



Schedule of Events:

Please consider joining us for the following

Daily— Dinner is served most days around 6pm— feel free to drop in.

Weekly—
Day Labor Breakfast, Wed., 8am, @ N. Carrollton Ave. Home Depot
Prayer, Tuesday and Friday 8:30am @ St. Thomas House and Monday 11:30am @ Rebuild Center
Community Resource Center, Thursday 6-8pm @ Hope House

November:
20-21, Shut Down the School of Americas Teach-In and Vigil in Columbus, Georgia
23, Bible Study: God's Kin-dom in Acts and at Hand, 7:00pm
25, Thanksgiving Meal—consider joining us for dinner at 2pm
26, BUY NOTHING DAY—Anti-Consumer Protest at Canal Place Mall, 333 Canal St., 10am

December:
7, Bible Study: God's Kin-dom in Acts and at Hand, 7:00pm
17, Clarification of Thought (Christmas Party) Gather at 6:30pm, discussion at 7:00pm
21, Bible Study: God's Kin-dom in Acts and at Hand, 7:00pm
28, Feast of the Holy Innocents, (Vigil for victims of war), WWII Museum, 945 Magazine St. at 3pm

January:
11, Bible Study: God's Kin-dom in Acts and at Hand, 7:00pm
21, Clarification of Thought (tbd) Gather at 6:30pm, discussion at 7:00pm
25, Bible Study: God's Kin-dom in Acts and at Hand, 7:00pm

Our needs include

Financial support, blankets, twin size mattress/box spring, laundry and dish soap, coffee, peanut butter, produce, toilet paper, dressers, and bedside tables. Thank you!

JUST FAITH GROUP FORMING

We strongly endorse, *Just Faith*, a program of focused study & discussion of Catholic social teachings. Beginning on January 5, the program will meet weekly in Metairie for a period of 40 weeks— including brief retreats and cross cultural immersion experiences as well as shared prayer and discussion on vital issues of gospel living in today's global context.

The group will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7pm at Abp. Rummel H. S. Library, at 1901 Severn Avenue in Metairie.

For further info and details you may contact John Caron at (504) 931-7844 or Sr. Claire Regan at cregan53@att.net

Around the House

By Joe Heeren-Mueller

Cylis has been learning the words to the Lord's Prayer. I look forward to his growing appreciation of its depth even as it continually draws me into a more profound reliance on God myself.

"Give us this day, our daily bread," we pray and somehow God always does. Whether our needs are financial, alimentary, spiritual, or otherwise, God provides. Our anxiety is much relieved as we grow in trust of that providence. It has certainly been true for our catholic worker community. Whether through an unexpected letter from a stranger, a timely visit by an acquaintance or the attentive ears of friends, God's presence is manifest. The development and continuation of the St. Thomas house is the result of the growing community of support that has formed around it.

We are grateful for the support we have received. Generous financial contributions from our readers have enabled us to open this house and through it carry out a ministry of hospitality. Although we have been financially stable, looking to the year ahead we see an emerging need to develop a broader base of support.

The cost of rent, utilities, food, and supplies for our house, gardens, day labor breakfast, and newsletter amounts to about \$1700 every month. Those of us in the house who have the means contribute 30% of our income. As we have grown in number those contributions have increased, but so have some costs. We have been reliant on a large monthly donation and



we are especially grateful for the freedom that has given us to build this community. But for the long haul, we do not want to depend solely on a small group of donors. With that in mind, we are hopeful that some of you who read our newsletter, attend our clarifications of thought, or have come to know us in some other way would consider making a gift of \$15 or \$50 to help us in our work. Perhaps some of you can afford more or would even be willing to make a monthly gift to help sustain us throughout the year. We are deeply grateful for every donation we receive no matter what its size.

We hope to continue to grow as we have these past two years. We're chipping away at our gender imbalance with the recent addition of another woman Stephanie Malinowski to the community. A recent college graduate, she has lots of energy and an open heart. She arrived about a month before the very successful yard sale through which we brought in nearly \$500 and got to know several neighbors we hadn't before met.

We are now opening the Hope House Common Grounds Resource Center on Thursday evenings for members of the community to stop in for coffee, fellowship, internet or a movie. We hope that it becomes known and used by many.

