

SAID ED April 27, 2014

Our Social Ministries

Thank you to all who made our Holy Week and Easter celebrations so powerful and so beautiful. I believe our many visitors were touched by the warmth and welcome of our community and thanks for being part of this gracious hospitality. Thank you also for your generosity of time talent and treasure. We'll be having a full Stewardship Renewal Report soon.

Our parish has always had a wonderful commitment to the social justice values of the Gospel. We know that social ministry is an essential element of the Gospel. Our parish a wonderful commitment to the poor and marginalized as is witnessed by our participation in RAIHN, the Blessed Sacrament Dinner Program, our ongoing Mercy Fund distributions and so many more. We are correctly proud of our many parish outreach programs which put our faith into action. This week I want to tell you about a new venture that we have been involved in quietly for over a year.

Our parish has joined a faith-based community action organization which is under formation in Rochester. This effort has been underway for a few years. Fr. Ed, Deni Mack, Nancy Bellini and David DeSmith have previously been involved in the planning. About a year ago we asked Marilyn Thaler and Bob Warth to represent the parish. They have been working very hard with a small group of people from other communities in our city and county to create a new organization. After much planning and recruiting of other community units (most are religious organizations, many Catholic) the organization has taken shape. The name of the organization is RocACTS. The ACTS stands for Alliance of Communities Transforming Society. (We set our sights low!!!). Its high purpose is to build relationships between people and faith communities so that, together, fortified and inspired by our faith, we can bring change to our world.

One Saturday morning a few weeks back, I attended a mini-retreat along with Deni, Anne Kriz, Marilyn and Bob Warth and some 50 other folks. It was a great kick-off for our shared vision and ended with discussions about our planned `launch` of the organization which is about to happen.

The `launch` is set for Sunday, May 4 at 3:00PM at Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. We would like to have a big representation from our parish. We are asking everyone involved in our many Social Justice Ministries to consider coming to this celebration. If you plan to attend, please let Bob (451-9454) or Marilyn (425-1943) know. They have recently returned from a 6 day training program for RocACTS in Pennsylvania and are "fired up" and ready to share their enthusiasm for what God is doing through this wonderful new creation. If you would like some further information, you can speak with Bob via cell (451-9454) or check with Deni or any of the others mentioned above. Most importantly, I hope you will consider coming to the May 4 kick off I see this effort as an important step in COTA's active social ministry witness to what Pope Francis is a most pressing challenge of reaching out to the poor.

Easter continues! Have a great week!
