



Just Notes

A newsletter from the Life, Peace and Justice Commission for the Diocese of Reno, Nevada

Winter 2010

Statement of Purpose for the Commission:

We, the Life, Peace, and Justice Commission, attest to the unity we share in the Body of Christ through the Holy Spirit. In solidarity, directed by Catholic Social Teaching and inspired by Scripture, we commit ourselves to encourage our parish communities to work for justice and peace. We speak for the voiceless in our community and world, seeking to advocate for the dignity of all and promote the unity that we share as the creation of a loving God.



Walking the Walk

Key Themes of our Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Call to Family, Community and Participation

Rights and Responsibilities

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Solidarity

Care for God's Creation

Do you have Parish Life, Peace and Justice news to share? If so, please contact our Coordinator, Rita Sloan at:

rwrksloan@hotmail.com

Life, Peace and Justice Commission Survey

By Rita Sloan

What is happening "on the ground" in our diocese regarding social concerns? This question prompted the Life Peace and Justice Commission's survey in the fall of 2009. It turns out that a great deal is happening. Approximately half of all parishes responded to the survey, and from those we learn that our parishes are generally deeply involved in the good works of feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering the homeless, advocating for the unborn, and educating and directing immigrants to services.

There are indicators that knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching is spreading; awareness of the issues of the day is growing. As an example: five years ago, only one parish in this diocese promoted Fair Trade; today, four parishes use and sell FT coffee, tea, and other products and one parish makes it available through its gift shop. The Catholic emphasis on "care of God's creation" has prompted some parishes to look into environmental issues, and awareness of our connectedness to the greater world community has expanded.

It is clear that much is happening from our Catholic Social Teaching on "charity" and we are seeing a slow but sure growth in the good work on "justice" from our Catholic Social Teaching as well. Thank you to all who participated in the survey. The Life Peace and Justice Commission welcomes your input anytime, and we make ourselves available as a resource for expanding a parish's social justice involvement. Contact Rita Sloan at rwrksloan@hotmail.com

Holy Family Parish

By Kathy Toigo

The Life, Peace and Justice Committee at Holy Family Parish in Yerington is a relatively new ministry in our church community. We are learning about Catholic Social Teaching while working on projects that we hope will benefit others.

Each month we coordinate a rosary dedicated to ending abortion and we supervise a food collection for those in need. One recent project was a Clothing Give-Away in which all the tables in our Catholic Center were covered with free clothing and made available for anyone in the local community.

We are also working on raising awareness regarding circumstances surrounding the investigation of the tragic deaths of a young seasonal farm worker who died in a fire, and that of a Hispanic husband and father killed in a car accident. In addition, one of our members brought an idea to the group which promotes justice in the workplace through respect and cooperative efforts between area workers and employers. We are excited about developing this innovative approach and working to make this partnership concept a reality. For additional information, please contact Father Jorge or Kathie Toigo at Holy Family, (775) 463-2882.

"If you want peace, work for justice." - Pope Paul VI

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Michael, Monica, and Tabitha Howk

Cardboard Box City

By Monica Howk

When our family heard about the Cardboard Box City in Reno, we decided immediately that we needed to participate in the event. We started asking our family and friends for donations and most of them replied, "you are going to pay to sleep in a cardboard box? You're crazy!" We told them that their donation would be for a good cause and that we would show them pictures of the event. They soon agreed to make a donation, allowing our family to raise the money to sleep in the box at the event.

Box City was not only a fun experience, but also one that opened our family's eyes to poverty. Friday night when we left Carson City, we were ready to have a good time and learn the struggles of sleeping in a cardboard box. Friday, September 25th, was a night to remember as we embraced the homeless and a few of their stories that emotionally moved us. Our family was also able to physically see how many homeless people there were around us, and we wished we could help them more than by just giving up one night of our lives.

On Saturday morning as we left, we realized when we got back into our car that we are very fortunate to have a car to drive in, and to have a roof over our heads. Even the smallest actions can make an enormous positive difference in a homeless person's life. Our family would be delighted to participate in this event next year, as the Cardboard Box City was a well organized fundraiser for the homeless. For more information about the annual cardboard box city held in Reno, contact: <http://www.familypromisereno.com/cbc.html>

Remembering those who died homeless

By Fr. Chuck Durante

On a wet, cold Monday night, December 21st, many people gathered in Reno and in Carson City from our area parishes to remember those homeless who had died in our respective communities. This date, as the longest night of the year, is recognized annually throughout the nation as a time to call attention to the problems of the homeless, particularly those who die due to exposure and violence on the streets. In Carson City we gathered with some of the homeless first at the First Presbyterian Church for a simple meal and then we walked to the steps of the Capitol for some sharing of stories, remembrances and prayer. Among the most painful to hear was how the homeless in Carson City suffered attacks from area youth. The homeless are among the most vulnerable in our communities. They are driven at times to live in "camps" for the safety of numbers. Let us all continue to work and pray for good and persistent solutions to homelessness in our land.