

Minutes of EPF meeting of January 7, 2016

Attendees: Joey Cardamone, Nancy & Ed Siemon, Blythe & Frank Baldwin, Linda Gaither, Deb Schmidle, John Jackson, Karae -----.

Opening Prayer: Deb

Reflections on the Kingdom of God: Blythe.

- Blythe talked about the Syrian refugee crisis and cited biblical passages to support helping refugees. She pointed out that Pope Francis has said that indifference hinders peace.
- Responses: Linda said Jesus' message is very radical. Blythe commented that capitalism/the rich do not feel a responsibility to society. Deb observed that fear of the muslim refugees is spread by the right wing and right wing Christians buy into this message.

Old Business:

- Frank reported an EPF sponsored program at Cornell on nuclear weapons will take place on Monday, February 8, 2016, at Lewis Auditorium in Goldwin-Smith Hall. The time is 4:30 – 6:00, but I think the actual time of the presentation is 5:00 – 6:30 PM. Need to check on this. The theme of the presentation is :How do we get rid of nuclear weapons?"

Committee Reports: No questions or comments.

Review of Frances Joseph-Gaudet Event:

- General feeling that the event was successful with a good turnout for the follow-up letter writing activity.
- Discussion followed about solitary confinement: The new rules in NYS are vague and no time line accompanies the implementation. The revision of rules will affect 1000 out of 5000 people in solitary. There is also an effort to reduce the reasons prisoners go to solitary. Joey will send out information about the new guidelines.

New Business:

- Celebration of feast days of saints. John would like to see us celebrate saints who have a connection to Cornell. Other suggestions included Michael Schwerner, a civil rights activist, whose feast day is possibly

in April, and Cesar Chavez. Deb will search for information about Michael Schwerner.

- Lenten Book Study: John suggested “Dear White Christians,” by Jennifer Harvey. Focus is on those still longing for racial reconciliation. Other suggestions?
- Future meeting responsibilities were lined up; opening and closing prayer volunteers, reflections volunteers.

Letter Writing:

- Frank brought in sample letters on nuclear disarmament to model. Attendees hand wrote letters; it seems to be more effective on politicians.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment.

Respectfully,
Nancy Siemon