



A Committee of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church

The Catholic Church has seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The Social Justice Committee at



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

St. Cecilia's Parish has decided to share these with you through our quarterly newsletter. The last one is **Principle 7 Care for God's Creation**

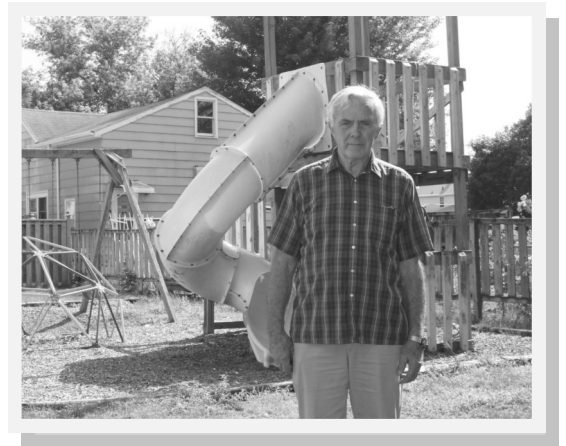
We show our respect for the Creator by our care for the earth. It is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. **We are called to protect people and the planet**, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.



Vic Moss has been the Director of the **Emergency Residence Project (ERP)**-aka "The Shelter" in Ames for **29 years**. The Shelter is located at 225 South Kellogg Avenue, Ames, Iowa. Vic retired from that position on August 4, 2016.

When Vic began as Director, the Shelter housed homeless men, women and families in its three available bedrooms. At that time, the occupancy was about 3-4 people a night.

The Shelter had been started in 1985 when a group of Story County individuals saw the need for emergency housing for homeless individuals. However, over the years it has also become a homeless prevention provider by helping individuals and families avoid evictions and the loss of their heat and lights.



In the past years, more families have arrived at the door of the Shelter. At times, there have been up to 60 people a night. Vic specially enjoys serving the children that live in the apartments. Currently there are 16 children living in the apartments. Vic has welcomed all of the families and has looked after as many of their needs as possible.

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Social Justice Contacts

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

In 1992 a house, just South of the original Shelter, was purchased for Transitional Housing families. It has two apartments.

In 1999 a four-plex was constructed by ISU students and people in the community. It is next door to and North of the original Shelter. It was constructed to house Transitional Housing families. In 2015 that four-plex was renovated with the help and supervision of Deacon Alan Christy with funding from St. Cecilia Parish and other Ames churches. There are also two Transitional Housing apartments located in the basement of the original Shelter.

Left to right—Troy Jansen (Assistant Director), Vic Moss and Cynthia Lidke (Transitional Housing Manager)



Left to right—Cynthia Lidke, Troy Jansen and Vic Moss



Vic's tireless advocacy for the homeless has been a gift to the people of our community. Vic will be missed by all, but he promises to continue fighting for people in poverty!

The ERP Board of Directors is sponsoring a **reception to thank Vic** for his faithful service to the homeless. The reception will be held on **August 28, from 2-4 pm, at the Depot Deli, 526 Main Street, Ames.** St. Cecilia parishioners are invited to stop by and wish Vic well. The Emergency Residence Project has been supported by parishioners for years thanks to their generous donations to the Black Bag monthly collection.