

Notes from Living Our Faith Meeting
1/8/26

New Year greetings!

Below please find Jim's most-excellent notes from the meeting on 1/8/26:

Opening: Janet opened the meeting with a *Prayer for Equilibrium* and Paul offered a synopsis of Pope Leo's *Dilexi Te* regarding the Church's duty to care for the poor.

Welcome Committee: Paul said we had eight new families join the parish in the 4th quarter of 2025. Most are younger families with children. The Welcome Committee is in the process of reaching out to each family for which we have contact information.

Book Group: The book group will meet **Sunday January 25th** to discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass*. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to read something with a Lenten theme next. Pope Leo's *Dilexi Te* was suggested as a possibility. It was also mentioned that the group may already have a list of books for future reading. For more information, contact Marie Reich: marie.reich@gmail.com.

Genesis: No representative was present but Lydia had information regarding a Genesis event on January 31st at the First Congregation Church in Oakland from 10AM to 12PM. This will be a forum to discuss what issues Genesis will work on in the coming months. For more information, contact Mary Lim Lampe: marylimlampe@gmail.com.

Giving Tree: Jim reported that on 12/17/25 the Giving Tree project delivered 100-\$25 gift cards to St. Mary's Center and 375-\$25 gift cards to Oakland Catholic Worker. This is 50 and 25 gift cards more (respectively) than our goal. We do not have a final accounting yet of the Giving Tree donations that came in after 12/17 but Jim estimated we probably have another \$500 plus of donations which we will give to Oakland Catholic Worker next week.

Oakland Catholic Worker Fr. Greg Boyle Event: The group asked for comments on this event. Jim reported that it was by all measures a great success. Comments were made regarding the warmth of the event space, the enthusiasm of the crowd, the ability to interact with the OCW families, the event flow and Fr. Boyle's talk. The website for the event closed on December 31st and final financial results have not yet been recorded but it is clear the financial goals for the event have been exceeded.

Welcome the Stranger (WTS): Jim reported that the WTS committee has been very active since the last LOF meeting. The committee met with Anna Rossi (CEO/Founder of Welcome the Stranger) in mid-December. Anna presented an opportunity for our group to become the Accompaniment Team for a family she was placing in a home in Alameda on December 20th. This opportunity is attractive in that: 1) Anna has a donor who has agreed to pay the rent for six months (normally the Accompaniment Team would do so for 11.5 months); 2) Both the wife (full time at Oakland Catholic Worker) and husband (part-time, unknown location) are employed; 3) the mother and child (5-year-old girl) speak English; father's English skills are unknown.

Following our meeting with Anna, Jim Beck and Nancy Midlin met with Fr. Leo and gained his approval to move forward with this project. Fr. Leo sees it as a good fit with the parish survey results that stated an interest in doing more parish-supported community outreach.

The WTS committee met again with Anna Rossi on January 5th and agreed that we would become the Accompaniment Team for this family. The WTS committee will meet on January 22nd to begin assessing what expertise we currently have for our team and what expertise we need to begin gathering from the larger parish community of Corpus Christi and St. Theresa's.

In addition, we will begin to develop a communication plan to reach out to both parishes. We will then meet with Anna Rossi one more time (2/9) before formally meeting with the family to begin our accompaniment process.

Lenten Activity Brainstorming: The group discussed various Lenten activities we might organize. Lydia said St. Theresa's has discussed with their pastor the idea of a couple of talks/prayerful mediative events that relate to social justice issues. It was suggested that each parish could sponsor one talk/event and to also have one community prayer event similar to the CC event last year led by Paul & Nancy. (Total of three events) Possible speakers/leaders included Anne Carrabino (Oakland Catholic Worker); Nancy Midlin (reflecting on her recent experience in the Holy Land), Scott Harrington, Bob Hernandez, and/or Laura Bennett (Ignatian Prayer). Stay tuned for more updates about this.

Living Our Faith Update: Janet raised the idea of the LOF committee making a written (bulletin/email) and/or in person (Ambo) thank you to the parish(es) since we seem to communicate only when we need something.

We could thank parishioners for their generous support of both the Giving Tree and the Food Bank. It was agreed we should do something especially as we will soon be asking for expertise for the WTS project and possibly for funds for parish (CC) initiatives.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, February 12th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Gibson Center.** We hope to see you at that time, if not before:-)

Peace and Every Good,

Nancy (on behalf of the LOF Leadership Team: Janet, Paul, John, Jim, Liz, Trish and Genevieve)