

Spires of Faith Cluster Peace and Justice Committee

The last meeting of the Peace and Justice Committee was held Thursday, January 12, 2023 At 5:00pm. Present were Shirley Olberding, Sr. Paula Schwendinger, Joan Steger, Ted Deacon and Cookie Scherrman. Sr. Paula opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes were approved.

Committee reports;

Respect Life

1. March for Life is Jan. 22nd. The trip begins on Jan. 18th. No buses going from here..
2. High School Seniors Scholarship Contest - \$10,000.00 to be awarded among the applicants by the judging committee. **The rules are** ; 1 - Submit a written copy of the original 5 - 10 minute Speech. 2 - Submit evidence of service hours logged in the cause of protecting human life. 3 - submit one recommendation letter describing individual commitment to some aspect of the DCRTL Mission.
3. Online topic **Equipped For Life** is a 10 module course to help discussing more effectively about the pro-life cause. Contact DCRTL Begins on February 3rd.
4. The injunction against the **Fetal Heartbeat Law** was rejected. Gov Reynolds is appealing the ruling to the Iowa Supreme Court. However the 24 hour waiting period is still in effect.
- 5- The **Life Dinner is Friday April 21, 2023.** - Trivia Night at Columbille's Parish Hall is February 11th -register your team by February 1st.

Sr. Paula Schwendinger's Hispanic Ministry

There are now **15 Hispanics who are studying English with 15 volunteer tutors**. Some have already gone through 1 Book. Being able to work at their own pace makes a big difference and also has developed wonderful relationships between tutors and students.

There is an opportunity for Hispanics with no dental insurance to receive check-ups, z-rays, cleaning and fillings for only \$30.00 through the **NICC dental clinic in Peosta**. This service is available from January through March

Just as **Joseph had to flee Bethlehem to save the life of his son and settle in Egypt as an immigrant**, so too our immigrants had to flee their countries in order to save their lives and the lives of their families. I am interviewing Hispanics and writing their stories on why they had to flee and what problems they face in a new land. Sister Paula

Haiti Mission Connection

Thanks to St. Francis Xavier students, teachers and parents for the **Red Clothing Collection For Haiti**. The many boxes of red clothing will be sent to our sister Parish in Haiti on a sea container. **You are a LIGHT in their time of darkness; they know you care!!**

Classroom sponsors for Holy Cross School in Haiti have contributed \$14,300.00 so far. We send \$24,000 every year to help pay teachers' salaries and student tuition. We are grateful for your continued support! Merci Merci Merci

Note from our Haitian Pastor Our Pastor, Fr. Lubermann received word from his bishop that he will be moved this spring. Father has been a very spiritual and dedicated shepherd to all of his many parishioners. He has been very welcoming to all of our yearly Haiti Mission teams, We will miss him too. We will keep you posted when we hear more details.

Below is a copy of a Novena we are asking all to pray. Haiti needs our prayers for peace.

9 Day Novena for Haiti

January 23rd to the 31st

Dear Mother of perpetual help from the cross Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest, the most loving of all Mothers. Look tenderly on the people of Haiti, especially those in Fond Verrettes, as they endure hunger and illness: as they suffer from the dysfunction of their government: as they suffer from the greed of others.

Ease their burdens and make their faith strong so that they may always have confidence and trust in your care. Help them face the difficulties that ravage their country with courage, Bring their dead into your eternal rest and comfort those who mourn them.

Bring their wounded and all those who suffer into your healing presence and strengthen those who serve them. And finally, O Mother, bring us all an abiding sense of your care and compassion that we may respond with generous hearts, open hands and a renewed sense of solidarity with all your children, especially those in Haiti who have the greatest need.

Pray 10 Hail Marys

Hail Mary Full of Grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. AMEN.

Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father and from one another. Full of trust in you we place the people of Haiti under the mantle of your maternal protection and confidently hope for your powerful help. AMEN.

Spires of Faith Prayer Chain

Continues to be a link for prayer intentions and parishioners who will pray for the request. Prayer is our life-line. Thanks for your dedication to helping others.

Rural Community Food Pantry 2022

Turkey giveaway each family received a turkey, potatoes, yams, green beans, cream of mushroom soup, stuffing mix and a sweet treat. 79 turkeys & 45 turkey breasts were given out.. Dollar Fresh donated 20 turkeys Black & Decker - Delhi donated 13 turkeys

Christmas Food Baskets - 225 households - totaling 800 people receiving food

Toys/Gifts 352 children received gifts

Our monthly numbers are on the rise. Pantry is hoping to be in the new building by May 1st.

Pantry continues to have produce days out of their alley location on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, drive through only.

Peace and Justice Committee will sponsor a soup supper on Wednesday March 15th following the 5:15 Mass. Proceeds will be sent to Catholic Charities to aid in their helping the People of Ukraine.

If you have not watched the U-Tube **Caring for Mother Earth**, please do so.

Next meeting of the Peace and Justice committee will be **Thursday March 9th.**

**Respectfully Submitted,
Cookie Scherrman**

