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Social Unrest & Catholic Social Teaching By Fr. Steve Resonke

Most people in our nation were already stressed out over the effects of the corona virus. Our everyday lives were turned upside down. Businesses, schools, places of prayer and worship were closed down. Many people suffered in mind, body and soul because of the effects of the virus.

That would have been enough, but then we were hit with social unrest, particularly in major cities. In response to the death of a man in Minneapolis, protests and violence broke out. One of the hallmarks of our democracy is freedom to assemble and to protest. Problems erupt when peaceful protests are hijacked by others who may have ill intent, eg.: looting, arson, etc. So, in effect the waters become muddied by those who aren't interested in social justice, but rather interested in causing confusion, heartache and distraction.

The issues of injustice, discrimination, and racism are complex and complicated. The Church offers guidance in regard to complex social issues. The social teachings

of the Church are grounded in scriptural beliefs and Church tradition. The fundamental beliefs involve the equal dignity of all people, created in God's image, and God's love for his people.

Moral judgements or any form of discrimination is morally unacceptable...and divides the human family (Catechism of the Catholic Church). Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan in the Gospel in order to address the question, "Who is my neighbor?" The answer is, whoever treats others with love and charity.

Social justice, according to Church teaching isn't a vague or general compassion for the misfortunes of others, it is determination to commit oneself to the common good. One of the great things about our nation is its ability to address injustices in our system, and to right wrongs. Addressing complex issues is never easy, but with determination and prayer we can make progress toward healing past wounds with great charity.

KC Auction for Mary's Inn Postponed By Jim Henkels

St. Anthony Knights of Columbus Council 8384 was planning an auction at the Dubuque County Fairground for Mary's Inn this November. Unfortunately, due to the current situation with the virus, this event has been postponed to October 24, 2021. If you have items you were planning to donate, contact Dave Ayers and he will store them at St. Anthony's for next year's event.

Due to virus concerns, Mary's Inn has cancelled its major fundraiser for this September and now we have also lost the auction. They will need financial help to get through 2020. Any cash donations would be greatly appreciated. Contact Sue at the number below to see how you can help.

TO DONATE:

CONTACT:

Auction Items: call Dave at 563-583-7014

Mary's Inn Donations: call Sue Lansing at 563-451-4784



St. Vincent de Paul Society

By Tom Danner & Mary Burbach

“Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering...” This is part of the mission statement of the St. Vincent de Paul Society which was founded in Paris in 1833. It has grown throughout the world and is one of the ministries here at St. Anthony.

One of the core fundamentals of the Society established by St Vincent is the home visit. Home visits give Vincentians the opportunity to not only provide aid and comfort to our neighbors in need, but to better understand their circumstances and struggles. A neighbor in need can contact our council by calling the parish office, the SVPD voucher line (563-584-2226), or any St. Anthony Vincentian. When a home visit is scheduled, members of the St. Anthony conference will visit the residence and assess what can be done to help. Needs could include food, furniture, home goods, rent/utility assistance, or simply personal contact and prayer. Often a voucher is written for the client’s needs, with the hope that those needs can be fulfilled at the Voucher Center on Iowa Street. These items are often donated by generous donors, obtained through grants, or purchased from food banks such as St. Stephens and the River Bend Food Bank.

Another valuable part of our local St. Vincent Council is our retail store located at 4990 Radford Road in

Dubuque. Perhaps you have donated or shopped there. Store profits are used to support the Voucher Center. All profits stay in the Dubuque area to support our neighbors in need.

Despite the current pandemic, we are still operating as needs have increased. We are currently unable to make home visits but are still able to write vouchers and service the needs of the community, including the homeless.

One of the saddest things I have witnessed is the number of homeless here in Dubuque. At the present time, food is being distributed by drive or walk up at the voucher center. The retail store has reopened for sales and donations with safety as a priority, not only for customers but the staff as well. Community support of the retail store is crucial to provide for our neighbors in need.

Our major fundraiser is the “Friends of the Poor” walkathon held in September. Watch for details on how you can offer support or sponsor this opportunity.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society appreciates the financial, volunteer and spiritual support from St. Anthony parish. We have a very active council of current members who appreciate the dedication of many past members who have led the way in helping the poor. God bless you for your generosity.

