

Faith Works

Our Mother Of Sorrows Catholic Church
(OMOS) - 1800 S. Kolb Rd..
Tucson, AZ 85710

September - November 2006

Volume 1, Issue 3

Welcome to the newsletter of the JustFaith group at OMOS. We have a new look. The *Seven Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching* and the *Consistent Ethic of Life* have been left as reference in pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. We wanted to highlight our Pastoral Plan and to integrate the Seven Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching into the plan. Each month, one of the points of the Pastoral Plan and one of the Seven Key Themes will be featured. Members of our parish, the parish staff and our community will be invited to share their thoughts and reflections regarding the selected topic for the month.

Monsignor Tom Cahalane, our very own Pastor, has written the first article. Monsignor Tom needs no introduction and he consistently reminds us to “witness with love” in our Ministry of Everyday Life.

Mike McDonald is president of our Parish Council and Director of Habitat for Humanity. Mike is very involved in the parish and models his faith in all his efforts.

Laura Stehle is the Director of Religious Education in our parish and has tirelessly worked for justice and charity in the parish for the Haiti project and Casa Maria, just to name a few. Our children are blessed to have Laura on board.



September's Key Theme: To Witness With Love; Call to Family, Community, and Participation in Society, Seeking Together the Common Good

By Msgr. Thomas Cahalane; Pastor, OMOS

This is one of the specific directions of our new pastoral plan for the parish. The theme of our Pastoral Plan – *Go, you are sent forth*, comes from the commissioning rite at the end of each Mass. We are commissioned and sent forth to witness with love, with God's love, in the ministry of our everyday lives. We are challenged to witness with love in the “call to family, community and participation in society, seeking together the common good.” This is one of the seven key themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

Every person has inherent dignity and that human dignity comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment. Our call to witness with love in family, community and society in seeking together the common good is based on the reality that each and every person is made in the image and likeness of God. This is the basis of all human dignity.

An ideal mirror reflection to witness with love is found in Acts 4:32-35. “*The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.*”

Prayer/Reflection

- Are we as a parish greatly reflective, somewhat reflective, or not too reflective in our call to witness with love?
- Are we like the community of believers who were of one mind and one heart in their call to witness with love as noted in the Acts of the Apostles?
- To witness with love is not a me-&-God relationship. It involves love in action towards family, community and society

September/2006

4th ♦ Labor Day

6th ♦ The Medellin
Conference documents
(1968)

8th ♦ International
Literacy Day

11th ♦ Anniversary of the
terrorists attacks of 2001

14th ♦ Laborem excercens
(John Paul II, 1981)

16th ♦ International Day
for the Preservation of the
Ozone Layer

21st ♦ International Day of
Peace

23-24th ♦ Rosh Hashana
(Jewish)

24th ♦ Ramadan (Muslim)
through October 23rd

27th ♦ Feast Day of St.
Vincent De Paul

October/2006

- 1st** ♦ International Day for Older Persons
2nd ♦ Ghandi's birthday
 ♦ Yom Kippur (Jewish)
4th ♦ Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi
5th ♦ International World Teacher's Day
9th ♦ Columbus Day
12th ♦ International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
16th ♦ World Food Day
17th ♦ International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
21st ♦ International Day of Peace
 ♦ Diwali, the Hindu festival of Lights
20-22nd ♦ National Weekend of Faith and Action on the Death Penalty
24th ♦ United Nations Day
 ♦ Eid al Fitr - Festival of Breaking of the Fast (Islam)
24-30th ♦ Disarmament Week

October's Key Theme: To Witness With Love; Call to Family, Community, and Participation in Society, Seeking Together the Common Good

By Michael McDonald

For most of us most of the time, the closest we'll ever come to doing peace and justice work on a regular basis is how we "wash the feet" of our family and friends, as well as the various people we interact with during the rush of our everyday lives, hopefully providing a moment or two of kindness and care as we hurtle through our often taken-for-granted daily routines.

We can easily deceive ourselves that real acts of compassion and substantive efforts to create a more equitable world take place far away from where we live our daily lives. That it is predominantly "those people *over there*" who really need to be washed with compassion and freed from injustice – as if we're wholly disconnected from them, as if all our lives aren't intertwined on all kinds of socioeconomic and even spiritual levels, as if there isn't a plethora of isolation, alienation, meanness of spirit, and unjust actions happening right under our noses every day (some of which we ourselves – either individually or collectively in our public policies and institutions – perpetuate, if not outright engender). And then further, we talk ourselves into believing that the real peace and justice work is best left to the professional do-gooders.

