing dinner - all options for all dietary needs. Kid friendly. RSVP on Facebook event. Questions 612-823-5980.
- ISALAH civic engagement trainings are scheduled in Aug and Sept. They will help ground us to vote out of faith and values, not fear. To learn about how you and your fellow parishioners can be part of the **Faith Not Fear campaign** to engage the voters of Minnesota through conversations and candidate forums, please join the St Joan of Arc ISALAH team at a Faith Not Fear Forum between masses at the Parish Center on Sunday, August 12 or Sunday, September 16. For more info, come to one of the forums or contact Mary Jo Malecha (maryjo.malecha@gmail.com), Sarah Gleason (sarahgleason@mac.com), or Ann Mongoven (akmongoven@gmail.com).