



St. Francis / St. Joseph Catholic Worker

Spring 2007

P.O. Box 14274 ■ Cincinnati, Ohio 45250 ■ 1437 Walnut Street ■ (513) 381-4941

OUR MISSION: St. Francis/St. Joseph House of Hospitality strives to provide hospitality to homeless men. We recognize that God created each human being with great dignity and respect. The community of those of us who live and work at St. Francis/St. Joseph House of Hospitality desire to uphold this principle and to serve our guests accordingly. (Rev. 12/11/98)

Homeless With Hope, Homeowner with Thanks

“Homeless, addicted and in prison does not mean the end of hope,” Richard Johnson tells us. Richard knows firsthand what he’s talking about. Before coming to work part-time at the Catholic Worker House in October 1999, Richard had been through the cycle of prison, alcohol and drugs.

“Being homeless, surely does not mean the end of hope”, he emphasized. “When I was in Chicago, I was homeless several times in the grip of alcohol and



drugs, with a ticket into prison three different times. Today with the Lord’s help, I am involved in the ministry of the Catholic Worker House and the volunteer ministry at the Hamilton County Justice Center.

I also work full time as a nurse in a nursing home. I have a new life for which I thank God every day. I married my wife Olandas, on May 27, 2006, and we purchased a home on April 30, 2007. We are so happy and thankful.”

Graduate Assistance from Northern Kentucky University

Over the past 3 months, five students in the graduate non-profit management program, at Northern Kentucky University under the leadership of Dr. Julie Olberding worked with the Catholic Worker House to improve our volunteer management, and other aspects of the House mission. The students along with Dr. Olberding visited

the House several times and talked with both staff and guests. The students were very impressed with our operation and offered insights for improvement.

Special thanks to: **Caroline Braden, Jennifer Carskadon, Anthony Ficarra, Barry Thiel, and Rachel Whisner, and Dr. Julie Olberding.**

Former House Guest, Now Volunteer, Now Fundraiser

Kevin Steigl, a former guest of the House, states that he owes his life to the St. Francis/St. Joseph Catholic

Worker House. Kevin has been volunteering with us for the past 2 years, faithfully leading the AA Group Meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Always resourceful, Kevin and friends have organized a full day of fundraising events and fellowship. This will be an alcohol free event.

Bring the family **at noon** to watch or compete in a **Cornhole Tournament** and enjoy a **cash grill**. Come back at for the **8:30 pm AA meeting** or to **dance to DJ Wolfman at 9:30pm**. We are looking for donations for door prizes also. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



We're Doing Just Fine: Facts From Our Ministry in 2006 & 2007

For the year 2006, we had 83 out of 242 guests go onto independent living with a job, which represents a 34% achievement.

So far this year through April, we have had 26 out 71 guests move onto independent living with a job, a 37%

success rate! This is way above the average for a shelter such as ours.

We owe thanks to God and the dedicated staff who lead both by example and the experience of their lives and their spiritual striving.

Corn Hole / Dance / Fundraiser

(Alcohol Free Event)

Charlie's $\frac{3}{4}$ House Alumni St. Francis/St. Joseph Catholic Worker House

All proceeds benefit men in recovery

Saturday, June 16

Tri County Center, 2031 East Kemper Road

(Just East of I-75)

Cost: \$20.00 / preregistered team , \$25 on day of event

2 and Out Tournament Cash Prizes:

1st Place \$150.00

2nd Place \$100.00

3rd Place \$75.00

Door prizes will be drawn

Register 10 am for Corn Hole

Games Begin at 12 Noon Sharp

Grill Out and Pizza (reasonable cost) / Split the Pot

Registration: Name/Team _____

Contact info phone or email _____

Or Contact Kevin S. 513-259-0237/ bwrangle@hotmail.com

or Greg R. 513-257-6124 or Kyle L. 513-332-1104

Donations can be sent to: SFSJ Catholic Worker House, PO Box 14274 Cincinnati, OH 45250
Anyone can donate or sponsor a team. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Dance Tickets \$5.00 per person

8:30 pm AA-Meeting, Lead by Charlie's Alumni (Tri County Center)

Dance 9:30 pm – DJ : Wolfman (Tri County Center)

Non-violence: A Challenge

..... *Mark Schmieder*

We were all shocked at the violence on the Virginia Tech Campus. We are all too aware that there is so much violence around us in the world and in our own neighborhoods. For our homes to be better, we each must begin within ourselves, to have in our core being the value of non-violence and to practice that value with its positive aspects.

