

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP JACKELS

World Day of the Poor • November 19, 2017



Last year, at the end of the Year of Mercy, our Holy Father Pope Francis - God grant him health and long life - announced a new Church observance: The World Day of the Poor.

This will be an annual observance, scheduled each year on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, occurring this year on 18/19 November 2017.

Other "world days" are set aside to pray for something, such as the World Day of Prayer for Peace. But this "world day" is not referred to as a day of *prayer* for the poor. What, then?

Pope Francis has talked about this day in a number of ways, such as:

- A reminder of the heart of the gospel - live simply so the poor can simply live;
- An occasion to reach out to and benefit people who are poor;
- An encounter with Jesus, who takes personally our care (or neglect) for the poor;
- A way to evangelize, by means of the attraction of our practice of mercy;
- A stimulus for justice and peace, for which caring for the poor is a *sine qua non*.

This is important, our care for the poor, because for us holiness means the imitation of Christ, and Jesus was poor, preached poverty, and modeled caring for the poor.

Jesus was poor, not in a dire material sense, but in that he didn't possess anything, sharing with his disciples out of a common purse (*Luke 8:1*).

And Jesus did not require his followers to be poor, there being no virtue in poverty, in and of itself. Nor did he condemn people for being wealthy.

But he did condemn people for selfishness and refusing to care for others in need. And he did ask his followers to share their possessions in common, just as he did, so that no one would be in need (*Acts 2:44-45*).

That is what is asked of us today, to share our time, talent and treasure with the Church for its mission, and with the poor, so that they might enjoy the things needed to live in dignity.

This is an important practice of our Catholic religion, just as much as worshipping at Sunday Mass.



On this first observance of the World Day of the Poor Pope Francis will celebrate Holy Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with the poor of Rome, and then host a sit-down lunch for them in the Audience Hall next door.

Not everyone in every place can do something like that, but we can and must do something, in keeping with our own circumstances and resources. Here are some suggestions:

- Memorize what Mother Teresa called the *Gospel of the Hand*, where the five fingers of your hand represent how we will be judged by our care or neglect of people in need: "you - did - it - to - me" (*Matthew 25:31-46*). God takes personally what we do (or don't do) for others.
- Commit to do at least one work of mercy each day, planning the what, when and how either the night before or the morning before starting the day - maybe a visit or a phone call to someone who is lonely; or donate money to Catholic Charities for its service to the poor; or donate food to a local food bank.
- And even though this is not a world day of *prayer* for the poor, we can and should pray for people who are poor, and for the undoing of what has caused their poverty, and for a sense of responsibility to address that cause and to share with the poor.

Whatever our overture to benefit the poor, hopefully it won't be just a once-a-year observance, but will inspire a once-a-day *at least* practice, seeing care for the poor as the first and most important practice of our Catholic religion.

The poor need us in order to enjoy those things needed to live in dignity. And in a real sense, we need the poor in order that, by our care for them, we can show that we are true followers of Jesus. ■



Social Justice Newsletter November 2017

The Good Neighbor Benefit Concert was held November 5, 2017 at St. Cecilia's parish. Over \$10,000 was raised to help Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance

www.gnea.org in their mission to provide emergency rent, utility, food, and transportation assistance to our Neighbors in Story County, in an atmosphere of dignity, comfort and encouragement.

Thirteen musical groups from Ames participated in the event.



St. Cecilia Parish Christmas Market Held this Weekend - November 18-19, 2017

The St. Cecilia Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a booth at the annual Christmas Market being held this weekend in the parish social hall. Please stop by and *pick out some recycled Christmas decorations*. They are available for a free will donation. All proceeds benefit the **Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance program**.



Alternative Gifts International

You can also stop at the **Ames Alternative Gift Market** table. Thirty projects ranging from rescuing a victim of sex trafficking to protecting a coral reef are available through our partner, **Alternative Gifts International**. In addition to the international organizations, you can donate to any one of eight local Ames/Story County non-profit organizations and use the donation as an Alternative Gift. You will receive a card, with an insert describing your donation to your chosen organization to give to your gift recipient. **An Alternative Gift is a real gift, given in honor of a friend or loved one** and just like traditional gifts, they express love and affection, celebrate occasions and show you care. Unlike traditional gifts, they do not contribute to the consumer stream and they do not need to be dusted! Alternative Gifts express our stewardship of the world God gave us and give us a real way to care for our brothers and sisters.

If you miss us at the Christmas Market, we will also be at **Wheatsfield Grocery**, 413 Northwestern Ave on Saturday, December 9 and December 16, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Live your stewardship. Shop alternatively. Give real, useful gifts with real, useful impact—**"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me."**

Pick up your **Giving Tree tag this weekend** (or the weekends of November 25-26 or December 2-3). The gifts need to be **returned by Sunday, December 10**.



Gifts are provided to Accura Health Care of Ames (formerly Riverside Nursing Home), Lutheran Social Services, Mary Greeley Behavioral Health and to St. Cecilia Parish families identified by the Deacons as needing assistance. **Last year 372 gifts were received from parishioners** (118 were gift cards given to the

Diacons for parish families to buy groceries, etc.) Thank you for your past support and for helping during this Christmas season.

Social Justice Contacts

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

AMOS STC - Contact:
Nancy Heideman 292-5441

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. Every-
one is welcome to attend.

CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER



Friendship Ark Core Members have New Home

The new Friendship Ark home located at 5320 Westfield Drive is finished and residents have moved in. Thanks go to St. Cecilia Parish for a \$50,000 donation through the Paul and

Irene Klingseis estate gift, in kind donations of more than \$99,000 and volunteer labor valued at \$13,000. Because of the giving of these funds and hours of labor, the building of this home was possible.

HOME FOR AWHILE

Recently the Social Justice Committee at St. Cecilia's was offered a nice, clean inexpensive apartment that could be used by Home For Awhile in Ames for the coming year. The SJ committee accepted this offer and used funds from anonymous St. Cecilia's parishioners to help pay a portion of the rent for this home. We appreciate their generosity.



Following is information about Home For Awhile -

Several churches in the Ames area have partnered together to create Home For Awhile—an organization that seeks to reduce homelessness in our community. Families who have recently been evicted or are nearing homelessness are eligible for three months of subsidized housing through Home For Awhile. Various local relief agencies refer families, and qualifying families are selected by the Home for Awhile leadership team. During the three months the tenants live in an HFA apartment, they meet regularly with an ally who assists them in meeting their goals of finding employment, managing their finances, or working through any other issues that caused the family to end up in their current situation. The goal of Home For Awhile is to provide the opportunity and motivation for a family to re-establish financial stability and find permanent housing.

There are several ways to get involved. For example, be a Tenant Ally. An ally partners with a specific Home for Awhile family to get to know them and support them as the family members strive to meet their goals. Allies and tenants attend a monthly HFA community group get together, where relationships are developed and life skill topics such as finances, parenting and managing emotions are discussed from a Biblical point of view. In addition, allies touch base with their tenants periodically to assist and encourage them on a more personal level, addressing needs specific to their situation. If you would like to join the HFA Ally team, please submit an application through the website.

Another way to be involved is to become a member of a team who “adopts” an apartment, welcoming new families to that apartment by cleaning and making small repairs before their arrival, providing welcome baskets, and more.

Each of the apartments comes furnished with furniture donated by friends of Home for Awhile. This means people are needed on occasion to both pick up donations and help ready apartments for new tenants. Consider getting involved and contact Sarah Day sdav@cornerstonelife.com