

REMINDER!!!

Thursday, May 29th at 6 PM at the Catholic Worker Day House

A Catholic Worker Roundtable - Continuing Education for Christians

Speaker: Father Sinclair is from the Diocese of Beaumont and is the co-founder of the Catholic Labor Network. He works to revitalize the historical connection between Catholic Social Teachings and working men and women

Title: "People on the Move" Guidelines for the Pastoral Care of the Road. This will include both a talk and discussion on the phenomenon of human mobility - pastoral care of the homeless and the liberation of street women and children.

Light supper at 6:00 and discussion to start at 6:30. Dress coolly and casually.

A BIG "Thanks" for your BIG "Give"!

Entering into this city-wide day of caring and sharing was an afterthought for CWH and would not have happened had not Katy, founder of Hope Hall at Trinity University, held my hand and hovered over me until the process was done. Our goal was \$1000 (since our annual budget is only about \$40,000 with an all volunteer staff and mostly donated food). This monetary goal was comparable percent-wise with other much larger organizations. AND we not only made our goal, but surpassed it by 70%! About 39 of you donated on line and one donor dropped by with a \$75 HEB gift card.

Additionally, our guests were invited to donate (first time ever!) in ANY way they wanted...and picking up trash on grounds was certainly appreciated. It was heartwarming to see them drop a penny or two or a bus pass into the box for a total of \$6.89. It was much appreciated and reminded me of the poor widow in the Bible and her 2 coin contribution (Luke 21). They all seemed appreciative that they were even asked if they wanted to participate. About 60% did in some way. Wow! They also really enjoyed the extras at both meals...a few luxury items that we have never been able to serve. Many thanks to the volunteers and Board Members who made that possible.

Donors who shared their addresses with us should get a "thank you" post card in a few days. Those of you who wished to remain anonymous.....and BIG THANKS to you too!!!!

Fabulous Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Lenten Fish Fry on April 5th

Many thanks to Mike Polanco and his prayer group friends from Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma. What a fish feast they prepared for our folks!!!! Over 80 guests attended the event and they were absolutely amazed at the quality and quantity of the wonderful tasty food. Our numbers keep growing for this monthly OLPH Saturday event. Many thanks to all of the families who spent the afternoon with us!!! We are going to be blessed with a Texas chicken BBQ on Saturday, May 31st!!!!

The "Chefs"



The "Servers"



From “Experiment” to “Tradition(?)”

Is it possible to call something that has been happening (and “playing by ear”) for just over two years a “tradition”. Probably not. But in April 2012, it was certainly an innovation (born out of necessity when the German draft law changed and we stopped getting young German volunteers) to consider inviting guests to join us in our work and living in community at Faith House. First a couple, then three more, then a couple more...and most recently, our first woman. Now it almost seems a “tradition”.

They say, everything is always changing...except God. He or She continues to watch over CWH... probably with a little nudge from Dorothy and Peter. When one door closes, another opens. When there seems to be no sides for lunch, someone walks in with a tray of skewered roasted vegetables left over from a black tie event. When a long-term day volunteer says goodbye and moves out of state, another one shows up quite unexpectedly. When we are wondering how we are going to pay for yet another washer/drier repair, a relative of one of the Holy Spirit nuns gives them a donation for some worthy cause...and CWH is deemed “the cause”!!!

It is all so very amazing; it is the grace that keeps us showing up every day.

Meet our seven “resident volunteers” and our one “resident guest”

Marlin is still our “senior (longevity)” resident volunteer, even though he took a leave of absence for 8 months to follow a dream. He started on his birthday in June 2011 as our handyman (boy had we missed Jim with all his skills to fix things) but on his return Marlin is doing it all and now is quite at home in the kitchen too. Still “fixin things” is Marlin’s talent and he never ceases to amaze us. He is also a poet. See one of his poems below.

James is the kitchen manager and now only a couple months shy of Marlin since James gained on him when he was gone a few months. James thrives in mixing and matching whatever donations arrive the day before into a menu that you’d think he had planned and shopped for days in advance. He really does get a kick out of calling each dish some extravagant name that really represents the combination of flavors that grace our palates. See his story below (written last year).

Dennis is a home grown San Antonio boy and as office manager, has taken over the postal mail service and personal hygiene supplies as well as general office duties like keeping up with the club membership cards and warranties for our appliances. He is also our main automobile go-to person and saves us a lot of money with his do-it-yourself maintenance.

Aaron is our coffee service main go-to guy and shares in the donation pick-ups with Dennis. He is quick to jump in where ever else he is needed...but when he does...don’t get in his way because he is power-fast and does all in a whirl of activity. He keeps us all entertained with his karaoke sing-alongs and mostly with his impersonations of stars, guests and volunteers. He is an avid swimmer and has been asked to help coach the youth swim team at the nearby YMCA he attends.

