

Spires of Faith Peace and Justice Committee held their last meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at Cookie Scherrman's home. Present were Joan Steger, Sr, Paula Schwendinger, Ted Deacon, Shirley Olberding, Fr. Gabriel, Mary Kay Westhoff and Cookie Scherrman. Mickey Kelchen was absent. Meeting was opened with a prayer by Fr. Gabriel. Minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

Respect Life - 1. DCRTL has a carpool every Thursday to pray at the Emmaus Abortion Clinic. Car leaves from the DCRTL office at 6:30 to be there when the clinic opens at 8:00 For more information call the office at 563-556-5960.

2.The Annual Life Dinner was held April 21st. Dr. Lile's talk detailed the life in the womb was powerful & will be helpful in future discussions with pro-choice people or those undecided.

3.The Iowa 'Heartbeat Law' is still on hold but is before the Iowa Supreme Court for a final decision . The ruling should be by June 2023.

4.DCRTL has a course titled "Equipped for Life Course. The course "provides s fresh approach to the dialogue concerning abortion. On Tuesdays, June 6th to July 18th from 10:00 to 11:30, people will be calling with information. Register by calling 563-556-5960 by June 5th.

5.DCRTL will have an educational booth at the Dubuque County Fair from July 25th to July 30th. Volunteers are needed to hand out 12 week old fetal models, pens, lollipops, brochures, etc. to help educate about life in the womb until birth. Call DCRTL 563-556-5960.

6. State March For Life at the State Capitol will be on June 24th. Bus will leave Dubuque at 8:00am. Sign up by June 12th. Call DCRTL 563-556-5960

Rural Community Food Pantry Pantry serves !00 households a month.May is beef month. Pantry received a \$1,000.00 cash donation to purchase meat and they are receiving another \$1,000.00 worth of meat.

Mother's Day boxes include a beef roast and hamburger and many other items.

Progress of the new Pantry: - Glass board has been installed. - Solar panels are on the roof - Walk in Cooler and Freezer have been delivered and will be installed sometime this month - Painting the office and front entrance this month - Mickey Kelchen and Shirley Olberding are meeting with the sign Company. - Cement work is scheduled for mid-June.- Shelving is not available until July or August so complete move into the building will be after that is completed.

Ministry to the Hispanics The English Program consists of 13 teams with english and spanish speaking persons. Each team meets separately. They are building relationships along with learning a new language.

Sr. Paula Schwendinger facilitates HOME Hispanic Outreach Ministry of Evangelization. Area Hispanics help with the 12:00 Sunday Mass at the Basilica with her direction. She translates for employment interviews, school, doctors and attorneys and more. Presently she is showing rental apartments for families. Two Hispanic men have died recently and she has helped a local funeral home by translating with the families. Paula's days are filled with new challenges.

Holy Cross Parish in Haiti News we receive from Haiti is painful. Father is keeping the clinic open but drives to the Dominican Republic to get medications. People are coming to Mass

often as they turn to God to help them. With our financial help Father is having more pews made for the congregation,

He is getting the test papers ready for the final exams in the first part of June. Because of the violence throughout the country students and parents are losing heart. Drought has caused crop failures and the farmers cannot afford more seeds. When they have had rain it came too hard and washed away the seeds and plants.

The vehicle which Father desperately needs to minister throughout his parishes and to get supplies they need is having problems. The cost of everything continues to rise. It is beyond my understanding to know how they survive..To live in abstract poverty is very hard, but to also live in fear is unbelievable.

We must continue our financial and prayerful support for these wonderful people. It gives them hope to carry on. Merci! Merci!! Merci!!

On May 24th, 2015 Pope Francis presented to the world his Encyclical **Laudato Si “Care for our Common Home”**. We celebrate the 8th anniversary of this Letter and rejoice in the progress we have made so far. **“The Letter”**, documentary, tells the story of four social poets who were invited to Rome to meet with Pope Francis about how they have brought **“Hope for the World and for Humanity”** through their work to address the climate crisis. If you want to watch, the link to the 1 hour and 20 minute video is:< <https://www.theletterfilm.org/watch>>.

Meeting was closed with a prayer led by Sr. Paula. Next meeting will be in September 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Cookie Scherrman