

Social Justice Newsletter—August 2017

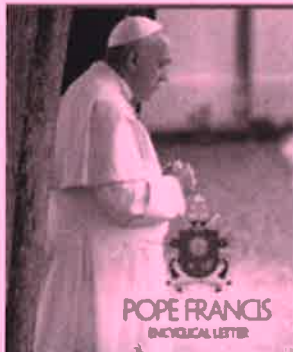
A Committee of St. Cecilia's Catholic Church

Father Emmett Farrell from the diocese of San Diego recently gave a workshop at St. Cecilia's on **Pope Francis' encyclical**

"Laudato Si—The Care of Our Common Home." The workshop was intended for persons interested in protecting creation and preserving our environment. Father Farrell also discussed disparity of wealth and how those who are poor are more effected by climate changes. Father Farrell's sister, Helen Brennan, and her husband, Tom, are parishioners of St. Cecilia's.



ON CARE FOR OUR
COMMON HOME
LAUDATO SI'



Laudato Si is Pope Francis' Encyclical on the environment or more formally – **On Care for Our Common Home**. Laudato Si means **"Praise be to you"** which is the first line of a canticle by St. Francis that **praises God with all of his creation**.

From the outset, Pope Francis states **the goal of the document**: "In this Encyclical, I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home".

The goal of the dialogue: "I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation that includes everyone, since the environment challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all".

The above is at the heart of the document, but Pope Francis also has a **very striking call to conversion** for those in the Church as well.

"The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an **'ecological conversion'**, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; **it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience**".

No matter who you are or where you find yourself in relation to protecting the environment, Pope Francis has this message for you: **"I invite all to embrace with open hearts this Encyclical which is in line with the Church's social doctrine"** (General Audience, June 17, 2015).

(Above summary from Focus.org by Kevin Cotter 6-18-2015)

Social Justice Contacts

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET -
1-800-842-2243 **STC Contact:**
Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

AMOS STC - Contact: Mary Ross
232-5080

APPALACHIA/OVERFLOW -
202 So. Duff, Ames. **STC Contact:**
Lynn Franco 232-0898

BIRTHRIGHT OF AMES -
108 Hayward Ave., Suite 202, Ames
515-292-8414. **STC Contact:**
Kriss Holmes 515-292-8414

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAS - STC Contact:
Rose Tondra 232-4598

EMERGENCY RESIDENCE
PROJECT - STC Contact: Julie Haas
232-7138

FOOD AT FIRST - 611 Clark Ave.,
Ames. 515-344-4357 **STC Contact:**
Doreen Berg 956-3414

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE, INC. - 613 Clark Ave.,
Ames 515-296-1449 **STC Contact:**
Phyllis Craig 291-1106

HOME FOR AWHILE STC Contact:
Mary Ross 232-5080

OPERATION RICE BOWL - STC
Contact: Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

PRISON MINISTRY - STC Contact:
Barb Moore (515) 337-1551

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE
COMMITTEE. STC Contact:
Mary Ross 232-5080

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE, STC
Contact: Garland Dahlke 460-0403

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.

CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER

A Cooperative Effort for Charity

The Emergency Residence Project, aka the Ames Homeless Shelter would like to thank members of the community for their help in beginning the work towards improving the playground for the children who live in the Transitional Housing program. The Emergency Residence Project offers transitional housing to families. The program is designed to provide families with a safe and affordable place to live while they work on barriers to maintain housing. Participants work closely with a case manager who assists them in identifying and minimizing barriers to housing while offering encouragement and support.

On Friday July 28, Jason Rechkemmer, Central Region President of Woodruff Construction Co. and Jim Mason of Country Landscapes, both of the New Member committee of the Rotary Club of Ames, emptied the garage to prepare for its demolition.

On Wednesday August 2, heavy equipment from Woodruff Construction Co. demolished the cinder block garage in the backyard of the Ames Shelter (ERP) to prepare for the improved playground. Cooper and Sons Excavating hauled away the debris.

Next steps include putting in drainage tiles and a rain garden. Long term plans include a mulched play area, playground equipment, landscaping, trees and a basketball court for youth living in the apartments.

The Emergency Residence Project humbly thanks the Rotary Club of Ames, Woodruff Construction, Cooper and Sons Excavating, Jim Mason and Jason Rechkemmer for their help on this project.

Donations to help us continue the progress towards developing a new playground are encouraged and much appreciated. Donations can be made to the Emergency Residence Project playground project and can be mailed or delivered to 225 S.Kellogg Ave, Ames IA 50010



Carrie Moser Executive Director of the Emergency Residence Project stands near the debris of a cinder block garage previously located in the backyard of ERP (aka Ames Homeless Shelter). Dillon Warren operated the excavator and Mike Brendeland operated the skid loader for Woodruff Construction Co. of Ames. The debris was hauled away by Cooper and Sons Excavating. The work was done in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Ames.