



Recently, some members of St. Cecilia Parish met with Dan Rohner, a representative from the Archdiocese of Dubuque, about working for **social justice**. The **Social Justice Committee** (formerly Social Concerns) was asked to do more to keep the parish informed about social justice issues and the opportunities to serve. We hope this newsletter (to be published quarterly) will help with that mission. Please contact any of the parishioners listed on the back for more information. To learn more about Catholic social teaching, please visit: <http://www.usccb.org> and click on *Social Justice Issues*.

Operation Rice Bowl

Operation Rice Bowl-Catholic Relief Services

1-866-608-5978

educationprogram@crs.org

orb.crs.org

Cynthia Shriver (St. Cecilia's Contact)

515-292-6584

shriverc@gmail.com



Lent—a time to sacrifice for others

Each **Lent**, nearly 13,000 faith communities across the United States participate in **Operation Rice Bowl** to demonstrate solidarity with the poor around the world. Seventy-five percent of Operation Rice Bowl donations go to CRS to help fund development programs designed to increase food security around the world. Twenty-five percent of the donations support hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in dioceses within the United States. (Learn more at orb.crs.org)

At St. Cecilia's, rice bowls and calendars are provided, starting on Ash Wednesday and on subsequent weekends, to parishioners who wish to participate in the program. Lector and/or bulletin announcements are made at each weekend Mass in Lent, highlighting a particular country for the week. A challenge for the week also is given. On Easter Sunday, rice bowl donations are collected and sent to the diocesan office.

Parishioners who wish to become more deeply involved with the Operation Rice Bowl program have several opportunities to do so. There are educational components in the program that could be used in the school activities and classes as well as in other youth education programs. A variety of excellent materials is available from the Operation Rice Bowl website.

Social Justice Contacts

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

1-800-842-2243

STC Contact: Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

APPALACHIA WAREHOUSE

2019 Pullman Street, Ames

STC Contact: Lynn Franco 232-0898

BIRTHRIGHT OF AMES

108 Hayward Ave., Suite 202, Ames

515-292-8414

STC Contact: Kathy Ridnour 232-1697

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

STC Contact: Sharon Jenkins

233-2570

FOOD AT FIRST

516 Kellogg Ave., Ames

515-344-4357

STC Contact: Doreen Berg 956-3414

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, INC.

3206 S. Duff, Ames

515-296-1449

STC Contact: Mary Ross 232-5080

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CENTRAL IOWA

515-232-8815

STC Contact: Alan Christy 231-8099

MEALS ON WHEELS

(Homeward)

1114 S. Duff, Ames

STC Contact: Cathy Kaspar 233-0517

OPERATION RICE BOWL

STC Contact: Cynthia Shriver

292-6584

PRISON MINISTRY

STC Contact: Ron Smith

382-5654

SAINT CECILIA GOOD SAMARITAN SERVICES

STC Contact: Tom Samson

233-1950

ST. CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

STC Contact: Mary Ross

232-5080

The Social Justice Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

BIRTHRIGHT OF AMES

Birthright is in its 40th year of operation in Ames, providing free and confidential pregnancy testing, counseling, referral services and support to Ames area women who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Maternity clothing and clothing for babies in sizes preemie through 2 toddler also are available at no cost. Birthright provides caring, non-judgmental support. No matter how difficult a situation may appear, Birthright is able to help each client plan constructively for the future by exploring available options.

Birthright is entirely funded through private donations; no federal or state funding is received. The office hours vary from week to week (usually opened Monday through Friday afternoons) and staffed entirely by volunteers. In September 2010 a part-time office and volunteer coordinator was hired to manage the office and market Birthright services throughout Ames. With a new student population of Ames changing about every four years, it is important to continually advertise and conduct community outreach in Ames.

Four simple ways to help Birthright of Ames are: pray for Birthright's clients and volunteers, provide financial support, serve as a volunteer in the office, and tell others about Birthright's services.

Birthright of Ames is located at 108 Hayward Avenue, Suite 202 (look for the blue awning). Call ahead for hours at 515-292-8414, or if immediate assistance is required, call the Birthright hotline at 1-800-550-4900.

St. Cecilia's Contact: Kathy Ridnour—232-1697

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CENTRAL IOWA

Director/Manager: Sandy Risdahl
phone number (515) 232-8815
e-mail: director@hfhci.org
<http://hfhci.org/>

St. Cecilia's Contact:

Deacon Alan Christy
phone number (515) 231-8099
e-mail :
alan.christy@hcsbuilders.com

Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa will begin another project in late April. They will build a small ranch home at 105 Mc Donald in Ames. If you would like to volunteer, please fill out the form on the website at <http://hfhci.org/getinvolved/>. If you have difficulty getting the form or have questions, call the volunteer coordinator, Chuck Abbott, at 515-451-0411.

Build location and further information will be provided upon sign up.