

Justice & Peace  
Pastoral Council Report  
September 13, 2011

**Engaging Spirituality** – We hope to start up another Engaging Spirituality group this October. We will start recruiting at our Stewardship weekend.

**Haiti** – I have received an email from Father Robert Michel, Fr. Leveque’s replacement at St. Anne’s. He said: “I am happy to present myself to your parish... I am 42 years old. I am “ancient” (my quotes—I think he meant former) pastor of the cathedral parish. I was there during six years. I am very happy to have you like a sister parish. I want to continue to work with you for the good of our peoples. Thank you for your help. May God bless you!”

We sent him a box of rosaries and a welcome letter. Nanci Mayo would like to visit our twin but wanted to go with someone else from our parish. Our committee met last Wednesday evening to plan for Stewardship weekend.

**Just Seniors** – The special program we did for Father B is on a DVD and may be sold in the near future. It was a hoot and well worth watching if you missed the event last June. The Seniors have planned a few trips for the fall. Their next meeting is Tuesday, September 20.

**Just Walking** – Lori Schrand and Jamie Morgan has stepped up as co-facilitators for Justice Walking, a Just Faith program for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who have been confirmed. The orientation meeting is Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. in Room 103.

**We Are Family** – As you know, Jan Bankowski, the leader of this support group for gay and lesbians and their families, died tragically in an auto accident on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Eileen Seeley and Mary Carole Lynch will assume the leadership of this wonderful group. Our next meeting is Thursday, September 22.

**Food Week** – We had two food weeks since we last met—the week of June 27 and the week of August 8<sup>th</sup>. We helped 15 families and also distributed \$510 in Food Lion gift cards. We also gave \$525 in rent assistance, \$1,171.84 for Dominion assistance and \$170.47 for water assistance.

**Social Action Summer Institute** – Mary Ann attended the SASI at Loyola University, New Orleans from July 10 – 14 – “Focus on the Worker—“New Things in Labor.” Mary Ann gave a report about her experience there at the Tidewater Sowers of Justice meeting on Friday, September 9, 2011. This report was timely since Labor Day had just been celebrated and President Obama addressed the nation the night before on the Jobs Recovery Act. The U.S. Department of Labor recently reported that 9.1% of Americans remain out of work. America now has more than four unemployed people for each job opening. More than 16 million Americans are without jobs or paychecks to feed and care for their families. The Keynote speaker of the Institute was Bishop Gabino Zavala of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He talked on the theological foundations of worker’s rights and the Catholic Social teaching that supports the dignity of workers. Practically every Pope since Leo XIII’s encyclical *Rerum Novarum* has emphasized that work is more than a way to make a living; it is an expression of our dignity and a form of continuing participation in God’s creation.