But as Mother Teresa admonished regular people who wanted to leave their own worlds to join hers on the streets of Mumbai, "Do what's in front of you." The people in our own families, among our own friends, and within our very own community need our concern and care as much as anybody else. And perhaps we alone are the only people available to serve and care for them. Empathy, charity, solidarity and justice begin at home and among our own estranged neighbors within our community. It is here, in our quotidian existence, that we are most challenged to find the sacred each and every frustrating or mundane day among people we can easily take for granted or overlook. It is here that our values are daily tested over the long haul.

Prayer / Reflection

- Am I aware of the needs of those whom I meet daily: family, relatives and friends?
- Are my views and attitudes in society bringing hope or despair to others?
- Read Mathew 5, 43-48. Jesus challenges us to love our *enemies* as if loving those who love us is normal and expected. Have we *already* attained the level of loving those close to us?

Seven Key Themes Of Catholic Social Teaching

1. ***Life and Dignity of the Human Person:*** We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.
2. ***Call to Family, Community, and Participation:*** We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.
3. ***Rights and Responsibilities:*** Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency.
4. ***Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:*** Mt 25:31-46 instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
5. ***The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:*** If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected.
6. ***Solidarity:*** We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live.
7. ***Care for God's Creation:*** We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

November's Key Theme: To Worship and Welcome; Solidarity With All People as One Global Family

By Laura Stehle

If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored; all the members share its joy. You then, are the body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it. (1 Cor. 12:26-27)

Am I my brother's keeper? (Gen 4:9) The principle of solidarity reminds us we are all brothers and sisters. Sometimes it is easier for us to be concerned about those we are in direct contact with, our family, friends, fellow parishioners and community than those we will never meet and live in places far away. Solidarity reminds us that race, geographic location and ethnic background make no difference in our responsibility to care for one another. We need to be as concerned for non-believers as we are for Christians. We need to reach out to those who speak another language, act differently and live in other countries as much as we would reach out to our family and friends. We need to remember that people we see as different from ourselves deserve the same resources and as much dignity as we do.

Solidarity takes on a deeper dimension when we bring those in need to the Eucharist. At Communion we say "Amen" to Jesus. We say "yes" to the whole human family united in Jesus. We say "yes" to working for a fuller realization of this oneness in the world. The Eucharist is not just the symbol of solidarity; it is the source of that solidarity.

Prayer / Reflection

- Read 1Cor. 12:-26-27, Is 58:6-10, Job 29:16, Mt 25:31-46
- Pray to the Holy Spirit asking for the gift of generosity.
- Reflect on how to become more people and service oriented and less focused on consumerism.

Challenges / Actions

- Who are those people in the world that are needy? What might I do to help their cause?
- What sacrifices can I make during the week for the sake of those in need?
- How might I stand in solidarity with my migrant brothers and sisters?
- Get involved with Pima County Interfaith Council (PCIC) to help work for social justice.

November/2006

1st ♦ All Saints Day

2nd ♦ All Souls Day

6th ♦ International Day
or Preventing the
Exploitation of
Environment in War
and Armed Conflict

11th ♦ Veterans Day

13th ♦ St. Francis
Cabrini, Patron Saint of
Immigrants

16th ♦ International Day
of Tolerance

23rd ♦ Thanksgiving
Day

29th ♦ International Day
of Solidarity with
Palestinian People

30th ♦ Justicia in
Mundo (1971)

Consistent Ethic Of Life

"Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation; it is an indivisible good." (The Gospel of Life, no. 87 by John Paul II).

Simply put, the teaching of our Catholic faith tells us that all life is sacred and must be protected, from the womb to the tomb. All people have a right to life. Violence against a human life for any reason is not a solution for any of the problems faced by our society.

Cardinal Bernardin stated that capital punishment, for example is not the same as abortion, but the issues are linked by the value and defense of life that is placed on both. "When human life is considered 'cheap' or easily expendable in one area, eventually nothing is held as sacred and all lives are in jeopardy."

Pointers

http://www.vatican.va	The Vatican's website
http://www.usccb.org	U.S. Conference Of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
http://arizonainterfaith.org/pciaff.html	Pima County Interfaith Council's Information Page
http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab/bible	The New American Bible (online)

In this issue:

http://arizonainterfaith.org/pciaff.html	Pima County Interfaith Council's Information
http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/global solidarity.htm	USCCB on Global Solidarity
http://www.google.com/search?q=laborem+exercens	Encyclical Laborem Exercens
http://personal.stthomas.edu/gwschlabach/docs/medellin.htm	Medellin Conference Documents overview
http://www.osjspm.org/majordoc_justicia_in_mundo_notable_quotations.aspx	Justicia in Mundo

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