

Environmental Stewardship Ministry

Minutes for January 14 , 2021 6 pm

Attendance : Mariah Doyle (Ministry Leader , Moderator , Parish Council Liaison) , Deacon Adelia Sandoval (Member , Clergy Council Liaison) , Bertie Ninichuck (Member , Scribe) , Members present: Gene Rascon , Brother Christopher , Sharon Smith , Polly Touhey Members excused : Susan and Bob Morano , B'ea Tiritilli .

* Meeting was opened with a prayer of gratitude to our Creator for creation by Deacon Adelia .

* Mariah told us that CPRM needs to be notified if we are going to be having an event. They would like a one to two month (s) notice in advance .

* Mariah informed us that the ESM's meeting agenda will be put on Google Drive Shared

* Mariah asked if anyone had anything to say about november meeting minutes ? There were no comments Sharon made a motion for the november minutes to be approved . Polly seconded motion . November minutes were unanimously approved . There was no December 2020 meeting .

New Business :

* Topic of restoration of Santiago Park was deferred to next month .

* Video of Sacred Lands , Food and Farming classes was to be shown and shared by Gene and Brother Christopher ; however there were technical difficulties so that this will be shared in near future.

* Gene shares about Sacred Lands and Farming classes .

* Gene gives us background on Just Faith Ministries that provide the classes . They are a Christian based , non - denominational group that provide special courses on activism from the Christian perspective . They address racial and social injustice , evangelism , Sacred Lands and farming to name a few .

* Gene, Brother Christopher, Deacon Adelia, and Mariah are taking courses from Just Faith so that they will be able to teach these courses and train people . Their goal is to have a virtual course (due to the pandemic) in March of 2021 . They want to bring this program to the Saint Matthew 's community .

* Gene shares that these classes also incorporate Native Indigenous perspective and teachings . He shares that Adelia and Mariah have been working in this area already and are very excited about the program and the opportunity to become facilitators .



* Just Faith, Sacred Lands and Farming is an eight week course , one class per week . There are twelve people in the facilitator group . It is a very thoughtful , prayerful process . There are reading assignments and homework . Class delve into the Sacred Lands and the earth and how we can farm . There will be a zoom trip to a farming area . There will be videos and books to look at and study which are very educational and spiritual . * Gene shares that this process will bring people together and form strong bonds . Adelia shares her desire to instill interest and enthusiasm in these programs for the Saint Matthew ' s Community .

* Gene shares in addition to Sacred Lands and Farming there are other classes . The next class is about Air . Another is about Water .

* Polly questions , "Is it philosophical or practical ? Will they show me a pitchfork Tell me to stab it into the ground ? " Adelia responds , "It will motivate you to stick your pitchfork into the ground ... to start a garden ! " Polly responds enthusiastically , "I am in for the game ! "

* Gene shares that Just Faith provides us with a model and that they are consistent with the Franciscan Way . Brother Christopher shares what they teach will emphasize the basis of what ESM is . Then he joked that when Gene told him about the program , he tricked him into being interested by mentioning that it was about food and being a lover of food he was hooked ! Brother Christopher then shared that he was looking forward to reading about the different traditions that people have towards the earth .

* In regards to monthly environmental tip in bulletin Mariah asked Susan to do this as she is on the CPRM . Susan said she would be happy to do this .

* Mariah commented that she would give Susan the heads up about the Food to Farm class event coming up in March .

* Just Faith provides public relations packets for their programs . We could possibly adapt them to reflect the Saint Matthew's community . Projects and upcoming events :

* Screening of short film "Unbreathable "(about Air) to be followed by webinar on January 19 , 2020 .

* Susan is creating private page on facebook so that we can keep up on new information , videos and books . For example new book : New Climate War . With private page different items that come to our attention can be placed here so that others can share in them at their own pace .

* We have the opportunity to inspire enthusiasm for our environment, encourage education about the environment, build a strong bond between one another and our environment in very simple and meaningful ways . For example when the pandemic subsides , we could invite the children especially to gather in

a group and go out in the parking lot and pick up trash after services .

* Mariah shared about Sharon's Butterfly Program she had done at the school where she worked . Sharon revitalized the entire campus to attract and benefit the butterflies . The children learned so much and then in turn were able to share and to educate others .

* Mariah expressed that we have so much talent and skills in this group . Gene commented , "It's called Grace !"

* Brother Christopher asked if we were going to have our annual Ministry Fair in march ? Sharon responded that we could have the Parish Council set it up However with the pandemic we are'nt able to meet. Brother Christopher suggested we could do it virtually. This idea was received enthusiastically by everyone . Brother Christopher shared that you could show someone stoop to pick up trash in the parking lot and then you could say , "It is not just about picking up trash ... it is about being a good steward of God's creation and doing it for God's Glory ! He shared Psalm 24 verse 1 : " The earth is the Lord's , and the fullness thereof ;the world and they that dwell therein . All were inspired . *

Polly remarked that she enjoys the monthly environmental tips . She said she had a good reminder . "Never , never , NEVER put batteries in the trash ! Take them to the toxic waste site ." Mariah and Bertie had fun trying to remember if the local site was at Red Gum St. or Blue Gum St. (by gum it was one ofthem !) * Mariah thanked everyone for attending the meeting , she apologized to Gene and Brother Christopher for the technical difficulties that had prevented them showing their video this evening . She thanked Bertie for taking the minutes . * Sharon shared that she loved the prayer at the beginning of the meeting and if possible would like a copy of it for her daily prayers .

* Adelia shared that she herself had written it for her Song of the Earth Ministry ... her Native American Healing Ministry .

* Sharon suggested that it be put on the reflections and prayers page on Saint Matthew's website . She also encouraged Adelia to post her other prayers and stories there .

* Brother Christopher said a beautiful closing prayer of gratitude and of dedication of ourselves to the service of God , especially in regards to our environment.

Our next Environmental Stewardship Ministry (ESM) will take place on February 11, 2021 at 6:00pm.