

Living Our Faith Meeting Update – 11-16-25

It was "Standing Room Only" at our last Living Our Faith meeting on Thursday, November 13th! We were delighted to see several new faces who were there primarily for the post-meeting Candlelight Vigil, but who we hope will continue to join us as we deepen our faith and connect our faith to action.

Below are some brief notes from our meeting:

Welcome Committee:

Paul reported that there were 5 new families who became part of the Corpus Christi family in the past few months. The Welcome Committee reaches out by phone and email to all new members for whom we have accurate contact information. Additionally, the Welcome Committee maintains a visible presence after the Sunday liturgies for folks who wish to linger and learn more about our community.

LOF Book Group:

Our next reading selection is: *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We will discuss the book on **Sunday, January 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Family Chapel**. All are welcome! If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Marie at: marie.reich@gmail.com.

Genesis:

Mary reported that Genesis is looking for a youth intern (high school/college-aged) who will assist with community organizing tasks -- especially social media presence. If you know anyone who might be a good fit, please reach out to Mary Lim: marylimlampe@gmail.com.

Also, there are two Genesis-sponsored events that may be of interest to our community:

- 1) Genesis representatives will be hand-delivering roses to Bishop Barber on **December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, in recognition of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Statement on Immigration (read the statement [here](#)). Please contact Mary (email address above) for more details.
- 2) Genesis is organizing a Prayer Vigil outside the San Francisco Courthouse on **Thursday, December 18th**. Again, please contact Mary (email address above) if you would like more information about participating in this action.

Oakland Catholic Worker (OCW) Fundraiser:

The OCW fundraiser featuring **Fr. Greg Boyle**, founder of Homeboys Industries, is 3 weeks away (**Saturday, December 6th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Bishop O'Dowd High School**). Jim reports that ticket sales have been slow and steady with slightly over 50% of tickets sold, and nearly 50% of the donations/sales monetary goals reached.

If you haven't already done so, please purchase a ticket/make a donation and spread the word to everyone you know who might be interested in attending and/or supporting Oakland Catholic Worker. The flyer below can be easily downloaded and sent on to all of your email Contacts.

As of now, no volunteers are needed on the day of the event, but we may need to step in at the last minute. Stay tuned....

Giving Tree/Food Drives:

The rollout for the **2025 Giving Tree Drive** will begin next week with a "Coming Soon" announcement, followed by regular reminders and an email the community. (See flyer below.)

This year, our goal is to provide **350-\$25 Target gift cards** to individuals and teens at the Oakland Catholic Worker (children will be receiving toys from the De La Salle High School Toy Drive) **AND 50-\$25 Safeway gift cards** to seniors at St. Mary's Center.

Lisa Gros has, again, generously donated a Christmas Tree for our Giving Tree and we will be decorating it on **Saturday, November 29th at 10:00 a.m.** If you are interesting in assisting with this task, please contact me first -- midlin.nancy@gmail.com -- to ensure that the *Giving Tree Fairies* have not already completed the set-up.

We also plan to revive publicity about the **On-going Alameda County Community Food Bank Food Drive**. This is a particularly challenging time of year for hungry families and we'd like to encourage our community to continue to donate to this very worthy cause.

Welcome the Stranger/Shelter in Peace Initiatives:

We continue to move in our own "tortoise-esque" manner regarding these two initiatives. Our first step was accomplished on Thursday, when we formed a "task force" to study how the Corpus Christi and St. Theresa communities can accompany an immigrant family as they adjust to life in the Bay Area. Volunteers for the task force include: Trish Ratto; Janet Saalfeld; Jim Beck; Reyes Briones; Michael Harank; Liz Harrigan; Lydia Tinajero-Deck; Bob Hernandez and Nancy Midlin. (If I mistakenly didn't include you, please be sure to email me so that I can add you to our list.)

We will meet virtually sometime in the next month to figure out what our next steps will be. We will also reach out again to Anna Rossi, the founder of the two above-mentioned programs, who has offered to be of whatever assistance we need throughout the process.

Survey (i.e. Parish Revitalization) Update:

We were VERY fortunate to have David Rolefson, Pastoral Council member-extraordinaire, in attendance at our meeting on Thursday evening. He was drafted on the spot to give a brief update about the Parish Survey that was distributed in September/October.

Following the survey completion, three different focus groups (Young Family; Faith and Community Development Initiatives: and Youth Engagement: Teens & Parents of Teens and Young Adults) met, discussed and provided feedback regarding some of the specific ideas that emerged from the survey.

In the coming weeks, Father Leo will briefly address some of the broader findings of the Survey and the Focus Groups and the Parish Survey Leadership Committee will meet to discuss the specifics of the following next steps:

- Parish Revitalization plan to be developed and rolled out beginning in January (target);
- Opportunities to participate and volunteer will be included and promoted;
- Ongoing feedback encouraged.

This is an on-going process that will see many developments in the next few months/years. We hope you will continue to be engaged members of the community as we undergo this revitalization.

Candlelight Vigil and Rosary:

We ended a little early on Thursday, so that the LOF-meeting folks could join other community members in our Public Candlelight Prayer Service supporting Immigrants. The Holy Spirit held off the rain for the duration of our Prayer Service as about 40+ members of our neighboring communities gathered by candlelight to sing and pray.

We invoked the intercession of St. Frances Xavier (Mother) Cabrini, the patron saint of migrants, whose feast day occurred on the evening of the vigil. It was an extraordinary evening of community prayer and witness. We pray that we will all find ways to support our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters.

The next meeting for Living Our Faith will be: **Thursday, December 11th, 2025, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Gibson Center.** We hope to see you then!

Peace and Every Good,

Nancy

(On behalf of the Living Our Faith Leadership Team: Janet, Ruthanne, Paul, Jim, John, Liz, Genevieve and Trish)

Mother Cabrini Prayer

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, woman of God, disciple of Christ,
you offered the people you met the gifts of life and love by responding
to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in practical and
creative ways.

Inspired by your confidence in God, and your compassion, love, and sense of justice,
we ask you to accompany us as we work to respond to the urgent needs of our sisters and
brothers fleeing their home countries in search of refuge and peace.

Stir in us the courage to walk beside the stranger, as Christ walks beside us.

Teach us to see beyond the walls we build, that we may *all* live in the freedom of God's
reconciling love.

We ask this prayer in the Holy Name of Jesus, Who knew no home, but welcomed all.

Amen.