MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, May 26 — Skype call with TNII (10am) in Upper Room.

Sunday, June 2 — Outreach Sunday. See details below.

Sunday, June 9 — Parishioner meeting for those interested in volunteering (delegation host families, interpreters, drivers, activities). See details below.

See additional announcements at end of document.

SJA Sister Parish Monthly Meeting Minutes - May 1, 2019

Attendees: Nancy, Rick, Cathy B, Karen, Mary, Rita, Meghan, Julie, Rosey, Judy, Louise, Zamara, Luis, Tica, Paul, Phyllis, Carol.

We welcomed a special guest from Guatemala, Carrie Stengel, Executive Director of Sister Parish.

Rosey opened and closed with a prayer about radical hope.

Current Situation in Guatemala
• The presidential election process in Guatemala continues to be controversial, including the arrest in the U.S. of now-former presidential candidate Mario Estrada. He allegedly attempted to fund his campaign with drug money and assassinate his rivals.

Current Situation in U.S.
• We are seeing lots of legislative activity in MN that, if passed into law, will have an impact on the lives of immigrants and ordinary citizens. Driver’s Licenses for All, a push for housing funding, and gun safety laws are among them.
• City commissioners in McAllen, Texas have ordered Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (CCRGV) to vacate their migrant respite center, after complaints from neighbors.

Recent Events
• We just experienced Holy Week and Easter at SJA.
• Our Easter Alfombra (“build bridges, not walls”) was fun and successful. Bravo to Rick and all who helped.
• About 80 people came to a presentation at SJA by the most recent border delegation and Rosey. There is so much interest in this issue right now.
• An interesting note about SJA’s Seder meal during Easter: On the Seder table, we put olives (representing peace), oranges (representing those who are not typically at a Seder), and shoelaces (reminding us of migrants, who lose shoelaces when being processed at the border.)

Community Sharing
From TNII:
• Please pray for Marleny Rivera Orozco and her mother Maximina Orozco (also Alba’s mother.) Maximina has been very sick recently. Marleny has been dealing with a lot of stress, including her daughter’s operation and recovery, her mother’s illness, and her own health problems.
• We are sad to learn that Juan Carlos López passed away in TNII. He is a former delegate and the husband of Alba Rivera, who is scheduled to come to Minneapolis as a delegate in August, 2019. Please hold the family and community in prayer. We will place his and his family’s names in our prayer book so that all parishioners will pray for them at mass this Sunday.

From SJA:
• Jeff and Karen are going to the border and will visit Anunciation House.
• Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) continues to work on its Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons. Paul and Judy will be doing a walk for WAMM and will be raising funds.
• Recently, the peace march on the Marshall/Lake St. bridge (which many delegates have participated in) celebrated its 20th anniversary. Hundreds showed up for a march and festivities.
• Our Welcome the Stranger ministry has partnered two immigrant families who have been seeking asylum and just received it.

S to N Delegation Delegation Planning (August 2 - 12, 2019)
• Of the 5 potential delegates who applied for visas last month, only 1 (Alba) was granted a visa. In addition, Mariam (back-up delegate) has a visa — so we have a 2-person delegation. Alba and Miriam, plus staff person Carrie and son Milo.
• We are very sad and frustrated that Juana, Enio, Brandon and Odilia will not be able to participate in the delegation. We send our love and prayers, and ask for God's blessings on them.
• Planning team: Cathy, Patricia, Nancy, Jason, Rosey, Judy, Karen, Sarah, Pat, Mary B, Meghan, Rita, Mary A.
• Health insurance — Carrie will send #s to Rosey, Meghan and Rita, so we can investigate purchasing additional insurance.
• The next planning meeting is being re-scheduled.
• Carrie will meet with the delegates in late May/early June to review our activity “ideas” list and voice preferences. Once we have their feedback, we can start planning in earnest.
• We've designated June 9 (Upper Room, after both masses) for parish-wide delegation information meetings, to recruit host families, interpreters, drivers, activity attendees.
  • Julie will do bulletin notices.
  • Think of people you know who would be interested, and invite them!
  • Meghan will create a succinct agenda — send pix to Meghan.
  • Meeting volunteers: 10am - Rita, Karen, Carol. 12pm - Daniluz, Patricia, Cathy.
  • Handouts: What is SP, sign-up list, pix, brief agenda, host family application.

S to N Delegation Billing
• The committee approved sending $1225.50 to Sister Parish Inc. for the second delegation billing.
• Rosey has booked the airfares. The committee approved reimbursing Rosey Vogan $3263.62 for airfare for the delegates and staff.
• Baggage will have to be paid by Carrie when they travel, and SJA will reimburse her. Estimate: $250-$400.

S to N Delegation Testimonial
• Cathy Patricia, Meghan and Nancy wrote a testimonial of what our relationship means to us and how the visa issue impacts it. The Archdiocese (Center for Global Mission) plans to meet with state representatives about this issue and they will present the stories of several parishes.

Outreach Sunday - June 2.
SP will table in the Welcome Center with other ministries.
• Volunteers: Set-up and staffing: 8:30 - 10:30; Karen and Judy.
• Staffing and tear-down: 10:30 - 12:30; Patricia, Daniiluz and Louisa.

Next Skype Call
• Next general call is Sunday, May 26 at 10am in the Upper Room. It will be our agenda, send ideas to Luis.

Alfombra Continuity Discussion
Tabled since we ran out of time.

Extra Outreach Funds
• The sub-committee met with TNII via Skype last month and explained that 8000 quetzal from the extra Outreach funds will be provided to the TNII Sister Parish committee to spend as they see fit.
• Next steps: Committee will email Carrie for exchange rate so we know exact U.S. dollar amount for the funds (8000 quetzal plus admin fee) that we will send to Sister Parish Inc. We will expect a report about what TNII Sister Parish committee wants to spend it on, before SPI will disperse the funds to TNII.
• Exact U.S. dollar amount will be approved at next meeting.

Children’s Party Report from 2018
• Reviewed Children’s party report - they stayed in budget. Kudos and congratulations to the youth on doing such a great job with the children and for being good stewards of our resources.

Necessary Follow-Up
• TNII: Regarding project reports — when you have the craft reports, please send them to us.
• SJA: On-going delegation planning. Resolve travel health insurance. Resolve amount of extra Outreach funds to send.

Announcements
• June 5 - Judy prayer leader; Meghan minutes.
• Rosey will speak June 23 about her border experience at Bloomington Presbyterian Church.
• Please go to the Sister Parish Inc. Facebook page and do a review!! It has received very few reviews.
• Conversations with Friends has finally been granted access to start a visitor program at Carver County Jail! Join an upcoming orientation by emailing Steve Kraemer at stevekraemer@outlook.com.
• You are invited to a round table discussion for volunteers in the Immigration Court Observation Project on May 10th at 8:00. Come share your ideas, insights, and questions. Find details and register here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/court-observation-round-table-tickets-60412992888.