



Social Justice Newsletter February 2019

"Climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to a future generation."

Pope Francis



Read Pope Francis' encyclical letter "Laudato Si" written in June 2015 ... one of the issues in the letter is Climate Change



The Franciscan Sister Water Project team from Dubuque

will be making a presentation on Wednesday, February 20 at 1 pm, 4:30 pm, and 7:15 pm in the St. Cecilia Education Center.

All parishioners are invited to attend one of these sessions.

The project was started in 2006 with the objective to bring safe water to villages

in Tanzania and Honduras. The sisters spent months studying, discussing and praying about global water issues to fulfill their mission statement of *"living in right relationship with all of creation."*

In Tanzania some women walk miles to find water, and waterborne malaria kills many children. **In Honduras**, 50,000 young children die every year from water-related illness. Most illness in the country is due to impure water.

The initial goal for the Sister Water Project was to raise \$42,000. Thanks to donations by many organizations, parishes, and individuals more than \$1,000,000 has been raised. These funds have allowed the Sister Water Project to complete or restore over 200 well projects in Tanzania and 20 water systems in Honduras.

100% of donations to the Sister Water Project go toward materials, transport, and labor for water systems in Honduras or Tanzania.

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 St. Louis Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

What is happening regarding Climate Change in Ames?

One group studying climate change is the Climate Action Team: A Community and Interfaith Group

The Ames Climate Action Team (CAT) began as a discussion group in Ames. The purpose of the group was to discuss climate change and how/what could be done in the community to educate citizens on this subject. It was decided to hold a workshop on the issue. Invitations were sent out to local churches and organizations to discuss climate change. Interested individuals met September 8, 2018.

John Wilson attended the workshop and will act as a team member representing St. Cecilia and St. Thomas (SCT) parishes. John reports that participants expressed enthusiasm for the work and there were many creative ideas on how to take action in our community. One of the topics discussed was the city-wide solar energy project. **SCT has committed to purchasing 68 power solar packs from the city.** (See the City of Ames website if you'd like additional information on the solar panels.)

Future meetings will focus on actions. **Students from SCT are encouraged to get involved.** If interested, contact John Wilson. mjwilson@frontiernet.net



St. Cecilia Parish 2018 Giving Tree Report



Thank you to all parishioners who provided Christmas gifts or gift cards for our neighbors in Ames. About 250 gifts were distributed.

Gift cards totaling about \$4,000 were received from parishioners, parish organizations and the Social Justice Committee from donations received through the Black Bag monthly collection.

Gifts were given to Accura, Birthright, MGMC Behavioral Health and to families who made requests for help to the parish. You helped make Christmas special for our neighbors.

(Special thanks to Cindy Baughman, her family and friends who coordinate this parish project.)