

... and Justice for All
Sunday, August 17, 2014

Present: Mary and Dave Tschantz; Anne Burris; Hank Hudson; Harry and Linda Skeen; Larry Furman; Jack Pierson

After the meeting was convened at 10:15, Anne read a prayer composed by Regina Hill, "God Gave Us One Another." Minutes of the May meeting were not available.

Ongoing Projects: Catholic Commission and Study Opportunity

At the June meeting of the Catholic Commission, tribute was paid to Ann Coplan, who is retiring after serving as administrative assistant. The Commission will volunteer during "Operation Orange" at the Akron-Canton Food Bank September 5 from 6-8PM. Mary T. will forward the e-mail from the Commission to any interested in registering. Mary T. also described the 8-week study group on human trafficking to be held at Lyn Schott's home in Fairlawn. The group will be offered on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon or 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., starting September 17. Information is in the parish bulletin.

Larry said that he is going to El Salvador in October with five or six parishioners and Father Valenchek to an orphanage to identify needs that we can address and to visit with Fr. Schindler.

General Session

Larry led discussion of Chapter Three of the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, The Proclamation of the Gospel, paragraphs 111 through 159. Highlights of the discussion:

- Pope Francis is reaching out to and visiting places and cultures not previously acquainted with the Church;
- the Pope represents something which people seek;
- Christianity is expressed in different ways in many and diverse cultures;
- is Christianity necessary to people's response to social justice needs?
- given our call to be inclusive and non-judgmental, the message in preaching always should be positive and affirming;
- evangelization is central to the Church;
- each of us should share the message of the Gospel;
- personal dialogue is the first step in sharing the Gospel;
- importance of the homily;
- the homily is not entertainment; the Lord, not the minister, must be the center of attention in the homily;
- the homily and the liturgy must be the pastor's first priority;
- homilies need to address the meaning of the language used by authors of the Gospels and how the lessons in the Gospels apply to each of us; and
- how the homily is delivered is often as important as the content of the homily.

At our next meeting, Larry will pick up the discussion with paragraph 160.

Ongoing Projects: Forest Lodge series

Mary said that we had agreed to provide speakers on the fourth Thursday of each month, but we adapted to Cathy Sivec's schedule changes in May, providing two speakers: Dave Tschantz and Greg Sain. Resuming next month, we will continue to present on social justice principles. On

September 25, Karla Bellinger, who is the author of “Connecting Pulpit and Pew,” will discuss effective homilies. Judge John Quinn will lead the October 23 discussion and Hank will lead the January discussion. Mary asked us to think of speakers for the Faith Lodge series, as she is working on the schedule for Faith Lodge for the 4th Thursdays in 2015.

Announcements/New Business

After his trip to El Salvador, Larry will report on how we can help.

Rita was to have met with Fr. O’Connor to discuss inclusion of social justice matters in St. Vincent’s bulletin, but the meeting has been postponed.

Harry said that he and Linda will work at St. Bernard’s soup kitchen this afternoon, which is St. Sebastian’s day to help. He will report back.

Larry announced that the Kenilworth Open will be held September 7.

The Catholic Commission retreat is this Thursday. A focus will be how to get younger generation people involved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned approximately at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Pierson