

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 (view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwlyTijpV7Y>) at the conclusion of a 10:00 a.m. (?) Mass during the Easter Season (April) to be followed immediately after either in the sanctuary or social hall by a Questions and Answer gathering open to all parishioners and other area churches with Sol Varisco, executive director, Justice for Our Neighbors. The intention is to clarify the teaching of the Catholic Church on migration and refugees and clear-up misunderstandings about related issues. Marion will discuss initially with Fr. Dan and Tim will organize with Sol Varisco and Fr. Dan and after dates are set, coordinate with other churches.
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. Out next gathering will be January 4, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Summary of October 16, 2017 Conversation

Participants

Robin Olberding	Diane Reid
Lisa Kautza	Tim Kautza

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

1. We will follow up with youth, education, and RCIA staff to determine whether or not they have plans for project/activities related to Share the Journey – Love Your Neighbor and/or if they'd be willing to cooperate with Friends of St. Francis on such. Robin will follow up.

2. We will see if the women's Christmas party planners would be willing to cooperate on a program/prayer. Robin will follow up.
3. Tammi McClain book study "A Long Walk to Water" related the story of refugees and migrants and she had indicated the possibility of bringing a speaker to the parish. Robin will follow up.
4. The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program may be in need of assistance that we could provide. Diane will follow up.
5. Perhaps we could partner with Our Lady's Immaculate Heart and St. Luke's Catholic parishes with ongoing activities. Lisa will follow up.
6. Introducing parishioners to products from artisans in developing countries might begin conversations and raise interest in migrants and refugees. Tim will follow up with Catholic Relief Services Ethical Trade for products to be distributed at Work of Our Hands.
7. Parish staff asked if we'd research alternatives to the use of Styrofoam cups at parish events. Robin will follow up.
8. Batteries are no longer being recycled free in the area. David Liske has volunteered to deliver them for recycling if both terminals of each battery are taped. Parishioners have brought several bags of batteries for recycling. Several at the last Friends of St. Francis gathering took home batteries for taping and Robin and Diane did this evening. We will ask parishioners to tape batteries before leaving them. Tim will follow up with Barb for a notice in the bulletin and a sign on the battery collection drawer.
9. The next Friends of St. Francis conversation will be 6:30 p.m., November 30 in the Social Hall.