

Catholic Worker House

SAN ANTONIO



Upcoming Events

Ministry News

Social Justice News

Theological Reflections

2015 30th Anniversary Year

30 Years of Hospitality of the Heart

It was the "perfect storm" for the CWH Anniversary Celebration...in a good way! Even Pope Francis played a role!

In January, Arthur Dawes kicked off a study group gathering on Saturday evenings where we explored aspects of Dorothy Day's life, spirituality, and social justice activities. It was not only informative, but also a social gathering and meal sharing. This culminated in an all-day CEU

Social Work conference at Our Lady of the Lake University that was both artistic and provocative.

DOROTHY DAY FOR TODAY
A CONTEMPORARY MODEL OF COMPASSION IN ACTION:
SPIRITUALITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ETHICS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:
ROBERT BLESBERG
REV. RON ROEHEIMER, OMI
PATRICK RABALA
SHARON HALSEY-HOOVER

Special Justice Breakout Sessions:
Poverty & Compassion
Homelessness
Immigration
Disability
Peace or Just Peace
LGBT

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OBLATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
SAN ANTONIO, TX

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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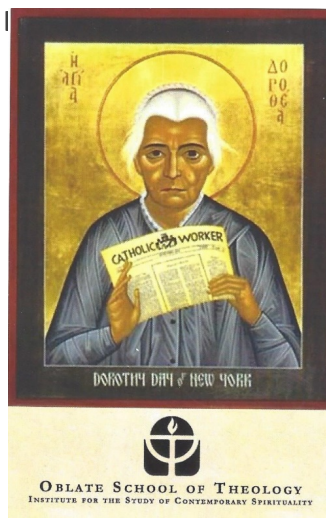
At about the same time, CWH was approached by Oblate School of Theology about a conference featuring the Dorothy Day's social justice work.

DOROTHY DAY FOR TODAY

"THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF THE DAY IS:
HOW TO BRING ABOUT A REVOLUTION OF THE HEART,
A REVOLUTION WHICH HAS TO START
WITH EACH ONE OF US?"
-DOROTHY DAY



The three-day conference portrayed Dorothy and shared some of the less known and more emotional parts of Dorothy's life. A large part of the conference consisted of breakout sessions conducted by social justice organizations and networking with agencies in the field.

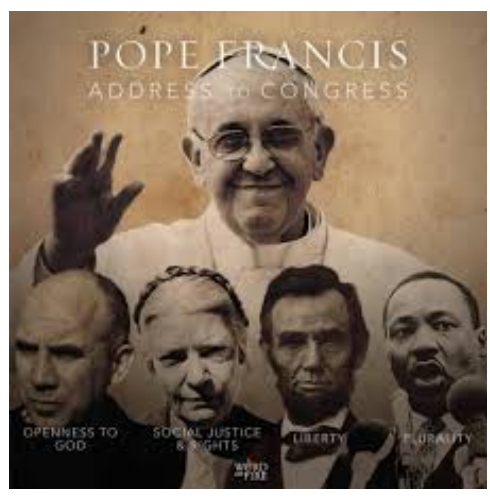


The Lord's Prayer for Justice for the Poor
Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Our Father... who stands with the weak
Who art in Heaven... where everything will be reversed (the first will be last and last, first)
Hallowed be Thy name... may we always respect that Your ways are not our ways
Thy Kingdom come... help us create a world where we do justice, love tenderly and walk humbly
Thy will be done... open us that our life might flow through our veins
On earth as it is in heaven... may we act to reflect the graciousness, tenderness, and justice for heaven
Give... insight to us that we may see always everything is a gift and share with the poor
Us... the truly plural us; all of us equally
Our daily bread... so that every person has what he/she needs; and not hoard a surplus
And forgive our trespasses... our blindness to the needs of others, complacency
As we forgive others who trespass against us... help us to forgive those who victimize us
And lead us not into temptation... to turn away and not see Jesus in our fellow person
But deliver us from evil... that is from the blindness that lets us continue to participate in anonymous systems with which we do not see who gets less as we get more.
AMEN

As part of the conference folder materials, Fr Ron allowed us to print his version of "The Lord's Prayer" that he created as a prayer for justice for the poor. These Dorothy Day prayer cards are now available at CWH.

