

2015 Greetings!!

2015 Marks the 30th Anniversary of the San Antonio Catholic Worker House!

As we embark on the **journey** before us on this significant anniversary year, several events loom ahead...some exciting, some frustrating and some sentimental.

The first milestone along this journey may conjure up various mixed feelings. The news might be received as a welcome relief and liberating decision to some, yet to others, it may be received with sadness laced with many fond memories and sentimental feelings. The Building Standards Board of the City of San Antonio ruled that the original CWH at 622 Nolan was "dangerous" and beyond repair. Thus, we are ordered to demolish it in approximately 30 days. You might recall that in 2014 newsletters, we reported gravity has caused the building to list downhill and to the west. This has caused roof, wall and major foundation defects. Thus, a contractor has been engaged to demolish it in **mid-March**. No new building is planned. Instead we hope to plant more vegetable garden beds and fruit trees, build a trellis for shade and add more picnic tables and park benches. We hope it will become a beautiful green-space for our guests to gather. (See sketch on the last page of this newsletter.) Although we would love to add a gazebo or another pavilion-like structure, city codes do not allow two accessory buildings. If anyone wants to help in April to landscape and build and plant garden beds, your help would be most welcome. This might be a great Boy Scout or school community service project. In the meantime there is a month of photo-opp's on the porch before it comes down. We would like to thank Dee and her friends for their vision in purchasing the house in 1985.....it is full of wonderful memories of a loving community!! It also served as "home" to many families and volunteers and as a soup kitchen providing healthy meals to our guests in need. As far as the new accessory building is concerned, our building was approved by the Office of Historical Preservation and with this news CWH awarded the contract to a wonderful builder who is already familiar with our ministry. However, we are still (not so patiently) waiting on the decision of the City Development Services department to give their blessing on the building as designed. Because 622 will soon be demolished and it houses most of our refrigerators and freezers and half of our laundry and bathroom facilities, we will be forced to provide hospitality with the loss of these. However, we have ordered a couple of prefab (hopefully temporary) buildings to assist with this loss. This solution is not ideal by any stretch of the imagination, but the small buildings will be necessary to keep the ministry going. We will definitely keep you informed. And we welcome any ideas.

July marks the "exact" 30-year anniversary milestone according to Dee. Thus, we hope to have a lunch-time picnic celebration with our guests and hope that you will come too. We anticipate that **July 4th** might be a good date as those who work may have the day off. So please keep that date in mind. 30-Year Anniversary T-Shirts will be available for sale. ;)

The grander celebration will occur during the weekend of **November 6th, 7th and 8th**!! Everything is very tentative at this time, but it appears it might be a THREE DAY event. Although CWH will sponsor its traditional Mass and evening meal at Day House, we are not yet sure which evening it will take place, most likely either Friday or Sunday. The really exciting news is that this year our typical Dorothy Day event will take place within the context of a weekend academic conference! Two months ago, on the VERY same day (Really!!! This is true!), professors from two Catholic schools contacted CWH about possibly sponsoring a conference on the anniversary of Dorothy Day's birthday on November 8th. Arthur Dawes, a professor at OLLU in the Worden School of Social Work at Our Lady of the Lake University and Director of the city-wide Social Justice Collaborative was interested in highlighting Dorothy's peace and social justice efforts. Father John Markey and Theresa Galan-Bruce from Oblate School of Theology were interested in focusing on her spirituality and theology. What a wonderful combination of dovetailing interests!! So there is great momentum this year and it all happens to coincide with our 30th anniversary. Very exciting! So PLEASE mark the first weekend in November and join us!!!

In conjunction with the Social Justice Collaborative, ABODE, National Association of Social Workers and Bexar Necessities, Arthur has also proposed a year-long study group to become more familiar with Dorothy's life and work in the field of social justice. He even offered to host these quarterly gatherings at his house. These gatherings would occur four times throughout 2015 leading up to the November conference. He is offering CEUs to social workers interested in joining the study group and discussing the suggested readings. He has also graciously opened it to additional folks on a space-available basis. The group would meet **quarterly on Saturday afternoons about 4 PM** and discuss the readings, reflect on Dorothy's writings and actions, and "break bread" together in a social context of being in community. The following dates were chosen, but these may change based on the wishes and needs of the members who actually form the study group.

