

Green Committee Minutes

Date: 10/24/2011

Place: Pastoral Center Upstairs Library

Attendants: Katia, Laisz, Ann, Laura, Paul

Faith Sharing:

Prayer for Green Committee, submitted by Elizabeth Fitting and read by Katia.

Katia presented to the committee a cleverly arranged table listing our "Accomplishments and Projects" to put the St. Francis Pledge into action. These minutes have been written with reference to that. Here is the table:

Steps taken to date & in progress since July 2011. Goal is to put the St. Francis Pledge into action.

					10/24/2011
Item	Description	Team	Date	Status	Comments
Pray					
1	Petitions	Katia	10-Aug	Sent 5 petitions to Nora. They were read on consecutive Sundays. Need to send again.	
2	St. Francis Pledge cards	Ann	18-Sep	Ann had 300 beautiful cards printed. Passed some at the picnic & the rest made available for feast of St. Francis @ all the churches.	
3	St.. Francis Pledge pulpit reading	Katia	2-Oct	Asked Chris & Nora to include for pulpit reading the St. Francis pledge along with the second annual background of the Diocesan Green Initiative @ all churches.	Was done in spite of busy Masses that weekend
Learn					
1	Liaison to Diocese Catholic Green Initiative of Santa Clara County	Gerard	Ongoing	Chancery wants to set example so a questionnaire is being developed to let staff report on energy usage patterns at the Chancery. Valley Catholic is publishing articles on topic.	
2	Adapting to Climate Change & Sea Level Rise presentation at City Council Chambers"	Eleanor, Katia	29-Sep	The presentation was about areas of Palo Alto that will be flooded due to creeks overflow & sea level rise & the levies that need to be built.	
3	A Religious Response to Climate Change: The Moral Imperative of Responding to Global Warming presentation by Rev. Sally Bingham, Episcopalian priest.	Ann, Eleanor, Katia	20-Oct	Sponsored by CAInterfaith Power & Light & Acterra. Ann got the use of a light bulb energy use display for a period of time.	Environmental message from Pope cited as key driver of the Moral Imperative to act.
Assess					
1	Investigate potential installation of double paned windows for SESS			Potential project	
	Calculate this years CO2 emmissions for parish	Katia	Ongoing	Got the meter readings up to June from Chuck	
2	Investigate potential use of solar panels for parish buildings			Get info from similar projects done by Diocese. Check with City of Palo Alto Solar Energy project, Solar City, Solar Monkey.	Building & Maint Comm would like inputs from us.
Act					
1	Replace stove at OLR			Determine steps to be taken.	Katia will mention @ Build & Maint comm.
2	Organize special "green activities" on special events:			These are possibilities	
2.a	11/11/2011			Laura will check 350.org or CEAP for suggetions	
2.b	11/19 -20 /2011			Faith Formation Exhibit table	Do we have St. Francis cards leftover to make available?

3	4/22/2012			Earth Day, See Spirituality Tuesday	
4	6/5/2012			World Environment Day	
5	Outreach to SESS			Potential activities: Waste sorting, energy conservation, garden.	Possibly Laura & Katia meet with Evelyn Rosa, the new principal. We both attended the coffee recently.
	Advocate				
1	Bike/Walk to Mass Raffle	Laura	18-Sep	Successful campaign w/ parish-wide participation. Walt was MC. Will calculate the resulting CO2 emissions avoided.	
2	Picnic outreach	Laura Ann, Laisz, Katia	18-Sep	Had bottled water vs tap taste test, waste recycling activity both w/ prizes for participants. Laisz was our photographer. Acterra representatives signed up eight parishioners for at home energy audits. Prizes donated by PA Zero Waste.	
3	Seafood Choices cards	Ann	18-Sep	Ann got more cards from Monterey Aquarium to hand out at picnic.	
4	Recruitment poster	Laisz	18-Sep	Laisz produced a very nice poster for our group for display at our events. Laisz recruited one member for our group at the picnic.	
5	Green Corner postings	Katia, Laura, Ann	Ongoing		
6	Spirituality Tuesday		4/24/2012	Theme: Simple Living	
7	Support "green" initiatives, legislature			Passage of Measure E will allow further evaluation of a potential waste to energy processing facility	
8	Web page			Two annual reports listed.	Include minutes?

