

**ST. ATHANASIUS**  
**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING:**  
**November 19, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kevin Whitley, Eleanor Kintana, Peter Taskovich, Mabel Parra, Gustavo Urias, Doris Chou, Jose Luis Rodriguez (left early), Mildred Jones, Fr. Stasys, Robert Fitzwilliam

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Aaron Rulison, Fr. Oscar, Deacon Leonel, Jenniffer Garlit

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Irene Yoshida (Just Faith), Phil Cosby (PIA), Lucille Bianco (Layette)

**Approval of Minutes** (October): Approved.

**1. Pastor's Report**

- No new report. Pastor on vacation.

**2. Introduction to Social Justice Workshop (Kevin)**

- Aim for these PC focus workshops are:
  1. Communication- To learn about the different groups in the parish and find out their goals and ways the PC/parish can support them.
  2. Find out how to provide parishioners with ways to participate in these groups in short term activities or projects so they are involved without necessarily having to make a long term commitment.
- Workshop Agenda:
  1. Introduction to Church teaching on Social Justice
  2. Introduction of social justice groups represented
  3. Brainstorm in small groups
  4. Reconvene in large group and discuss ideas

**3. Church Teaching on Social Justice (Peter)**

Summary from handout:

- Society ensures social justice by providing the conditions that allow associations and individuals to obtain their due.
- Respect for the human person considers the other "another self." It presupposes respect for the fundamental rights that flow from the dignity intrinsic of the person.
- The equality of men concerns their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it.
- The differences among persons belong to God's plan, who wills that we should need one another. These differences should encourage charity.
- The equal dignity of the human persons requires the effort to reduce excessive social and economic inequalities. It gives urgency to the elimination of sinful inequalities.

- Solidarity is an eminently Christian virtue. It practices the sharing of the spiritual goods even more than material ones.

#### 4. Statements from Groups

- ***Just Faith*** (Irene)
  - Social justice formation program for adults where faith and spirituality intersect. Aim is that graduates will have developed a passion for social justice work and express it through acts of social ministry.
  - Deanery effort but currently all group members are from St. Athanasius. Ideal size 6-7 people. Meets on Thursdays for 30 weeks.
  - Based on 7 themes of social justice: Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Call to Family, Community, and Participation; Rights and Responsibilities; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; Dignity of the Work and the Rights of Workers; Solidarity; Care for God's Creation.
  - Emphasis on poverty because it impacts more human beings in the world than any other matters.
  - Format: Opening and Closing prayers, assigned books and homework, watch videos, facilitator, faith sharing, guest speakers.
  - Gain access to part of the world that often goes unnoticed or unmentioned.
  - To truly gain a deep understanding of social justice, a journey is required.
- **Layette** (Lucille)
  - Started 60 years ago by Catholic Social Services now known as Catholic Charities. Diocesan program aimed to provide families in great need with new clothing and blankets for their newborn.
  - One day a year, a group of volunteers gather together for the purpose of throwing a shower to distribute approximately 300 layettes. Each layette provides 6 weeks worth of clothing to families determined by the Public Health Services to be of greatest need.
  - Clothing, blankets, and money are collected through the year.
  - Mother is taken care of and is educated by public health nurse.
  - Membership ranges from 1 through 150 volunteers with a core group of 6 women.
- **PIA (Peninsula Interfaith Action)** (Phil)
  - For justice to be realized, we must not rely strictly on bishops or the pope but must rely on teaching the lay the social teachings of the Church. Lay people can determine the best course of action for their own communities given guidance.
  - PIA's Mission*: "...To listen to the concerns and needs of the people in our congregation and to work to create collaborations to resolve community problems. Guided by the principles of our faith, we work to identify the root causes of problems, research just solutions for the common good, and take action to create the change."

-Current concern is to create a teen center in Mountain View to engage youth during after-school and evening hours. City to set aside 100K to develop activities for post-middle school youth and is also looking to purchase Rock Church property for \$3.5 M as potential site for new teen center.

-Before, Phil used to go from home to work and church and did not know a thing about the people around him. Joining PIA gave him a means to connect to the greater community and hear about people's stories. It also gave him a way to fight the injustices of the world right here in the local community.

▪ **St. Vincent de Paul (Mabel)**

-Purpose: 1. Runs food pantry which serves 180-200 families in Mountain View.

2. Provides emergency money for rent and utilities at a rate of \$4000 a month. Funds come from 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection and "Poor Box" from St. Simon Church.

3. Coordinates Giving Tree.

-Currently negotiating with the Finance Committee to be able to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection on a more regular basis every 3 months.

▪ **Justice and Peace (Kevin)**

-Group previously ran by Mike Cavera has currently been inactive for the last 6 months due to membership decline. Fr. John Fitzpatrick was a big part of this group before he left. Lectures on some aspect of social justice. (ie. Sr. Dorothy Stang, Martyr of the Amazon.)

-In charge of lending library cart.

▪ **Talking with Parishioners (Jose Luis)**

-In speaking with some parishioners, Jose Luis identified that a concern is not knowing what resources are available and who to go to for help. There is a need for education and counseling. (ie. Education on rights)

**4. Report from Workshop Groups and Discussion.**

-Examples of Success: - Elderly couple who graduated from Just Faith helped set up program to help youth from East Palo Alto go on retreats. Used their own transportation.

-PIA helped organize community-wide support for Lucio.

-Ideas: -Projects with start and end dates. (Robert)

-Attract more members with conversion stories and talks given by priests or someone knowledgeable about topic.

-Helpful if priests would sprinkle Catholic social teaching into their homilies more regularly. 7 Themes of Social Justice are virtually unknown to the parish community.

-Lenten group for social justice that can ground us in our social teaching. Talks on justice during lent. Must be more than one talk for a deeper

understanding of social justice. A project should follow to apply it right away.

- Need to find a way to teach youth social justice perhaps through catechism classes.
- Counseling/ Pastoral Support Team/ Social Services.
- Letters/Emails can be sent in to make needs known. Can also be anonymous. (Fr. Stasys)
- January 7, 2010, 9:30AM-12:30PM- Meeting with select group of 25 parish leaders to determine goals for the parish.

***NEXT PC MEETING: DECEMBER 17, 2009 @ 7:30PM, Rectory.***