Richard Rohr, OFM, stated that every major religion except one gets the fact that the essential characteristic of Jesus was being non-violent. That one exception? Christianity. A number of years ago, I proposed to a group of 40 prisoners in a security level 3 prison to try and take a non-violence pledge – they snickered, said it was impossible. We did modify it, and made a pledge. I want to share with you a pledge of non-violence from the Institute of Peace & Justice in St. Louis, MO.

Pledge of Nonviolence

Making peace must start within ourselves and in our families. Each of us, members of the _____ family, commit ourselves as best we can to become non-violent and peaceable people:

1. To Respect Self and Others

To respect myself; to affirm others and the dignity of all human life.
To avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks, and self destructive behavior.

2. To Communicate Better

To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger,
and to work at solving problems peacefully.

3. To Listen

To listen carefully to others, especially those who disagree with me,
and to consider others' feelings and needs rather than insist on having my own way.

4. To Forgive

To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another.
To forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges.

5. To Respect Nature

To treat the environment and all living things,
including our pets, with respect and care.

6. To Play Creatively

To select entertainment and toys that support our family's values
and to avoid entertainment that makes violence look exciting, funny, or acceptable.

7. To Be Courageous

To challenge violence in all its forms whenever I encounter it, whether at home, school, work,
or in the community, and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

This is our pledge. These are our goals. We will check ourselves on what we have pledged once a week.

Cross-Town Clean-Up and Home Depot

In February, Home Depot again coordinated the Cross-Town Clean-Up, with alumni and students from Xavier University and University of Cincinnati.

In addition, Home Depot donated new carpet for the whole first floor.

Much thanks to Home Depot!



Crosstown Cleanup volunteers

Dorothy Day : Up from Adversity

..... *Brennan Hill*

Dorothy Day, the “patron saint” of Catholic Worker Houses, was a woman who knew how to rise out of adversity. As a child, her family lost its home and income in the great earthquake of 1906 in San Francisco. They ended up living in the tenements of Chicago. After dropping out of college, Dorothy went to New York City. At one point, she marched to gain the woman’s vote, and ended up in jail with cracked ribs.

Dorothy then fell in love, got pregnant, and was persuaded by her lover to have an abortion. He took her to a third floor walk-up, and when she came out bloody and weak, her man had vanished.

A few years later, Dorothy fell in love again, this time with a fisherman who was

an atheist. They had a baby; when Dorothy decided to have the baby baptized, her man deserted her.

Now a single mother, Dorothy took odd jobs to support herself and her daughter, Tamar. One day, Peter Maurin entered her life. Peter was a Charlie Chaplin type figure, who was well-versed in Catholic social teaching. He reminded Dorothy that Jesus was non-violent and loved the poor and outcasts.

Dorothy spent the rest of her life serving the homeless and the poor, and protesting war. She had known adversity and became totally dedicated to helping others rise out of it. Her spirit is present in our house!

Saint Francis /St. Joseph C.W. House
P.O. Box 14274
Cincinnati, OH 45250



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DARIUS CLARK UPDATE (from Homeless to Homeowner)

A year ago, we featured the story of Darius Clark, a former guest, who went from homelessness to homeowner. While working full-time, he volunteered at the St. Francis/St. Joseph House, and took a course in commercial truck driving. Darius believed then he was at the top of his game and excited about his life and goals.

Shortly after pur-



chasing his home, Darius received a termination of employment notice; Sara Lee Corporation was closing the plant where Darius worked.

Determined not to be setback, Darius has never lost sight of his goals. He persevered in taking the driving tests and earned his commercial driver's license. With his CDL in hand, Darius got an apprenticeship with a trucking company but finances were strained. Darius is back on top again, he reports. Today, he is fully employed as a commercial truck driver working for a solid company and continues to volunteer at the Catholic Worker House.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mark C. Schmieder, Brennan Hill, Joyce Kiernan,
Michael Harmon, Arlene Turner **HOUSE MANAGER:** Karl Fields