LEARN HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

CONTACT:

Tom Danner at 563-451-6994
Mary Burbach at 563-590-2043

Our School in 2020-21

By Carolyn Wiezorek, Principal

Since my last communication to you, our school plunged into required virtual learning as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike surrounding school systems, Holy Family committed to providing instruction focused on standards and skills that students had yet to master. Teachers, students, and parents all stepped up to learn new technologies and continue learning through the end of the scheduled school year. With herculean effort, much frustration, and lots of tweaking, we successfully completed the year and put ourselves in a great position should we need to return to online learning in the future.

You may be wondering about the status of our school with St. Anthony English students transitioning to other Holy Family elementary schools. When we return in August, our campus will house only students from the Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish immersion program. We have 240 students registered in grades kindergarten through 5th grade. In addition, we will have 3 sections of Pre- K and 2 sections of 3-year-old preschool. We look forward to next school year and are hopeful that we will all be on campus and not in a virtual world.

Social Justice—for ALL

Submitted By Abigail Klapatauskas, first printed in the TH

The somber motivation for this column lies in a recent act of police brutality that resulted in the death of George Floyd. Floyd's death has deservedly received a flood of social media attention nationwide, and within the local Dubuque community. As people grapple with how to react to the racism within our country, I've been encouraged by the strength of my high school peers. They've exemplified the power and importance of spreading awareness and exposing the many racial discrepancies in our criminal justice system. While increasing awareness of institutional racism marks an important first step toward justice, the next two steps of self-reflection and individual action are equally crucial. Self-reflection and individual action encourage white people to advocate for racial equality, rather than allowing us to remain aware yet complacent.

attention away from African Americans by arguing that "All Lives Matter." I've labeled headlines of police brutality in big cities as rarities rather than representations of what exists everywhere, including within Dubuque. Upon researching, I've learned that African Americans, despite only making up 4% of Iowa's population, make up 25% of Iowa's prison population, according to the State Data Center of Iowa as of February 2020.

Moreover, according to an April 2020 ACLU report, "in Dubuque County, a Black person is 13 times more likely to be arrested [for marijuana possession]." Perhaps my most harmful mistake has been my reluctance to speak. Worry over offending people has silenced me...until now.

I see, I like, I scroll, I retreat. As a person of privilege, I've utilized social media to ingest scattered facts and speeches and powerful quotes. Unfortunately, I've stalled after scrolling because I haven't reflected enough on the role I play in perpetuating racism, nor have I recognized my personal responsibility to act. Instead, I've actively decided to retreat. My retreat strengthens the illusion that racial discrimination exists solely in extreme and blatant actions. Truthfully, institutionalized racism includes subtle, individual decisions and omissions which are dangerously invisible within America's political, economic, and social structures.

Upon reflecting on how we've inevitably wielded our white privilege to ignore or benefit from our racially oppressive society, we may gratefully acknowledge that we're capable of reform. By reading about the racist ideologies embedded into white culture, we can dispose of destructive ignorance and create powerful enlightenment. We must speak out and engage in constructive and uncomfortable discourse. Financially, we can support equity-driven nonprofits, such as the Dubuque Dream Center, that enrich and empower African American kids within our own community. We must hold ourselves accountable to identify and eliminate our discriminatory habits. The battle for racial equality can't be paused or neglected. We must fight until we've established a nation with "liberty and justice for all."

Acknowledging our white privilege requires an endurance of embarrassment and discomfort as we confront how we've sustained racially discriminatory practices within ourselves and our broader community. After reading "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo, I've identified several subtly oppressive actions of which I'm guilty. I've redirected



Pandemic Prayer

By Sr. Margaret Kramer

During the pandemic, one needs to adapt in being a pastoral presence, sending “thinking of you” notes and messages of encouragement have been helpful. It is important to stay connected so the use of texts, emails and phone calls were used to pray, to listen and to help bear the burdens and anxieties of the people in nursing homes and the homebound.

After hearing “Thank you for the call, or for the email.” My response is “Thank you for your example of strong

faith, your acceptance not only in this time of Covid-19 but also as you experience decline in health. You are an example to me and to many others.”

Father Mychal Judge, O.F.M. (deceased) former chaplain to the New York City Fire Department, prayed daily for guidance in being a pastoral presence, rich in life giving compassion. Following his example of being God’ loving presence to others, may his words become my prayer, too.

Lord, take me where You want me to go.
Let me meet who You want me to meet.
tell me what You want me to say and
Keep me out of Your way. Amen

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WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We always welcome additional assistance. If you are interested in contributing to our quarterly newsletter, from writing articles to donating photos, please contact John and Jenny Stork at jcstork@ibisci.com