

Annual Report
Social Justice Ministry
...and Justice for All
St. Sebastian/ St. Vincent
January 22, 2012

The group focus this year was on understanding the nature of poverty. Each month we have read and discussed one chapter of Bridges out of Poverty by Ruby K. Payne, Philip E. DeVol and Terie Dreussi Smith. There were many interesting conversations; the group is blessed with members whose life experiences shed new and interesting perspective on the topics. We will continue this book in 2012 and review additional topics for education and discussion.

Many members joined with the Catholic Commission on their 'On The Road meetings'. Topics included: The Ohio Budget; the issues of race; the death penalty and immigration.

In February the group attended and participated in a Summit County/ Cleveland Diocese gathering for groups working in parishes for Social Justice. The event was well attended by members of both St. Vincent and St Sebastian. Many from the social justice ministry attended the annual bishop Cosgrove Dinner in December.

The October Movie Series was again a success. Pizza and salad dinner was served prior to the movie. This year the movies were at St. Vincent Parish. The movies focused on social justice issues. This year's agenda was: the Inside Job; Pray the Devil Back to Hell; and Dead Man Walking. Discussions after the movies were stimulating. There was a planned movie for the junior high; however it became too difficult to schedule.

The Parish Lenten program was well received. Attendance was excellent as were the discussions. The Programs began with a prayer service with parish choirs leading the song. This year's theme was "We are called..." Speakers focused "Poverty & Racism: based on a Catholic Charities project.

Donut Sunday: The Social Justice Ministry sponsored St. Sebastian's Donut Sunday in October as part of Respect for life month. As we are called to be 'stewards of creation' mugs were used for the beverages and Fair Trade Coffee was also used. There were many comments about the use of the mugs and approval for the intention behind the use.

The St. Sebastian/ St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry "and Justice for All" meets regularly on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. in Byrider Hall Rooms 3 & 4. Throughout the year, we support and staff other activities in the parish and the wider community. Our mission is to raise awareness of the Church's social teaching through prayer, education, advocacy, and steps to action. All are welcome and invited to participate.