

## Peace and Justice at St. Francis of Assisi

**St. Francis of Assisi Partners.** We are aware of the many gifts that have been bestowed upon us. We're also mindful of the many needs here in East San Jose and across our world. To facilitate the sharing of our gifts, SFOA has established "partnerships" with parishes and organizations that serve the poor and vulnerable. In this initial bulletin, we will enumerate these organizations; in subsequent issues, we will tell you more about each partner. Here's a partial list of our partnerships:

- Cathedral Outreach, serving the downtown population
- San Jose Family Shelter
- St. Joseph the Worker, Dayworker Center
- neighboring parishes — MHT, St. Maria Goretti, and Christ the King
- John XXIII Center and Catholic Charities East Side Center
- Casa de Clara, women's shelter

**Words of Wisdom.** "On my knees, I beg you to turn away from the paths of violence and to return to the paths of peace. Violence only delays the day of justice. Violence destroys the work of justice. Do not follow any leaders who train you in ways of inflicting death. Love life, respect life, in yourself, in others. Give yourself to the service of life, not the work of death. Violence is the enemy of justice. Only peace can lead the way to true justice." —*Pope John Paul II*

### **Social Justice Quiz.**

**Question 1A:** Of the 6.2 billion people in the world today, how many live on less than \$1 a day? How many live on \$2 or less?

**Question 1B:** Americans on average give how much per day in governmental assistance to poor countries? How much do they spend per day on soft drinks?

**Resources for You to Consider.** For those of you who use the Internet, we have a website for you to consider. It is [www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com). This great website allows you to help others with a simple "click" of the mouse, and it does this with no cost to you. This website includes the following sub-sites—the Hunger Site, the Breast Cancer site, the Child Health site, the Literacy site, the Rainforest site and the Animal Rescue site.

**Words of Wisdom.** "We cannot be called truly 'catholic' unless we hear and heed the Church's call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace."

—*Communities of Salt & Light; National Conference of Catholic Bishops 1993*

**What's Been Happening at St. Francis in Social Justice.** We've just concluded a busy and successful holiday season which started with our best ever Thanksgiving SCRIP drive which helped families in our neighboring parishes—Most Holy Trinity, St. Maria Goretti, and Christ the King. Our Thanksgiving Day collection enabled the Casa De Clara Women's Shelter to do necessary home repairs. In December, we followed with an outpouring of support for the St. Nick's Fund, the annual collection to help the Pastor meet the special needs of families. Our Giving Trees produced over fifteen hundred gifts for families at the Family Shelter and the Dayworkers. The "Adopt a Family" Christmas project supported families from the Evergreen School District. The annual January "Towels, Sheets and Blankets Drive" produced enough donations to more than meet the needs at both the Family Shelter and the Dayworkers.

**Words of Wisdom.** "The God of Biblical revelations is known through inter-human justice. When justice does not exist, God is not known. He is absent." —*Peruvian Theologian, Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez, O.P.*

**Catholic Social Teaching.** Over the last few years, there had been a greater emphasis on the social teachings of the Catholic Church, often referred to as "the Church's best kept secret." Two years ago, the US Catholic Bishops restated the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principles. They are:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Preferential Option for the Poor & Vulnerable
- Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's Creation.

In future bulletin issues, we will elaborate on each CST principle.

### **Upcoming Peace and Justice Initiatives**

- "Rebuilding Together" rehabilitating homes in East San Jose (April)
- Layette Drive for expectant mothers with St. Juan Diego Society (May)
- partnership with a parish in Mississippi in the Biloxi Diocese



### **Social Justice Quiz Answers:**

**1A,** 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 a day; 2.8 billion live on less than \$2 a day.

**1B,** Americans on average, give 15 cents a day in governmental assistance to poor countries; they spend 60 cents a day on soft drinks.

Sources: *CommonDreams.org, UN Report and the NY Times.*