The final ingredient for the perfect storm (conference/ anniversary celebration) ...was the nod that the Pope gave Dorothy when he addressed Congress in September



and talked about "Four Great Americans", one of them being Dorothy Day!! His timing could not have been better for all of our events...just days after the conference announcements were mailed out and the website went live! Thank you, Pope Francis, for bringing Dorothy into national awareness!



The last event of the conference was an Open House at 626 Nolan. Many folks who visited were first timers and we were able to make some great connections with potential new volunteers and donors.

So yes, a perfect storm...great collaboration resulting in a wonderful 30th anniversary celebration!



30th Anniversary Spin-Offs

Following the conference and our anniversary celebration, CWH was contacted by Elaine Ayala, a feature writer for the Sunday "Faith Section" in the **San Antonio Express-News** and **MYSA.COM**.

A wonderful 3 page article appeared on December 20th.

Access this article [HERE](#).



CWH is very grateful for this "perfect storm" because all of the events promoted awareness of the CW movement, the SA-CWH ministry and stimulated new donors, new volunteers, new speaking engagements and new partnerships (OST, SOL Center, St.Mary's University community engagement student program, St David's Episcopal Church.)

Annual Outstanding Social Justice Advocate

At the conference two “**Outstanding Social Justice Advocate Awards**” were presented.

Patti Radle: A long-time social activist, a CW volunteer in Detroit, and, in San Antonio, Founder of Community Development Center, city council member, SAISD Board Chair, Co-Founder of Haven for Hope, etc., etc. etc.

Katie Ogawa: Founder of Hope Hall at Trinity University through which students committed to service with those experiencing homelessness can volunteer...and CWH is one of the sites. She is now a medical student and founded a free clinic for those who are homeless.

This was the first of an annual series (entitled the “Annual Dorothy Day Social Justice Conference”) that OST will be hosting. The next will take place in March 2017 and will feature Cesar Chavez. At each conference, two awards will be presented, one to a professional and one to a student, who have exemplified and provided leadership in a social justice field consistent with the person featured that year.

Ministry Report

Overall 2015, like other years, was one of ups and downs, building and tearing down, frustrations and joys, final goodbyes and discovering new friends, volunteers, donors and partners. It was, indeed, a very good year.

We continue to welcome guests to our cozy day center from 7 AM to 7 PM on weekdays. With the help of our many partners (especially St. Mark’s Mobile Loaves and Fishes with their 300+ volunteers), we serve 250-300 meals per day and over 1000 per week. The 150-200 daily guests can access free Wi-Fi, movies, laundry, and bathrooms, as well as their postal mail. Due to the generosity of our donors (individuals and churches), we have been able to consistently provide a wide variety of hygiene supplies, socks, shoes, underwear, reading glasses, etc. each and every day.

Ministry Needs

We need the following:

- Used mugs, plates (dinner, salad sizes), bowls
- Paper Towels (rolls, select a size)
- Socks (mainly men’s and mainly white)
- Underwear (mainly men’s boxers med and lrg)
- Reading glasses (mainly men’s or generic styles)
- Tooth brushes & toothpaste (medium tubes - \$1)
- Condiments: hot sauce, BBQ sauce, Ranch

Mostly we need **\$\$\$** donations to pay for the ongoing day-to-day vital expenses; we still are sometimes in the “red” at the end of the month due to electricity, water, gas, vehicle maintenance, and phone bills and resident volunteer stipends (\$100/mos/volunteer). Stipends are the largest monthly expense, totaling \$800, but we are deeply grateful for each volunteer’s 35 hour work week.

And you can now donate on-line by PayPal!
Yes, it is THAT easy.





Donor Appreciation

Thanks to the handful of individual donors who have started contributing each month since the OST-DD conference. A special thanks to John Bruce and Theresa Galvan-Bruce who have been the champions and MOST generous donors in many ways.

