

**SOCIETY FOR PEACE
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 29, 2007**

Present: Sr. Carmela, Sr. Ita Hickey(via teleconference), Sheila Gramaglia, Diane Rowe, Marcy Adams, Marge Schmegielski, Trisha Arndt.

Excused: Lori Poirier, La Verne Weston and Rev. Mary Mallory-Lynch

Guests: Dick Frances and Paul Silvestri

The meeting was convened at 2:35 pm in Toledo, Ohio at the home of Diane Rowe with a prayer by Sheila Gramaglia.

Minutes – No minutes were presented. The minutes were unavailable.

Treasurer's Report – A report was provided. The banking institution was changed from La Salle to Christian Federal Credit Union because CFCU offers My Cause versus PayPal, a safer on-line credit system. After some discussion, the report was accepted as presented.

Sr. Carmela's Report – Sister indicated that Our Lady of La Salette Parish, 2600 Harvard Rd., Berkley, MI 48072 has offered to be our host parish.

God asked Sr. Carmela "are you ready to speak to thousands?" as she was praying about the direction her energy should be focused. As a result of this word of wisdom, Sister believes she is being called to do greater work with SFP. She has also been asked to offer more retreats.

Sister will be meeting with Jim Brodie, an architect, on October 10, 2007. He has prepared a proposed façade for Phase One of the center. The Lord gave Jim a vision of the center in a dream. He has three or four ideas but wants to obtain ascertain the preference of SFP. From the façade selected he will create a clay mock-up.

a. Dick Francis – Sr. Carmela brought Dick Francis to the meeting as a possible board member because of his vast banking expertise and business acumen. His background includes corporate planning and non-profit operations.

Dick offered substantial recommendations to the board from modifying the Mission Statement to establishing operational objectives. He recommended the Mission Statement be amended to be, "To spread the Peace of God to the hearts of all people".

Dick offered the following **Objectives**:

1. Develop a clear statement explaining the "Peace of God". It should be scripturally based.

Action: Have a proposal for the next board meeting along with scriptural support.
Ex: Psalm 131.

2. Develop a communications program and explain what it means and its purpose. Establish a speakers program for Society For Peace that can be used in all regions.

3. Develop groups of people regionally to promote the organization and recommend various means to generate interest.

Dick also outlined **Specific Programs** to facilitate implementation of the Objectives:

1. Speakers Bureau – indicate the number of speakers for the bureau and provide training, format and themes for the speakers. Train the trainers of the speaker's bureau.

2. Establish Target Groups to promote membership. Those with a natural interest would include churches and peace and justice organizations. Distribute literature to target organizations and follow up. Solicit suggestions.

A **Communications Program** would also be helpful for to promote membership. Identify specific goals of interest to each group. This creates interest and leverage. Quantify the specifics of the program and assign a person to implement the program

Resource application – identify what people want or programs to be offered and determine the cost involved. Based upon the revenue on hand, determine how to use limited resources most effectively. It is key to prioritize issues/programs.

Dick also suggested development of a **Strategic Vision**. Establish a 'place of peace', a physical location where people can come. Also identify a Public Relations person to spearhead public relations for the organization. The PR person would issue press releases, communicate with the Archdiocese, ecclesiastic hierarchies of other denominations and media.

Action: Dick and Trisha agreed to prepare an outline of Dick's recommendations and distribute it to the Board. They will prepare proposed language answering 'who we are' and 'how we do it' for inclusion in our literature and on the website.

Dick recommended the establishment of **Strategic and Operational Plans** that include quarterly objectives and would be published in the minutes. Assign a person or persons to report which objectives are met.

Lastly, Dick urged that each board member select or be assigned a specific responsibility as a requirement of board membership and be held accountable. This will be particularly important as the organization moves forward and seeks financing.

Action: Board responsibilities and possible amendment of By-laws.

b. Regional Reports

St. Ita, Florida – Bible Study – 20 members meet every Tuesday at Holy Redeemer, Kissimmee and discuss the Old Testament using the St. Francis booklet.

Sheila Gramaglia, Ohio – the Formation Program is entering its 2nd year. Sheila has prepared and outline and schedule for the program that includes various aspects of peace and religious symbolism. They meet in member's parishes and use the media, bulletins and word of mouth to promote the group and the 3-year program. They are planning a retreat in May '08.

Suggestion: Each member is encouraged to select their own biblical passage that exemplifies their personal connection to the Society For Peace.

c. Website – Paul Silvestri

Paul is a senior at Bishop Foley Catholic High School that was recommended to the Society For Peace by Anne Green. Sister was looking for a webmaster for our website. Paul and his friend Andy Iwankovitsch assumed the responsibility for redesigning and enhancing our web page. Paul secured a host for the web site, Enertron, LLC in Warren, MI, where Paul works part-time. Enertron does internet connections for major businesses and has allowed SFP the use of their hardware and software which includes state-of-the-art filters and security. This is a two-year commitment with the possibility of an option for an additional 2-years.

The photos used on the website are the product of Michael Seawald, Sr. Carmela's cousin. He has donated the use of his photographs at no cost, so long as he is given credit for them.

The website has a blog can be controlled by Paul as to content. Permission to use the blog must be obtained. He will be monitoring the site at least weekly. Additionally, there will be a "members only" section, webcasting capability, on-line membership capability, a donation section, as well as other possible sections.

Motion to give Enertron, LLC an annual letter for a tax credit in the amount of the IT donation was made, 2nd and passed. Paul will obtain the information for the letter.

New Business –

a. Election of Officers – Sr. Carmela stepped down as Chair of the meeting and appointed Trisha Arndt as temporary Chair for purposes of moderating the election.

President – one nomination from the floor was offered, Sr. Carmela. She was re-elected by acclamation for a second 2-year term.

Vice-President - one nomination from the floor was offered, Sheila Gramaglia. She was re-elected by acclamation for a second 2-year term.

Treasurer - one nomination from the floor was offered, Marcy Adams. She was re-elected by acclamation for a second 2-year term.

Secretary - one nomination from the floor was offered, Marge Schmiegielski. She was elected by acclamation for her first 2-year term.

b. Fund Raiser – Marcy is exploring venues to hold a dinner or hors d'oeuvres/auction to raise funds for the SFP. She is looking at theme baskets, gift certificates and other merchandise for the auction. It was suggested that hold the event before Valentine's Day would be a good idea.

The Walk For Peace has raised also raised money through pledges for the organization. Sister and Trisha have been walking the perimeter and major thoroughfares of the City of Detroit praying for peace.

c. New Board Members – Sister Carmela recommended Dick Francis and Paul Silvestri be considered for the Board. Paul Silvestri accepted the invitation and Dick Francis will consider the invitation and notify Sr. Carmela of his decision.

Old Business – none was brought to the table.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm with a prayer by Diane Rowe. She read Psalm 131.

Next meeting: November 17, 2007 at 3:30 pm. Location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha J. Arndt