Thanks to Kathy Kelly who visited New Orleans and the CW six weeks ago. She inspired us to deepen our commitment to peace with justice as a foundational part of Christian identity.

As we prepare to welcome Christ into our community in Advent and celebrate his abiding presence with us through Christmas, may we grow in reliance on him and in openness to his presence in those we encounter daily – as he, through them, provides our daily bread. Ω

The "Giving" Of Thanksgiving

By Stephanie Malinowski

This year, I approach the Thanksgiving table with not only thanks, but also with a special invitation for others and myself. I've learned that in order to give, we must unlearn how we take. And in so doing, we must unlearn what we've been taught about Thanksgiving.

In classrooms, we learn a storybook version of Thanksgiving, one that embraces patriotism, generosity, and mutuality. Like other children, I believed that the goodness of the Plymouth Pilgrims and the Native peoples was a perfect example to us all.

It was only later in my teen years that I discovered my history textbooks had sorely misguided me. The Thanksgiving story was just a story, one full of charming fabrications and an appeal to American idealism. Our popular story not only gives an overly simplified version of the exchanges between the Pilgrims and Native peoples, but also permits an unpardonable omission of facts.

It most often goes unmentioned, for instance, how the Pilgrims took over land that was already home to others, literally building over fields that Natives had cleared to plant corn and other food sources. Our story omits the details about the house robberies that took place, the forced conversions to Christianity, the epidemic of plague that wiped out thousands of Native peoples; all events that fall into a larger continuum of cultural and ethnic cleansing.

After learning this truth, I knew that my days of

celebrating Thanksgiving with joyful naiveté were over. I can't disregard actual reality, even if it's uncomfortable, even if it disturbs my ability to celebrate something in feel-good fashion. I am accountable to what I learn, and holidays are no exception.

If we want to truly focus on the "giving" aspect of Thanksgiving, we could begin by recognizing how our dominant culture rewards acts of taking. This reality supports why we have history books that depict the Pilgrims' colonialism as something destined and democratic. No doubt we see similar characterizations of contemporary figures and corporations who legitimize such acts as the displacement of marginalized peoples from their communities, to follow a self-serving agenda. Thanksgiving is not an isolated incident in history. It is sustained, like it originally was, through ongoing forms of racism, ethnocentrism, and xenophobia.

Once we recognize this degree of taking we can actively resist it with our giving. I do this by maintaining



Stephanie Malinowski

NEW ORLEANS CATHOLIC WORKER

ST. THOMAS HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

1910 Constance St.
New Orleans, LA
70130

Phone: 504-527-5363

Email: cw@nolacatholicworker.org

Many great thanks to those who donated items to our yard sale, helped organize and put on the event or bought anything there. It was a huge success! We're looking forward to next year's already!

There's still time to call N.O. City Council and Mayor Landriou demanding the Parish Prison not be expanded! City Hall Operator: 504-658-4000

Restaurant Justice: an interview with Derek Robinson

By Dan Thelen

It's no secret that the people of New Orleans love to eat, making the restaurant industry an integral part of our Crescent City culture. The Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC) of New Orleans is dedicated to advocating for the rights, safety and overall workplace quality of restaurant workers. Derek Robinson, who lives at the Catholic Worker, is a member of ROC and has devoted a great deal of his time to the organization. He spoke with me about organizing with ROC.

DT: How long have you been a member of ROC?

DR: This will be my second year with them.

DT: Why are you a member of ROC?

DR: I was talking to a friend of mine one day, Thomas, and we were talking about a restaurant that hadn't paid us. He wanted to introduce me to ROC, said that there's this organization that works to protect peoples' rights and helps people out. So I went and talked to the coordinator and that's how it all got started.

DT: Can you tell me a little about what kind of projects you have worked on with ROC?

DR: I'm currently working on a workplace justice campaign with Tony Moran's restaurant. We do trainings in bartending, waiter service, and we do job placement. We always offer an ear for people to voice their grievances against a restaurant concerning any kind of injustice they may encounter.

DT: Can you give an example of an action that you've done with ROC?

