

**Newman Center Peace and Justice Focus Group**

**September 15, 2009**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Mike Gallagher (chair), Ben Caduff, Chuck Ernst, Christy Trettel (student), Mike Ernst (parish council president), Jake Lambrecht, Kateri Mancini, Al Lawrence, Pat Welter, Judy Wyne

-Immigration Sunday was brought up and the particular schedule of that morning presentation. There was a point made that this particular presentation will be coming with a Latino/a perspective, which is a different issue from the Somali and Sudanese populations in our community. There was a suggestion that we will have a future presentation with the other populations. Pat Welter will be contacting a local Somali representative to hopefully come and present to our community in the future

-Chuck Ernst gave an update on how the mission appeal is going to go; it is scheduled to happen on October 4<sup>th</sup>. A bulletin insert will go into the Newman Center bulletin on September 27<sup>th</sup>; a paragraph can be put into the bulletin that day also so that the other parishes will be aware that the collection is coming up. Hopefully an offering will be going into the cluster newsletter also; Chuck has also written something for that

-Mike Gallagher brought ideas for a financial planning course that could be offered to students and/or families/individuals who might need assistance with financial planning. Questions arose about what the real problems that people, and particularly students, face with finances. Mike knew about a particular program by Dave Ramsey, but there are others available. Dorrie Larison was brought up again, and she might be able to present also. Discussion was around if Catholic Charities financial counseling could come and do a presentation along with Dorrie. The thought was that we could maybe have a coffee and rolls conversation around financial counseling.

-Asset mapping was revisited one more time. Thoughts from last year involved coffee and rolls speakers and perhaps tapping into some of the university professors who are members who might present on various topics. Mike suggested having some conversations around particular social justice issues; Judy Wyne suggested Dan Finn speaking at a coffee and rolls Sunday about the current economic situation. Another suggestion was around the number of folks in the parish who are involved in the community and if they could share with the community. A thought was to ask people for suggestions for talks or what people in the community might want to offer. There was a suggestion that we do not want to bring up too many different coffee and rolls speakers so that parishioners are able to enjoy that community building time.

-There was a short discussion about a possible formation speaker/event for the year. There will need to be more discussion about this in future meetings. Judy Wyne suggested possibly a speaker on the common good for students and/or permanent members.

9/15/09 6:59 PM

9/15/09 6:59 PM