

Social Justice Ministry (SJM) Meeting and Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Time: 7:15 - 9:00 p.m.

Place: Gathering Space

Attendance: Joanne & Walt Frantin, Jean and Bob Lampert, Lois Drobiniski, Joanne Kotkin, Liz Olynick, Mary Therese Weimert, Denise Dorn, Pegie Doll, John Dalton, Ginny Millard, Judy Reilly, Kevin Carroll

Agenda

Opening Prayer

To Saint Francis of Assisi: Brother Francis, when the times were growing cold, God sent you into the world as a witness to God's warm love for all. Intercede for us that our hearts may catch fire and we may become instruments of Christ's peace and healing to the world. Amen.
(Compliments of the Franciscan Friars at St. Anthony Messenger Press.)

Guest Speakers: Judy Reilly and Kevin Carroll, "Haiti: Past, Present and Especially the Future".
See separate write-up on webpage.

Old Business

- Ginny Millard March 7, 2009 Workshop Update

Do we want to become involved in Offering of Letters Bread or the World's 2009 Offering of Letters Campaign: This year the campaign will urge Congress to rework U.S. foreign assistance to make it more effective in reducing hunger and poverty and make improvements that will outlast the current hunger crisis. The campaign kit, videos, and a dedicated campaign site (www.bread.org/OL2009) Please visit this site and become informed so SJM can decide whether or not we will become part of this program.

- Church of the Presentation Justice and Peace Ministry presentation by Tom Garafalo, past representative for Catholic Relief Services (2005-2008) spoke on the causes and solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. What can you do?
 - Pray
 - Believe "Peace is possible."
 - Learn about people. See the CRS website.
 - Make a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands.
 - Encourage political and church leaders to act for peace and security for both Palestinians and Israelis.
 - Let your legislator know you care about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.
 - People of faith need to express their views.
 - Stand-up for peace!
 - Connected with Elizabeth Begley, coordinator of Justice & Peace at Church of Presentation; representative for Pax Christi. Elizabeth will be scheduled to speak with SJM. All are welcome.

- SJM Web Site
 - Thank you to Gordon Roehrer and Christine Venusti. They updated our link at OLM website (www.UROLM.org) How can we best use our website? Please visit the site for updated information.
 - SJM Bulletin News: Any suggestions for keeping weekly news alert in the church bulletin?

New Business

- Volunteer to call SJM member about meetings. (She has no internet access) –Thank you Denise Dorn
- Lenten Mission: Parish Mission March 15,16,17 @ 7:30 P.M. Presenter: Rev. Robert S. Rivers, CSP, “From Maintenance to Mission”.
- *Fr. Charles asked if the SJM would host the March 17th (St. Patrick’s Day) reception of coffee, tea and “Irish” treats after the Tuesday night Mission. Volunteers needed for:
 - Set Up: Gathering Space at 4:30 p.m.
 - Serving: After the Mission (around 8:30 p.m.)
 - Clean Up.
- Parish Newsletter: Carolyn Mcnamara requested that perhaps an interested SJM member would write an article for the Parish Newsletter concerning OLM Social Justice Ministry. The article has to be in by April 1st. Thanks, Liz Olynick for volunteering!
- Religious Education: Amy Ballanco informed SJM that for Lent, the students of Religious Education will be donating school supplies to St. Vincent, Haiti. Please pass the word along.
- Acoustic Café Reminder: March 21 The Kennedy’s will be performing at the OLM Cafeteria; some of the proceeds go to Haiti.
- “One Night Out, One Ministry!”
Reminder: “Over the Counter Medicine Collection for Haiti. Information in the Church Bulletin. Another way to participate in “One Day, One Ministry”-for all family members.
- Spring and Summer Food Drives: Discussion of Food Drive in the Spring either in May or June; in the Summer “Kids Are Home-Products” in July or August.

Next Meeting: Change of Date

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Location: Parish CenterNEXT MEETING: CHANGE OF DATE

Any questions or comments please contact: Vmillard@yahoo.com.