DR: We just did a sit-in where we got 150 lawyers to go into a restaurant and just order tea and water. They tipped the waiters well, got up and left. It was a gratifying

experience for me because I discovered the power of actually affecting a restaurant's ability to sell goods.

DT: How has ROC helped you in your life?

DR: It made me see that there was some place you could go and voice your grievances. Before that I didn't know that there was a place where you could go and do that. So it's made me take a different approach to working in the industry.

DT: What are some of the big issues that ROC is currently working on?

DR: Some issues are wage theft and trying to increase the hourly rate of pay for restaurant workers. We're just starting an insurance policy for restaurant workers in Louisiana and nationwide. ROC helps people open restaurants and encourages people who belong to ROC to work in the restaurant. We are developing a booklet called "High Roads" that will tell you all the restaurants that are affiliated with and approved by ROC.

DT: What are some of the more surprising things you have learned during your time at ROC?

DR: It surprises me to learn how employers steal tips without you knowing it. There's a lot that can go on outside the spotlight in restaurants, such as sexual harassment and verbal abuse.

DT: What is your advice for restaurant workers in New Orleans, especially those who may be encountering issues of inequality, instability and lack of opportunity?

DR: First, I would try to advise that person to bring their issues forth and address the situation and try to resolve it with the owner or persons involved. If not, that's what ROC is here for, to hear peoples' grievances and try to resolve the problem in a civilized

way.

DT: What are some personal goals for yourself and how does ROC fit into that?

DR: I would like to open up my own restaurant one day. I would also like to see the minimum wage raised. I would treat my workers right, promote from within, and try to set up a program where the workers can buy back into the business.

DT: What do you consider to be the ups and downs of working in the restaurant industry?

DR: Well, the hours can be long and the work can be stressful, but by the same token, I like to meet people from various places, to serve people good food and of course, I love to eat the food too.



Grandma Lowrine and Cylis

(GRATITUDE, continued from page 1)

a type of gratitude that does justice. I do this by showing awareness of how I too embody a colonizer's legacy through my white racial identity, my middle class status, and so on.

I have a lot to be thankful for; my strong network of family and friends, access to education, and financial support. When I utilize these resources with a will to give, an occasion like Thanksgiving becomes an invitation into dialogue. It becomes a call to action.

So, with moving gratitude, I approach this Thanksgiving with a sense of responsibility. I too can undo how I take in order to give. Ω

A Marian Advent

By Katy Heeren-Mueller

The word Advent actually means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is on the upcoming celebration of the birth of Jesus. The season seems to be marked by the journey of individuals with a spirit of expectation, preparation, and longing for the Christ to again be present with us.

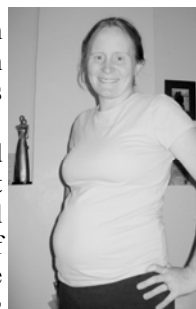
This coming Advent is of special significance for me as I prepare to give birth to my first child. For the first time, I find myself wondering what pregnancy was like for Mary. As she went through her own first Advent longing for the birth of Jesus, what were her expectations? What did she anticipate? How did she prepare? In what ways did she find God?

St. Ignatius might challenge us to

pray with these questions and speak in prayer with Mary about the birth of her son and all that she went through in the days before and weeks to follow.

A Marian image comes to my mind of a woman who had surrendered to all that was to happen to her, even as she departed to Bethlehem. I wonder what she thought of the timing of this journey by foot and horse back occurring so near her delivery date. As I prepare to give birth, the thought of walking from the Catholic Worker House to Touro Hospital (where I know that there will be room for me in this "inn" to labor and deliver our child) seems daunting, and that is only about 1 mile from my house!

Perhaps there is an awesome task or circumstance in your own life upon which you might meditate or through which you



Katy Heeren-Mueller

could relate to Mary. I hope to spend my Advent praying with Mary, seeking her motherly wisdom, and perhaps like her, surrendering to what will occur in the next few months of my life.

This Advent I encourage us all, especially parents, to use our imaginations and experiences to relate to the anticipation of Mary giving birth to Jesus. May these thoughts help us deepen our Advent meditations as we draw closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus on Christmas. As you reflect, I ask also for your prayers and good energies as I prepare to give birth to my first child. Happy Advent! Ω