

Spires of Faith Cluster Peace and Justice Committee

The last meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 6:00pm. Present were Fr. Gabriel, Joan Steger, Mary Kay Westhoff and Cookie Scherrman. Meeting was opened with a prayer lead by Fr. Gabriel. Minutes were approved.

Committee Reports: Respect Life

-Oral arguments were presented on Oct 28,2022 regarding Iowa's heartbeat law. That law was passed by the Iowa House and Senate in May 2018 but blocked from going into effect on June 2018. Pro Life attorneys from Alliance Defending Freedom and the Kirkwood Institute presented arguments on behalf of the Heartbeat Law and Pro Abortion attorneys from Planned Parenthood presented arguments against the law. The Polk's Co. District judge will make a ruling hopefully before the end of the year. See the history and summary of the heartbeat Law in the Oct. 2022 issue of Life Time from Dubuque County Right To Life.

-Dub Co Right To Life is coordinating a trip to Washington D.C. for the 2022 March For Life. Contact DCRTL for more information 563-556-5960 or dcrtl.org.

-National Adoption Day is November 19th.

-National Night of Prayer for life is Dec. 8th. Time and locations will be announced later.

-Dubuque County Right To Life's local Walk For Life will be held in June to honor the day that Roe was overturned. More to be announced.

Rural Community Food Pantry

Pantry staff and volunteers are getting the new Pantry ready for the Christmas distribution on Dec. 17th. New space will make operations much more efficient. Pantry is preparing Thanksgiving baskets for 140 families. Pick up will be at the present facility behind the Chiropractic Office on Thursday November 17th.

October numbers were: 145 households visited the Pantry. - 293 adults and 184 kids

Non duplicated visited the Pantry - 200 adults and 132 kids

Angels representing a child and gift ideas have been distributed to area financial institutions and a few other businesses. Gifts need to be returned to place you picked up the Angel by Dec. 2nd. Non-perishable food items will be collected in area schools and parishes this Thanksgiving day.

Haiti Mission Connection

Conditions in Haiti continue to get worse. The World Food Program has raised the malnutrition condition in Haiti to the highest degree. Latest word we received from Father Lubermann is that he is driving to nearby Dominican Republic to purchase food for the school children. St. Jude's will be helping with this endeavor.

Our cluster continues to support the schools and since 2014, when we opened St. Claire Clinic, we have been responsible for the clinic staff's salaries, the medical supplies and the medications. We also constructed two small clinics in the countryside. Father reported that at the present time only St. Claire Clinic is open for patients. We plan to send another additional \$1000.00 for medications. Father also purchases these meds in the Dominican Rep. The price of gas is also an issue for Father's travels.

A number of our parish members are Classroom Sponsors. With a yearly gift of \$125.00 they help support a teacher and the students in a classroom for one month. If you would be willing to help in this way, put a check to "Spires of Faith Cluster Haiti Fund" memo Classroom Sponsor and put it in the Sunday collection or send it to the rectory. All of these programs help Father to serve his parishes. They also need our prayers. They are very grateful and pray for us daily.

Care and Share Collection

The Care and Share collection for November/December will be divided between the Rural Community Food Pantry - The Layette Group - Toys for the Needy

Catholic Worker House in Dubuque

The House is not open for Sunday Hospitality Dinners at this time, but may begin again in June. Anyone who would like to contribute to the Dubuque Rescue Mission, call Cookie 563-590-0066.

Laudato Si' Movement : Catholics Caring for our Common Home

If you have not had a chance to watch the U-Tube movie "The Letter" be sure to take the time. It can also be viewed on your computer screen or your I-Pad. It is very informative. Film powerfully explains the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. A must see!!

Meeting was closed with a prayer led by Fr. Gabriel.
Next meeting will be Thursday January 12, 2023.

Respectively submitted,
Cookie Scherrman