Pray

Item 1, 2 & 3 – accomplished! Kudos to all!

Learn

Item 1 – Gerard was absent from the meeting so we have no update yet.

Item 2 – At the city council meeting, maps were displayed to show what areas will be under water if no levies were built. Need to push for bond measure to fund the project. Redwood City is considering a project that will build levies in front of the privately funded housing development but all that is still pending approval by their city council.

Item 3 – The light bulb energy display showed that generally for the same brightness, a compact fluorescent bulb consumes 75% less energy than an incandescent bulb. But Ann pointed out that the incandescent bulbs are now getting more expensive because China is drastically reducing production. Same for the compact fluorescent bulbs, mainly because of the big push towards LED's instead. As for the message from the Vatican about the Moral Imperative to protect the earth, it can be traced back through many Encyclicals, starting with the one by Pope Paul VI in 1967.

Assess

Item 1 – Suggestions for SESS include water bottle refill stations, changing light bulbs, conducting an energy audit, utilizing city's rebate programs for replacing aging equipment and appliances, especially for the extension project on the "Day Care and Full Day Kindergarten" building. (At the recent Pastoral Council Meeting, the new principal, Ms. Evelyn Rosa confirmed that the architect is designing the facility as a "green building" and is following the requirements of the city permit granted for such. Paul Chestnut did some research into the city's rebate programs.)

Item 2 – Calculating CO2 emission for the parish, Katia to keep monitoring. The parish

has 11 buildings with 8 meters.

Item 3 – Solar project for parish, Paul to look into program offered by Solar City.

Act

Item 1 – Laura and Paul will do some asking around to gauge the cost of replacing the existing stove with electronic ignitions rather than the eight 24/7 pilot lights, which cost the parish \$1,000 a year in wasted gas consumption, not to mention the fire hazards and the unbearably warm temperature of the kitchen in the summer. (We got one quote for \$4,400 and \$500 trade-in credit, assuming we want the same configuration. We can get cheaper options if we downgrade to less stove tops, etc., but we must pool the opinions of all the parties involved.)

Item 2a – Nothing particular was going on with 11-11-11; 350.org did a protest against the Keystone Pipeline in D.C.

Item 2b – Decided not to take part in the Faith Formation Conference Exhibit, but later can do a workshop with our own CCD program or youth group.

Item 3 – Spirituality Tuesday on “Simple Living” – everyone will research for possible resources, especially a good speaker. Fr. John Coleman of St. Ignatius? Jesuit priests from Santa Clara U? Elizabeth Fitting has referrals? Suggestions from Interfaith Power and Light? We can get funds (\$200?) from parish since we have the budget. (Northwest Earth Institute has a discussion course named Voluntary Simplicity, cost is \$27. Laura purchased it and will bring to next meeting.)

Item 4 – Can consider doing some kind of swap meet within the parish. No money exchange, strictly a swap, leftovers go to Goodwill.

Item 5 – outreach to SESS – see above.

Advocate

Item 1, 2, 3 & 4 – accomplished, maybe supplement with bulletin updates if appropriate.

Item 5 – ongoing. (Paul has learned how to edit our web-page so Katia can give him all old green corner postings to archive on the site,)

Item 6 – “Simple Living” Tuesday Assembly, see above.

Item 7 – Measure E – vote “Yes” definitely! This is only to put in place the “possibility” of a composting facility. Much more research/study/budgeting, etc., will be done before it is built. (We got it!)

Item 8 – Paul to learn from Nora Lundin how to maintain, so as to put minutes, pictures etc on it (Done deal!)

CHANGE OF MEETING SCHEDULE: We will now meet on the 4th Monday of each month, so as to free up the Tuesdays for those who want to attend STA’s. Laura to notify Parish Office to un-book conference room.

Next meeting: Pastoral Center Upstairs Library, Nov 28th, 7:30pm