Vinny (Bruce Vincent) is currently under the weather with a chronic back injury from years ago. He always greets everyone with a smile and never turns you down when you need help with ANYTHING. He could use your prayers right now. Luckily HE does have health insurance with Medicaid.

Anthony joined us on the day of the Dorothy Day Compassion event after traveling from another CWH. So he was already “indoctrinated” with CWH ideals and principles. He helps as needed in hospitality and also has a special talent and liking for carpentry. He is our “research” man

discovering what other CWHs are doing in the field of social justice and finding the difficult answers to health care and dental questions for the volunteers.

Gail or “Abby” is our newest volunteer since February; she was unanimously suggested with much enthusiasm by all the guys. She is also our “AARP senior” resident volunteer and about the sweetest person you could ever know. She helps everywhere, but has recently been the “go-to” laundry service volunteer.

Adolpho is our most senior (75 years old) of our 1685 guest-members and moved into Kim’s apartment after Urusolo, returned to his Maker in Heaven. We all nicknamed him “Trouble”; but he is anything but a nuisance. He is a joy to have around and is a big tease with a great sense of humor. Faith House has been ideal for him as he lives in the only downstairs bedroom and enjoys not only Kim’s apartment, but the three free meals a day across the alley, and the company of his younger housemates.

Chris...well with all the hospitality work covered, she mainly just sits on the porch and sips mint juleps. Joking aside, the “A-Team” has allowed her to help individual guests apply for SSI and veterans benefits. It involves a lot of form filling-outing, typing medical, educational, work, and disability histories, and chauffeuring to appointments. The “Starfish” parable has become her mantra. And she is following her dream of seeking a hotel and funding for a SRO as supportive permanent housing for our guests who have been chronically homeless.



Life is Full of Surprises *by Marlin Ezell*

Life is full of surprises,
sometimes good, sometimes bad.
That's just the way it is,
there's no time to be sad.

Life is unpredictable.
There is no telling what will happen.
It is full of trials and tribulations.
I'd rather be laughin'.

Life is forever changing,
there is nothing we can do to make it stop.
Whatever happens, happens.
It's a long, hard road to the top.

Life is more bearable
if you have someone to share it with.
I don't care what anyone says,
life is no myth.

From the moment we are conceived,
to the time that we die,
God has the final word
in the world we call life.

Welcoming

By James Hitchcock

I was terrified as I walked up to Catholic Worker House. The first time I walked into the house I was terrified. I didn't know what to expect. I pictured a group of intellectuals wearing black gowns and very solemn in demeanor. What I discovered was an amazing group of people ranging from 20 to 62 years in age, full of life and even fuller of love in their hearts! I was sure that all the teaching, counseling, studies, and 'charity' work I had done would prepare me. The moment I arrived all my fears were banished instantly. The warmth of the welcome and the peace of that lovely old house just drew me right in and made me feel at home.

My lasting memory of the Catholic Worker House will be of love and acceptance - for anyone and everyone, wherever they happened to be on their journey "into God's heart". I've met people from many denominations, educational backgrounds, spirituality and age, all of us seemed to be equally welcomed and loved. I've now enjoyed many wonderful months with my new 'family' and feel I've known them all my life. This is what I had been looking for during my life's journey, my spiritual journey.

I always thought that learning to walk with God came from a studious approach. That one had to study the Word in order to "get it". But since my arrival at Catholic Worker House I have since discovered that the walk comes from studying the Bible and feeling the words in your heart. The staff has taught me it also comes from having compassion, love, understanding and forgiveness, all the things that I was shown since my arrival.

Once, in our country, the Bible was read and taught widely; these days things are very different. We need to keep close to our spiritual roots by soaking ourselves in all that this wonderful book teaches us, so I only wish that there were more Worker Houses like this one, all round the country. Gipsy Smith once said "People don't read the Bible nowadays, they read us". What I have learned from the staff is not just some dry, dusty old history book, but they model the love and reality of God in a modern world by the way they open themselves to everyone of us who visits them. I feel honored and loved since becoming part of the staff here.

As we look to the future, the staff will be seeking the best way forward to ensure the ongoing work and ministry of the Catholic Worker House. All of us would welcome your prayer and support over the coming months ahead, that we hear the Lord clearly and do His will to build on all that has been achieved in His name up to this point of time.

CWH STILL NEEDS

- Coffee cups, coffee, creamer, sugar
- Toilet paper, paper towel
- Travel sized toiletries, especially toothpaste and deodorant
- Toothbrushes
- Men's boxer underwear especially medium and large
- Socks...need lots

AND THANKS.....

**We received a freezer and a Ford Explorer as donations in May.
Yipee!!!!!!**