February 28th: Discussion of Dorothy Day's life and work. Suggested reading: her autobiography, *The Long Loneliness*. For those who are unable to purchase the book and/or read it, Carol Solis, a Master's student at Oblate has shared a paper she wrote for class in which she reviews the book. She gave us permission to share it with the study group members.

April 11th: Two movies about Dorothy. If it is possible that one is free on-line (we are not sure yet), the "reading suggestion" might be to watch the free online movie beforehand and then view the remaining movie together at Arthur's on this day

July 11th: Discussion of her beliefs about social justice, peace, human dignity, precarity, community, solidarity with the poor, and more! Bring your favorite DD belief/action to discuss!

September 12th: Discussion regarding the CW movement. Suggested reading: *The Catholic Worker After Dorothy: Practicing the Works of Mercy in a New Generation* by Dan McKanan. It actually addresses the CW movement during AND after Dorothy's time.

If you are interested, please contact Arthur at arthurdawes@att.net. He can register you, give you directions and more details and help guide you in your reading.

International Academic Conference on Dorothy Day:

There is one last (currently known) milestone on your journey, but it does not occur last. It is actually right around the corner and happens on **May 13-15th** at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, IN. A call for academic papers has resulted in over 40 presentations and networking panel discussions. Speakers are from all over the USA as well as France, Canada and South America! Last year a similar conference was held at St. Thomas University in Miami...and it was wonderful. We had the opportunity to listen to and visit with Dorothy's old friends who worked side-by-side with her and spent time in jail with her. We also got to meet other CW volunteers and share stories and ideas. Tuition is very reasonable at \$250 and includes most meals. It is only \$100 if you have been volunteering at a CWH. St. Francis is making dorm rooms on campus available for only \$35 per night. So please consider this. The notice is below. Log onto their website for details. Hope to see you there!!!!



DOROTHY DAY AND THE CHURCH: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Dorothy Day (1897-1980) was famously eulogized as “the most significant, interesting, and influential person in the history of American Catholicism.” Her life embodied the recent call of Pope Francis to build “a poor Church for the poor”—and her combination of political radicalism with Catholic orthodoxy has the potential to lead the Church beyond the categories of “liberal” and “conservative” in its engagement with American culture and politics.

MAY 13-15, 2015
UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS

2701 SPRING STREET FORT WAYNE, IN

For more information visit dorothyday.sf.edu
or contact Dr. Lance Richey at 260-399-8112.

SCHEDULED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

MOST REVEREND JOSÉ H. GOMEZ

Archbishop of Los Angeles, CA

ROBERT ELLSBERG

Publisher, Orbis Books, and Editor, “The Duty of Delight: The Diaries of Dorothy Day” and “All the Way to Heaven: Selected Letters of Dorothy Day.”

This USF-hosted conference will explore all aspects of the life and spirituality of Dorothy Day and her significance for the Church in the 20th and 21st centuries. Paper proposals from academics and others familiar with her work are welcomed on a wide variety of topics on her life, legacy and contemporary significance.

