

Social Justice & Peace Ministry Meeting and Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Time: 7:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Place: Lowering Gathering Space
Scribe: Ginny Millard

Attendance: Denise Dorn, Rose Ann Johnson, Pegie Doll, Walt Frantin, Jean & Bob Lampert, Debbie Falcon, Elaine Hart, Ginny Millard

Opening Prayer

On this day, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the freedoms that came with that event, we also lift up those still oppressed around the world, those who are unable to practice freedom of religion, and those of our brothers and sisters who live in fear for their lives. We pray also that the reuniting of families and friends, and the reconciliation of enemies that began that day would continue in Germany, across Europe, and throughout the world. Amen.

Prayer from *Sojourners*, SojoMail@sojo.net

Special Intentions

Veterans who serve past, present and future; Victims of Fort Hood; Brother Tom Reidy.

OLD BUSINESS

Special Presentation/Gift

Thank you Bob (and Jean) for the beautiful painting and frame. The painting was placed on a chart stand throughout the Harvest Food Drive admired by many parishioners. The painting of Jesus and prayer of St. Theresa of Avila both a poignant symbol for our Social Justice and Peace Ministry.

- The Archdiocesan Catholic Charities USA Campaign to Reduce Poverty Task Force
 - DVD: Tour Poverty USA: There is a new version with updated statistics.
 - 20 Things You Can Do to Address Poverty.
 - St. Andrew Parish, Westwood Addressing Poverty Forum: *Pascack News* (11/9/09). St. Andrew's will host a poverty forum on Tuesday, November 17, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the parish center.

- Unemployment Concern
 - Bob Miller was contacted.
 - A petition for the unemployed was added to the Prayer of Faithful at Mass.
 - Liz Olynick is the on-line contact for the unemployed.

- Vatican's Controversial Visitation of U.S. Women Religious Congregations

Below is an excerpt from the *National Catholic Reporter*:

"Few dioceses admit willingness to pay for visitation" (cost: \$1.1 million). Jim Goodness, spokesman for Newark, NJ, Archbishop John Myers said, "The archbishop makes these decisions privately."

OLD BUSINESS *(continued)*

- **SJPM Items Reviewed**

- Addresses, phone numbers and emails are being updated by JoAnne Frantin on an on going basis.
- Publicity at Coat Exchange/pictures completed by Elaine and published in the *Pascack Press*.
- Elaine is going to take a picture of SJPM painting for the website and has volunteered to notify surrounding parishes about OLM events as needed.

- **Coat Exchange Report**

John Dalton and Walt Frantin expressed the gratitude and “thank you” from Fr. Charles for the Haiti donation.

- **Harvesting Food for Our Neighbors**

Thank you to everyone for volunteering time, talent and treasures. A good number of new volunteers and drivers were present to promote, “One Day, One Ministry”; as well as three high school volunteers who helped for community service hours. We received monetary donations in the amount of \$177. It’s estimated that over 200 bags of food were collected with 68 of those bags delivered to the Pascack Food Pantry alone. The Holy Spirit was VERY busy!

- **Center for Food Action (CFA)**

The Record- recently had an article stating that the number of people using Center For Action (CFA) services is up nearly 25%. Donations to CFA can stretch each \$1 donated to \$11. If interested, you can mail a Thanksgiving donation to Center for Food Action, 192 W. Demarest Ave., Englewood or call 201-569-1804 for more information.

- **Handcrafting for Justice: November 14 and 15 – Schedule of Events**

- *Thursday, November 12 at 10:00 a.m.:* Delivery of Goods. Goods will have to be stored in Lower Gathering Space storage area due to Br. Tom Reidy’s funeral.
- *Weekend Masses (Saturday: 5:30 p.m.; Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.):* Volunteers are needed to sell the goods.
- *Saturday, November 14 at 4:00 p.m.:* Set up of goods for sale.
Note: Kathy Turlick of the Church of the Presentation asked if we would include their Free Trade coffee and Candy in our sale.
- *Sunday, November 15 at 7:30 a.m.:* Set up of coffee and doughnuts (FAIR Trade coffee and doughnut holes (4 boxes) from Dunkin’ Doughnut).
- *Sunday, November 15 after 12:30 p.m. Mass:* Volunteers are needed for clean up. Goods will be locked in the Gathering Space closet for pick-up on Monday, November 16 at 3:00 p.m. by “Rebecca.”

NEW BUSINESS

- The Advent book, *Sparks of Advent Light* by Joan Chittister was distributed by Ginny to all in attendance.

- **Advent Giving Tree**

Gifts and monetary donations from the giving tree are being requested by and for the following organizations:

- Liz Olynick: Aids: Friends for Life.
- Bob and Jean Lampert: First Friends: Elizabeth Detention Project.

- **2010 Speakers**

Ideas for speakers for 2010 were discussed. Please email your ideas to Ginny at vmillard@yahoo.com or bring them to the December meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 7:15 - 9:00 p.m. in the Lower Gathering Space.