

Our Mother of Consolation Parish  
Peace & Justice Committee  
January 15, 2020  
Minutes

Present: Bob Connor, Irene Harvey, Rosemary McGee (Chair), Phil McGovern, Brenda Paglione, Bob Ryan and Sheila Murphey. Pat Burt did not attend but sent an email. Thoughts are with Fran Ford who should be coming home Saturday, January 18, from rehab, and with Sue Grogan who faces more treatment after surgery.

Phil McGovern read Howard Thurman's adaptation of the prayer of St. Francis as well as a quote from Dr. Thurman (copy attached). Bob Connor will prepare prayer/reflection for the February meeting.

### **Grants**

No grant applications have been received recently. Bob Connor reported on the application submitted by People Advancing Reintegration (PAR) – Recycle Works for funds to support its program for former prisoners. The project boasts a remarkably low -- 5% -- recidivism rate. The Committee approved a grant of \$1,500.

The Committee also approved a stipend of \$250 to New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) for the training and meal they provided on Sunday, January 12 (see below). Rosemary noted that the Fund is in the process of receiving a \$6,000 share of last fiscal year's parish surplus.

### **Education**

- Catholic Coalition for Immigrants and Refugees January 11 Meeting – Rosemary, Irene and Pat Burt attended the quarterly meeting at the Archdiocese's North 17<sup>th</sup> Street building. On this last day of National Migration Week, there were several "testimonials" of personal experiences as well as a keynote by Carol Zinn, SSJ, Executive Director, Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Sr. Carol used two "parables" to theme a presentation including global perspectives on migration and unfolding shifts, the geography of migration and needs/responses, as well as resistance, resolution and reconciliation. In her email Pat Burt stated her hope to engage Sr. Carol to speak at OMC in the fall.
- Immigration: Accompaniment Training, News, Next Steps - Peter Pedemonti and Maria Turcios of New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) along with immigration attorney Philippe Weisz of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) conducted an accompaniment training at OMC on Sun., Jan. 12. The training was interactive, described the immigration courtroom environment, fielded questions and included a delicious meal prepared by an NSM associate. Although NSM is now requiring volunteers to be trained, it is a somewhat "loose" requirement. Pat Burt emailed that virtually all OMC's volunteers are now trained and she will check with Peter whether attending the Catholic Coalition's training on February 1 would qualify anyone still needing training. She also intends to include updates, stories, etc. in the parish bulletin.

- White Privilege Movie Night – Irene has made little progress in researching films for a possible event to follow St. Vincent de Paul and Holy Cross parishes’ peace and justice committee movies/discussions on white privilege. (St. Vincent staged a September 2019 event and Holy Cross plans to do so in late winter 2020. OMC foresees a spring gathering.) Irene asked for help in surveying the resources suggested by Barbara Sheehan’s contact at Arcadia University:
  - Robin D'Angelo, who has written an article on White Fragility and has some talks on YouTube about it.
  - Tim Wise, who started the discussions in public discourse about white privilege. He has books and videos.
  - Peggy McIntosh, who wrote something called the White Knapsack, which goes through 42 privileges... recommends an exercise called Privilege Beads, which Peggy Macintosh created.

### Actions

- Syrian Student Support Group – La Salle University graduation is scheduled for May 10 this year. Samra is working on assuring she’s one of the graduates. In addition, she’s working on what’s next; she hopes to attend graduate school in France, but obtaining a visa is not guaranteed.
- Diaper Collection – Scheduled for January 25-26, 2020. Sorting set for Thursday, Jan 30, 10 am. Possible distribution to: Stenton Family Manor, Mitzvah Circle Foundation, Mother’s Home and Hope Pregnancy Center.
- Helping Hands – March 29, 2020. School minister Paul Cillo has arranged for a donation link on the CRS Helping Hands website. The Committee will contribute up to the maximum grant amount (\$1,500) if underwriting is not otherwise secured.
- Ethical Trade Sale – The Committee discussed if and when to hold the sale, usually scheduled in Spring for Mother’s Day weekend which this year would be May 9-10. Rosemary will be unavailable and Irene may be out of town that weekend. In addition, as noted previously, since CRS is largely abandoning its involvement to focus on other activities, reassessment of how to proceed with future purchases and sales is necessary. Rosemary will seek Pat Burt’s input.

### Miscellaneous

- 2020 Challenge, SSJ Welcome Center (See attached flyer, page 3).
- “Walk in My Shoes” movie event, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Jan. 22, 7:30 pm.
- Catholic Coalition for Immigrants and Refugees training, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020 Archdiocesan offices, 717 N. 17<sup>th</sup> St., (usually scheduled from 10 am – noon).
- Trivia Night, OMC Home and School Association, Feb. 22, 2020, Springfield Township Recreation Center, 1200 E. Willow Grove Ave., Wyndmoor, 19038

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 19, 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Irene Harvey



**Help us in assisting  
the Refugees waiting in Mexico to enter the US  
and receive asylum here.**

**THE CHALLENGE IS EASY:**

**DONATE:**

**.02 .20. \$2.00 \$2.02 \$2.20 ETC.**

**We will collect donations until we reach the goal of \$2020.**

**The donation will go the following Organizations:**

**Annunciation House in El Paso**

**Humanitarian Respite Center in Brownsville, Texas**

**Team Brownsville, Brownsville, Texas**



**To make a donation please mail contributions to SSJ Welcome Center 728 E. Allegheny Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19134  
ATTN: 2020 Challenge**

Dr Howard Thurman

African-American writer, educator, civil rights leader,

Using the prayer of St. Francis

“Lord, make me an instrument of Thy Peace.”  
Teach me how to order my days that with sure  
touch I may say the right word in the right way -  
lest I betray the spirit of peace. Let me not be  
deceived by my own insecurity and weakness  
which would make me hurt another as I try  
desperately to help myself. Keep watch with  
me , O My Father over the days of my life, that  
with abiding enthusiasm I may be in such  
Possession of myself that each day I may offer  
to Thee the full unhampered use of me in all  
my parts as “an instrument of Thy Peace”  
Amen

Quote I Liked of his - During times of war , hatred becomes more respectable even  
though it has to masquerade often under the guise of patriotism.

St. Theresa of Avila

Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
All things are passing away:  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things  
Whoever Has God lacks nothing;  
God alone suffices.