

... and Justice for All  
Sunday, April 13, 2014

Present: Mary Yanko; Mary and Dave Tschantz; Carolyn Varner; Annie Burris; Greg Sain; Hank Hudson; Harry and Linda Skeen; Rita Rochford; Larry Furman; Jack and Jan Pierson.  
After the meeting was convened at 10:24, Rita read Pope Francis' Prayer to the Holy Family for the opening prayer. Minutes of the March meeting were approved as distributed.

General Session

Dave led the discussion of Chapter Two of the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Joy of the Gospel, paragraphs 50-61. Highlights of the ensuing discussion:

- Indictment of today's culture
- Importance of discernment, choosing the spirit of good and rejecting the spirit of evil
- "No" to the economy of exclusion and inequality (¶53)
- Blogging is tantamount to free speech without accountability
- Importance of critical thinking
- De-humanizing segments of the population leads to a lack of respect and a "blame the victim" mentality
- "No" to the idolatry of money (¶55)
- The culture of prosperity deadens us (¶54)
- The mantra, "greed is good," leads to true corruption; even Alan Greenspan has agreed, saying "we underestimated the power of greed"
- Francis' lifestyle reflects Gospel values
- Relativism results from the fragmentation and lack of common values which are symptomatic of current culture
- Francis emphasizes the importance of norms rather than individualism
- The lack of common values is a human condition and not necessarily caused, in the first instance, by technology

At our next meeting, Dave will continue our discussion of Chapter 2, Joy of the Gospel, starting with paragraph 62.

Ongoing Projects

Catholic Commission: Mary T. described the March 20 meeting, which focused on planning for the May 1 parish networking event at Our Lady of the Elms. That event will focus on what parishes are doing to explain and promote Catholic social teaching. Mary Y. said that she will attend the May 1 meeting to describe what our group does. It was agreed that all of us should try to attend the May 1 meeting, which will be held 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the high school commons area. Diane Zvasnick, the new director, is in the process of visiting every parish in the southern region.

Faith Lodge Series: Mary T. said our group will be responsible for programs in May (Dave T. on 5/15 and Greg on 5/29), August, September and October. Discussion leaders and topics were listed on the agenda for today's meeting

The next meeting will be May 18.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Pierson