

Social Justice / Development and Peace Committee
Sacred Heart Parish

Report to Sacred Heart Annual General Meeting – May 22, 2018

Parish Contact: Margie Noonan
Members: 3 (Kathy Weswick, Stan Dzbik, Margie Noonan)

Day and time of Meetings: At present, we meet as needed – for planning and organizing activities

ACTIVITIES: 2017 - 2018

1. We carry out the work of Development and Peace within the parish – the Fall Action program and Share Lent campaign. This involves presentations to Parish groups when asked, and attending D&P Diocesan meetings. In the fall of 2017, our theme was “Women at the Heart of Peace”. In January, parishioners were invited to sign a card addressed to the Prime Minister calling on the Canadian government to go beyond words to action by supporting women and women’s organizations who are working for peace, and by adopting a tangible strategy with a precise time frame for reaching the goal of dedicating 0.7% of the gross national income to development assistance.

2. During the Lenten season, our theme was “Together for Peace”. Activities included bulletin announcements each week, distribution of Solidarity Calendars for families, Share Lent magazines highlighting the work of D&P partners in Lebanon, Nigeria, Peru, and Cambodia for peace, and prayer cards. Victoria was fortunate to have solidarity visitor Sao Vansey here to present D&P’s partner work supporting indigenous communities in Cambodia. We presented the olive branch as a Symbol of Solidarity at all 3 masses the week before Solidarity Sunday. After the 10am mass on Solidarity Sunday, the Symbols were presented at the Faith Formation gathering before their classes. It was an interactive activity and was well received. A

presentation was also made to the CWL on the history of D&P over the last 50 years.

3. We thank all the parishioners who gave so generously during Share Lent - the total amount collected for our parish on Solidarity Sunday was \$5477.35. We particularly thank the Faith Formation Classes for their donation of \$116.35. We also thank those who give monthly as part of the Share Year-Round Program, and those who chose to give online on the D&P website.
4. One of our members participates with other Victoria D&P members in a letter-writing group at the Chancery office on the first Monday morning of each month, writing letters to support people suffering from injustice and persecution. New members are always welcome.
5. We supported the D&P Garage Sale that was held in April at St. Patrick's Hall. \$1500 was raised and sent to D&P.
6. We maintain a Development and Peace/Social Justice bulletin board in the church foyer.

STRENGTHS:

Committed to our **mission** which is:

We strive to cultivate awareness and sensitivity to those who are denied their human rights or the opportunity to realize their aspirations.

We strive to establish solidarity with the oppressed, through actions to remove the cause of their suffering, especially where injustice lives.

“The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind, new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favor.” Luke 4:18

“This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

We are dedicated to support each other in activities and initiatives.

CHALLENGES/ FUTURE PLANS

To keep up the focus on social justice in our parish.

Member recruitment to our committee – we are grateful for a new member to our planning group – Stan Dzbik.

THANK YOU:

We thank Fr. David, Katherene, and all those in the parish who faithfully support this ministry. We welcome new members at any time!