

## Green Team Meeting 10-22-15 St. Bruno's Science Lab

Present: Bill and Jean Bosenbecker, Floss and Dick Whalen, Kathy Plaisance, Fr. Dick Mevissen, Tom and Carol Pinter, Karen Gould

Opening Prayer: Jean: from chaplain @ talk given by Steve Coleman

Guest Speaker: Deb Schneider, Member of St. James Parish in Sussex and also of the Waukesha county Green Team, and Catholics for Justice and Peace was present to explore resources for Laudato SI ("LS").

Before her presentation, the group reviewed a number of the major projects taken on by the Green team since its inception in 1/2011. Tom was recognized for getting the group started. Bill was acknowledged as our Webmaster. Deb then asked us to explore "Our goals for introducing LS to the parish". The consensus articulated by Floss was "to get the parishioners to "buy into the tenants of LS".

### **What Deb has used successfully in her own parish:**

First talking with her pastor who invited her to a staff meeting

Meeting with small groups within her parish during their regular meeting times: Parish Staff, Faith formation, Parish council, Human concerns, etc.

1-Bringing the information to them vs. expecting them to come to larger meetings.

2-Content:

Basic themes of Catholic Social Teaching)

Grounded in a concern for the poor

Care for creation calls us to care for our bros and sisters

2 prayers from LS, themes in LS

Brief videos (which she allowed us to view)

6-min video from the Vatican

3-min video from CRS: CST 101"Care for Creation"

2<sup>nd</sup> video in process

3-Suggestions:

Use activities between masses; ask, "What did you think?"

Avoid the words "climate change" = political issue now; don't really need to talk about it

Rather – allude to the climate as belonging to everyone

Use joyful approach –"look at what we're already doing"so people don't feel

overwhelmed

Create awareness AND then get down to one specific act you can do

Consider special focus on Earth Day – April 22

4-Parish newsletter: Full page: colorful description mailed to each home several times a year

To introduce LS and then to follow up with activities parishioners can actually do

Deb provided a link to a sample of her parish newsletter

### **What Deb has seen used successfully in other areas:**

1-Parishes (St. Anthony on the Lake\*, St. Sebastian's/St. Catherine's\*\*)

\*Parish gardens with food being given to the local food pantry

\*Clever Poster Displays

\*Video clips as part of homily

\*\*Discussion guides/Manuals for groups to study Laudato SI

USCCB, Catholic Climate Covenant, CRS

JustFaith has not developed any modules on LS yet

Deb did request that we share the projects we do and the responses we get- she lives in

Hartland

## 2-Waukesha county green team ("**educate people with simple actions**")

1-"One Simple Act" cards –do for one week – let us know, pass it on to someone else

32 different acts

Cards available from WCGT (4 types, 8 cards each)

2-Action displays - poster w s/thing that catches your eye-

(Currently 6 displays available from WCGT)

Water bottles – why bottled water is not a good idea

Energy – where does ours come from – how conserve – LED vs. incandescent light bulbs

Re-cycling – Shows Waukesha county facility & what different counties are doing

Local food – rationale: distances some foods need t travel

– Check labels -where food comes from

\*\*\*\*Key: Display needs to be there for 3-4 wks to really get people involved.

3-Miscellaneous groups/materials/programs/websites were mentioned as having promise:

USCCB blog site

NPR news clip/videos on food waste– 5-10 min

Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

Catholic Sisters for a Healthy Earth-Colorful 8+ page pamphlet –

"Earth as our home", with each room having a different action plan

Used at the Racine Dominicans' Ecojustice Center

Deb's own powerpoint: "Our Common home" –

Liturgical resources-homily helps, prayers of the faithful, etc.

4-Deb provided GT members with a vey comprehensive list of

"Resources for Laudato SI – On Care for Our Common Home"

In closing, Deb asked us to share any projects we undertake and the responses to them with her.

### **Brief update on Progress within St. Bruno's:**

Kathy reported on her contact with St. Paul's **Mary Kral** (Now Adult Ed Coordinator for both parishes)

Mary is very interested and willing to work with us

Kathy also reported on her contact with Mark Gould -currently in charge of writing **Prayers of the**

**Faithful**

He seems to not be seeking additional prayers

The group discussed the possibility of GT members spontaneously offering a petition – perhaps there could be a weekly email suggesting a common theme for the coming Sunday

Kathy mentioned a Milwaukee area Hands on “Caring for the poor” program mentoring program w pre-training workshop:

Basic assumption: People are in poverty due to lack of skills that can be learned

Carol stated that she would be willing to act as a liason to St. Bruno School if desired

Bill reported that he had seen **Steve Coleman**, a Catholic speaker from the Madison area

-retired mechanical engineer with good material, well presented, not controversial, & is available.

SC requires a guaranteed minimum number of participants and urges parishes to follow up his 1 hour presentation with a 4 week group discussion

using a workbook put out by the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center

Other issues:

Kathy requested that when questions are sent out to the group via email, responses be made available to all members of the group without having to go to the GT site on the parish website. Evidently the current format does not allow for such sharing.

Actions taken/t be taken:

1-The group decided to table Steve Coleman as a speaker for a large group for a year and work on bringing programs to where the people are at.

2-GT members were urged to “chew on” the wealth of information presented this evening and bring ideas about how we can put ideas presented this evening into action here at St. Bruno’s. We were urge to focus on taking the message where people are and presenting it in their own language.

3-Bill will put materials mentioned this evening and forwarded to him by Deb on the Website

4-Bill will look into a way for persons to get questions out to GT members so that they can share their responses to questions via email instead of going to the website.

Next meeting Thursday, Nov. 12 7-8:30pm

Closing prayer – Offered by Floss

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Pinter