2701 Spring Street Fort Wayne, IN 46808
260-399-8000 800-729-4732 sf.edu

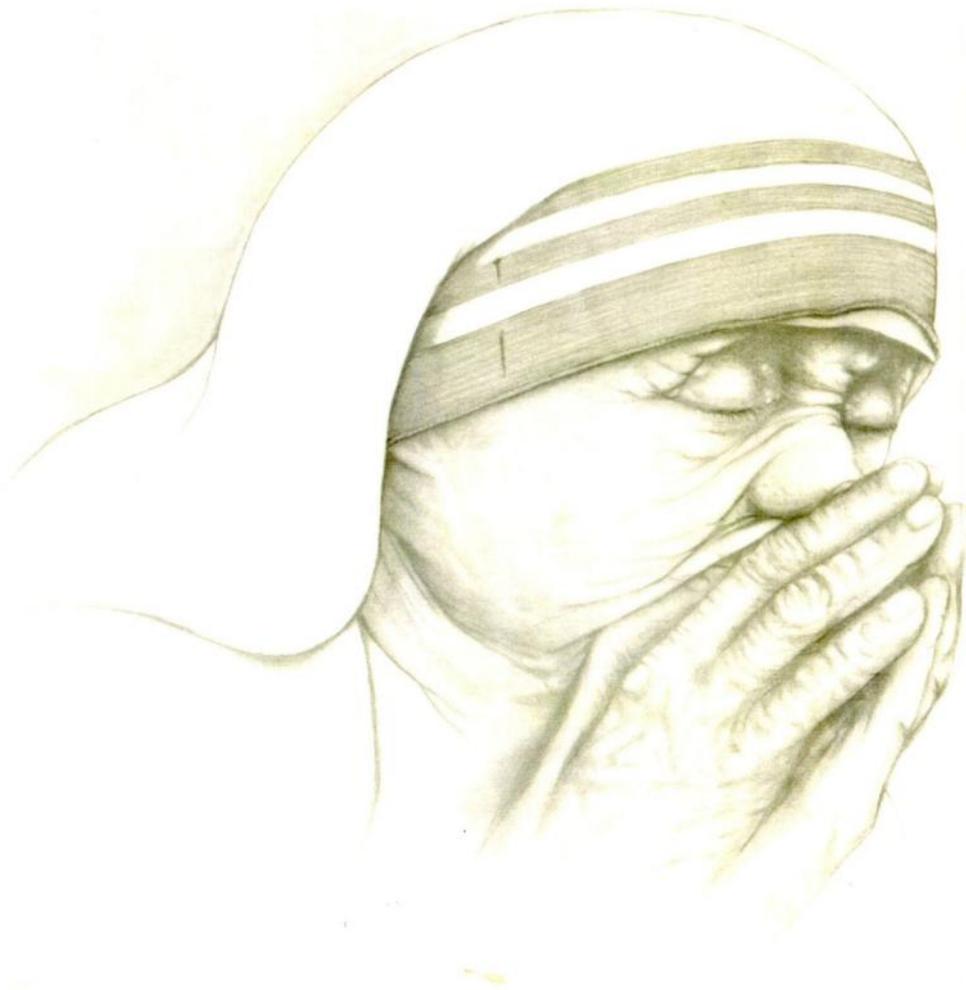


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Guest Contributions:

Several guests have gifted us with their talents and their permission to share them with our readers. Please scroll down to see these amazing gifts!

By Lynn Kreilkamp



By Darryl McWhirter

Dear Lord, Heavenly Father, Supreme & Omnipotent Creator:

*I Respectfully Come Before You on Bended Knee ...
Through Your Son Jesus Christ, King of Kings,
Lord of Lords !!!*

*As You Continue to Let Me Remain on this Wonderful
Earth and Breath Your Precious Gift of Life,
I Pray that You will Enlighten My Mind with All the
Glorious Lessons of Wisdom that You are Allowing me to Experience !!!*