The DD conference also stimulated new on-going parish support, in particular, St. Gerard's, St. Pius X, St David's Episcopal, and Holy Trinity Churches.

You might have noticed that our list of "NEEDS" has shrunk compared to previous newsletters. Why? Because a new donor knocked on our door several months ago and her generosity has been phenomenal!!! Eileen Moxley crossed our threshold very humbly and asked us for our monthly shopping list...she took the list and has been buying us EVERYTHING on it EVERY month!!! Thank YOU, Eileen!

Finally, a new donor in 2016 is one of our very own guests, Mario. He now works for a produce company, Truckin Tomato, and delivers free produce twice a week.....what a treat! Not only fruit and salad fixins that are usually on our menu and previously store bought, but also new items for our menu like fresh broccoli, cauliflower and brussel sprouts.

Many thanks to our ongoing donors for both soup kitchen and hygiene supplies. All of you who were mentioned in our last EOY newsletter have continued to give generously throughout the year. Many thanks for your loyalty all

Continued Thanks to CWH Day Volunteers

been providing much of the menu management and shopping.

And many thanks to our ongoing day volunteers for years: Jack Elder, Steve Johnson, Pam Scrubbs, Alicia Guinee, Sister Jo, Brother Francis, Trinity Hope Hall students, & Mennonite SOOPER (snow bird) volunteers

And with great appreciation, we bid Gary Christenson farewell. He was a soup kitchen volunteer and a Board member, and more importantly he served as our volunteer accountant and comptroller for nearly a decade.

His absence created quite a void, but luckily one of our Board members, Ken Mamot, referred his part-time accountant to us. Marci Crutchfield started with us in July and has done a marvelous job of jumping in. She is learning that most of the time an unexpected donation rolls in just in the nick of time and she is able to balance the budget...and then she can breathe again.

A HUGE thanks to Debbie Mayer who has been a volunteer for 5 years. She has recently been working 4-5 days a week for the past few months and has





Welcome New Full-Time Resident Volunteers

John Meadows was a long time guest and then a volunteer for a brief period in 2010 when he landed a computer tech job. He joined us as a resident volunteer in May. He continues to assist guests and volunteers with computer tech issues. He manages the office which includes members sign-in, postal mail, phone messages

Mary Soto was a long term guest until she joined us in July. Her presence gives the feminine touch. She has been in charge of laundry services but also helps with kitchen duties. The other resident volunteers are very grateful for her cooking and cleaning skills in Faith House.

Robert Gilpin was a guest only a short time before we unanimously invited him to join our volunteer staff. From the first day he arrived, we all noticed he never sat down and helped us ALL day. He started out in charge of grounds and all outdoor hospitality. He also does all the donation pick-ups and recently became the lunch cook.

Not pictured: **Anthony Franks** returned as staff in October after a 5 month leave of absence in Oklahoma and Missouri. He quickly jumped into the carpentry task of remodeling Adolfo's kitchen and bathroom.

in Memoriam: Dennis Washington

It is with great sadness to write that one of our senior volunteers (4 years of service), Dennis Washington, passed away in his sleep on October 18th from an unsuspected heart condition. He was joyful and humorous that afternoon during our regular Friday staff meeting...making all of us laugh. He wore many hats at CWH and performed all tasks with great diligence and dedication. Dennis was a lover of Jazz music, the Spurs, Cowboys, and cartoons. His memorial service was a testimony to a man who had turned his life around and was truly living out the Gospel of Matthew 25. He is buried in the Tobit Garden at Resurrection Cemetery. Thanks to all who attended his funeral service in November and his burial services in December and March.





Building issues drained us of time, money, and energy, but everything turned out for the best.

Even though the new auxiliary building (laundry, bathrooms, showers and storage) described in last year's EOY newsletter could not be built, we were able to move some nice sheds onto our properties.

The loss of 622 and the inability to build the auxiliary building have forced us to become more efficient with food storage and use. And that is a GOOD thing!