

... and Justice for All
Sunday, March 16, 2014

Present: Mary Yanko; Mary and Dave Tschantz; Carolyn Varner; Anne Burris; Greg Sain; Hank Hudson; Jack and Jan Pierson

After the meeting was convened at 10:10, Jack read from Jeremiah (Ch. 1, verses 4-10 and from the Gospel of Luke (Ch. 10, verses 1-3). Minutes of the February meeting were accepted as presented.

General Session

Jan led the discussion of Chapter One of the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Joy of the Gospel, paragraphs 19-49. Highlights of the ensuing discussion:

- Sentiment expressed by several: “He (Pope Francis) so gets it”
- Pope Francis stresses that it is not the Church’s role to prescribe solutions; rather, the approach properly is “I’ve given you the word, go with it”
- No one can be excluded
- The Church needs to be involved at the level of the people (“the smell of the sheep”)
- Evangelization is premised on our experiencing joy in the liturgy of the Church
- The importance of an inclusive liturgy is in tension with those who do not want change
- Merely being an administrator is not enough; the Church needs to experience constant self-renewal. We need to see and experience the Church as a living organism. *We* are the Church. Openness to change is a sign of a healthy organization.
- The goal of evangelization is to build relationships through dialogue, rather than self-preservation of the institution.
- Francis calls for us to re-define our view of church.
- Eucharist is not a prize but, rather, is to be shared.
- Serving the needs of the poor is the paramount work of the Church.

At our next meeting, Dave will lead discussion of Chapter 2, Joy of the Gospel.

Ongoing Projects

Catholic Commission: Mary and Greg described the February 20 meeting. Diane Zvasnick is the new director. She comes to us from the Diocese of Austin with graduate degrees in theology and experience as a DRE. Her biography is on the diocesan web site.

Greg attended the February 1 parish networking event, at which four speakers addressed various aspects of the Commission’s employment initiatives including the Summit Re-Entry program, the St. Barnabas Job Club and Choices, a program sponsored by the Court of Common Pleas in which people are provided training to enhance job skills and self-esteem. In response to Rita’s question, Greg described the certificate of job readiness provided by the program. The University of Cincinnati and the County of Summit’s web sites have good descriptions of the features and limitations of the program. At the parish level, St. Barnabas’ program addresses the lack of resources in the northern part of the County. Other parishes can develop similar programs which support the unemployed and under-employed.

A networking event will be held May 1 for parish social justice groups to share what works. Location to be determined.

Faith Lodge: Mary Tschantz is our liaison to the program. She said that at our last meeting, we agreed to provide speakers for the fourth Thursday of each month. The speakers were listed in the parish bulletin for the first Sunday in March. Harry Sivic, at the first meeting, March 13, described his work with people with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and mentioned services offered by NAMI, for which Ron Rett is the contact. Bernie Rochford will present March 27 and Greg will address efforts to improve access to the justice system at the May 22 meeting. Dave Tschantz is working on a topic for his presentation on April 24. Hank volunteered to lead the discussion at the August meeting, focusing on his work with Findley School children.

Mary T. asked us to inform her of any ideas we may develop for topics and speakers for Faith Lodge.

New Business

Mary Y. was contacted by “Heeding God’s Call” about endorsing that group’s protest of gun shows being held at the Summit County Fairgrounds. She will tell the person that information can be submitted for publication in our parish bulletin.

She mentioned that Jack had forwarded to her several articles describing the positive reactions to Pope Francis’ several initiatives regarding Vatican governance.

Announcements

St. Hilary’s Lenten program this Wednesday will feature a discussion of Ohio’s science and health initiatives.

The April First Friday meeting will focus on getting rid of “stinking thinking.”

The next meeting will be on Palm Sunday. Mary and Dave will lead the discussion of Chapter 2 of *Evangelii Gaudium*; Rita has the prayer and treat.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Pierson