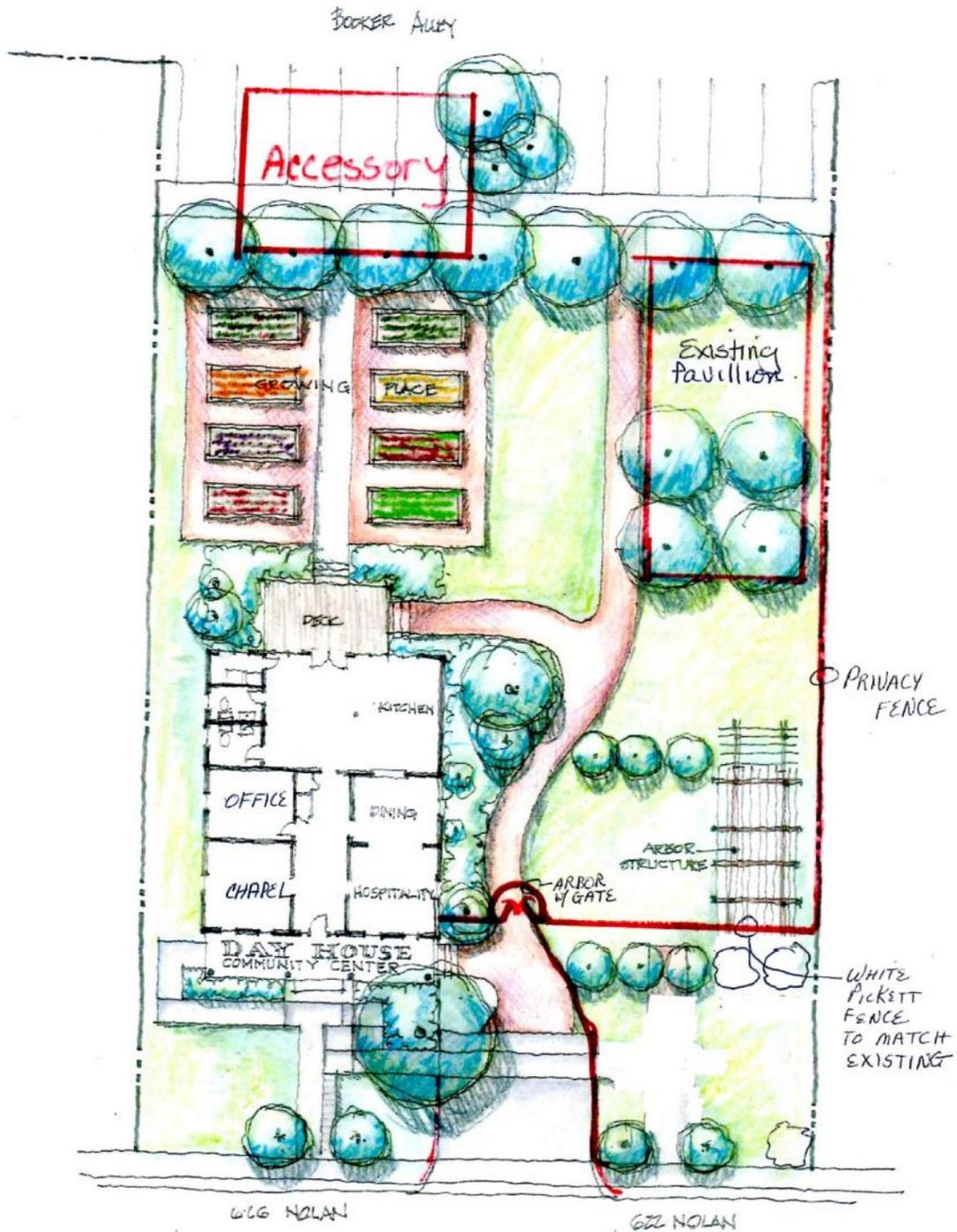
*The things I am Speaking of are not Tangible;
Nor are They Capable of Being Written in Books ...
These things I am Feeling Now are Simpler and True in
Nature! However, They are of a Power Greater than All
of the Memories I Recall! Sadly though, When I Recall
these Memories, I fall into Sorrow For not understanding the
Goodness in what You were Placing Right Before Me,
For this I Pray that You Will Forgive Me ...*

*As I age, I am Seeing where I have Failed to make the
Right Decisions that would have made Me a Better Son,
Brother, Husband, Father and Christian Man.
For this I Humbly Pray for Your Abundant Grace and Mercy.
Father, God, I Praise You for My Honorable Heritage.
I also Praise You for Blessing Me with my Father and my
Mother's Unconditional Love, Guidance, and Unwavering
Christian Up-Bringing - Glory to The Highest!
Thank You Father for Blessing Me with an Illness that
has taught me to pay Closer Attention to Your Commandments
and not to take things for Granted ...*

*Falling Short of Your Everlasting Love and Forgiveness,
I pray that You Continue to Grant Me the Strength and Courage
to follow through this journey and to Live Life more by Your Will
and Not of My Own. Let me be a Testimony of Your Glorious,
Loving Goodness For My Fellow Man.*

*I Love, Trust and Believe in You
and Your only Begotten Son with
All of My All !!!
In Christ's name I Pray*

- Amen -



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CATHOLIC WORKER COMMUNITY