

Social Justice Ministry (SJM) Meeting and Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009

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

Place: Parish Center

Attendance: Jean & Bob Lampert, Joanne & Walt Frantin, Elaine Hart, Mary Therese Weimert, Rose Johnson, Lois Drobinske, Denise Dorn, Ginny Millard, Cathy Thabit

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.)

"Special Intentions"

Old Business

- **Lenten Mission March 15, 16, 17 at 7:30 p.m.**

Presenter: Rev. Robert S. Rivers, CSP, "From Maintenance to Mission". Fr. Charles extends his thank you to all who helped make the Mission such an enjoyable "St. Patrick's Day" evening!

- **Meeting with Fr. Charles- Items of Discussion/SJM**

Tuesday, Rectory, April 14 at 2:00 p.m.

- **SJM Communication Efforts**

- Thank you to Gordon Roehrer and Christine Venusti for updating the SJM link on the OLM website. Please remember that all information going on the link needs to go through Christine so Gordon only has to deal with one person.
- Thank you to Liz Olynick for writing an article for the Parish Newsletter covering the activities of the Social Justice Ministry
- Bob Lampert-artist at work presenting a Social Justice/Peace banner

- **Events: Educational and Informative May 6, at Parish Center at 7:15 P.M**

- “Round Table Discussions”- Second event of the year will be a discussion with Elizabeth Begley, coordinator of Justice & Peace at Church of Presentation, USR; representative for Pax Christi International. She would be glad to speak to our group. We eagerly look forward to welcoming- Monica Garafalo (from OLM) and friend to add to our presentation witnessing on the local/state level.
- Fr. Charles showed off the “New Space” downstairs from the Gathering Space at the church. It is called the “Lower Gathering Space”. It’s a beautiful room that is almost finished with two new bathrooms, kitchenette, and gathering room. Perhaps it will be done for this Pax Christi presentation?

- **Other Suggestions for “Roundtable” Discussions**

- First Friends-Elizabeth Detention Center, Kay Furlani
- Interfaith Community
- Invite other Ministries to attend: Rosary Altar, Knights-publicity
- Fr. Charles suggested that some of our “Roundtable Talks” take place after a Mass. Perhaps a short invitation at the end of Mass, inviting interested parishioners to the “Lower Gathering Space” for Coffee, Cake and Conversation.
- Bread For 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)
- Do we want to become involved in Offering of Letters? At the last meeting, it was decided that members would go to the website and read up on “Bread”. Discussion? Present more information-watch the DVD

- **Catholic Charities Workshop: Ginny Millard**

On March 21, Ginny Millard attended the Catholic Charities USA “Poverty in America A Threat to the Common Good” Workshop held at the CYO Retreat Center in Kearny, NJ. The morning program was organized by Kay Fulani and Catholic Charities.

The Catholic Charities USA has an objective to cut the poverty rate by 2020. Fr. Charles would like SJM to consider working with Catholic Charities on this “Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America”.

Anyone interested or have comments to share? Please join us at our next meeting.

- **Social Justice Ministry Food Drives**

Next Food Drive will be held Father's Day weekend- June 20-21. The theme is "Donations/Volunteer in Honor of Fathers." The food collected will be for children home for the summer.

New Business

- **Food for Thought**

Should we change our name to *Justice and Peace Ministry*? Fr. Charles shared some information on what the ministry's "Pontifical Name" is....Pontifical Council for *Justice and Peace*. This ministry is also called: *Human Concerns, Social Concerns, Social Justice*. What are your thoughts?

- **Human Concerns Office**

Would anyone be interested in attending the Social Action Summer Institute held at Seton Hall University in July? It is usually held in different regions throughout the USA and this year it is in NJ. The summer institute is an opportunity to learn about the biblical roots of justice and the foundations of Catholic social teaching, and to develop skills for social concerns and social justice ministries. The seminar is scheduled for July 19-24, 2009. For more information visit the website www.nplc.org/roundtable or contact Hope Villella at the Roundtable Association (212) 431-7825 or e-mail her at hvillella@nplc.org.

Next Meeting:

Date: May 6

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Location: Parish Center

Roundtable Discussion: Pax Christi with Monica Garafalo and Elizabeth Begley