

Friends of St. Francis
Summary of January 4, 2018 Conversation

Participants

Robin Olberding	Kathy Daup
Sol Varisco, Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON)	Tim Kautza
Tammi McClain	Lisa Kautza
Garrett McClain	

Following an introductory presentation by and conversation with Sol Varisco, the participants agreed to the following next steps for Friends of St. Francis:

1. Seek Fr. Dan's cooperation and work out details in having Sol Varisco, executive director of JFON, at the conclusion of all three Masses April 21 & 22, make a 2-3 min. introductory presentation and invite Mass attenders to watch the video on Catholic Social Teaching and refugees (view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwlyTijpV7Y>) and converse with her after Masses. The intent is for Sol to make a short presentation and then respond to questions from participants. All parishioners and other area churches will be invited to attend. The intention is to clarify the teaching of the Catholic Church on immigration, migration and refugees and clear-up misunderstandings about related issues. Tim will take the lead on this.
2. Robin will share with Stacie Hergenreter (CRE) the materials gathered by Diane Reid from the diocese and Catholic Charities regarding items needed by migrants and refugees in the diocese to organize parish-wide collection in April of clothing, household items, etc. through religious education.
3. Robin will put the finishing touches on organizing the book study of *Enrique's Journey* during Lent.
4. Garrett and Robin will write an introductory message to these activities that will be conducted as a result of Pope Francis' two-year initiative *Share the Journey – Love Your Neighbor* for inclusion in the bulletin, parish newsletter, Facebook.
5. Tim will work with Ken Bresnan, Catholic Charities, to compile factoids on migration/refugee issues similar to those compiled by Beth Hart on waste management and run them periodically in the bulletin, post on the bulletin board, etc.
6. Tim will follow up with Barb Liske to order from USCCB one packet of 50 brochures "Our Faith Teaches Welcoming the Refugee and Migrant" that was distributed by Bishop Pates.
7. Subsequent to the gathering, Robin agreed to work with Arlene Anderson in creating a web presence for *Share the Journey – Love Your Neighbor* on the parish website.
8. The next Friends of St. Francis conversation will be February 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Friends of St. Francis
Summary of November 30, 2017 Conversation

Participants

Robin Olberding	Diane Reid
Ken Bresnan, Catholic Charities	Dona Cowman
Tim Kautza	Marion Panyan

The participants agreed to the following next steps for Friends of St. Francis:

1. Seek Fr. Dan's cooperation in showing the video on Catholic Social Teaching and refugees
2. Further the conversation with Erica Johnson, Iowa Immigrants Rights Program, Friends Service Committee to conduct a parish-wide gathering subsequent to the above Easter season gathering to further educate people about the plight of migrants and refugees and present alternatives for action by the parish and individuals to respond. Tim will follow up with Erica.
3. Organize the parish-wide collection of clothing, household items, etc. for distribution to migrants/refugees seeking the possible cooperation of religious education/youth ministry/confirmation groups. Diane will follow up.
4. Organize a book discussion group during Lent on the book *Enrique's Journey* which chronicles the life of a young Honduran boy, and his quest to reunite with a mother who left him at the age of five to find work in the United States to support him and his brothers and sisters. Robin will take the lead on this.
5. Compile factoids on migration/refugee issues similar to those compiled by Beth Hart on waste management and run them periodically in the bulletin, post on the bulletin board, etc. Tim will work with Ken Bresnan.
6. Batteries continue to be dropped off for recycling without terminals being taped. Tim will follow up with Barb for a note to be included occasionally in the bulletin and a sign placed on the battery drawer asking people to tape terminals.
7. Our next gathering will be January 4, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

