



Schedule of Events:

Please consider joining us for the following

Daily— Dinner is served most days around 6pm, 1910 Constance St, ALL ARE WELCOME

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

June:
17, Clarification of Thought (Lory Schaff) at 6:30pm

July:
4, De-Colonization of America Grill Out at 4pm
15, Clarification of Thought (Joe Grant—Engaged Spirituality) at 6:30pm

August:
19, Clarification of Thought (Freedom Songs Sing Along) at 6:30pm
24, Bible Study: Join us at 7:00pm as we choose a focus for the coming months



Our gratitude continues to readers and our friends who support us in prayer, by presence, and through financial means.

We welcome submissions of stories, art and poetry. Submissions should be of 200-800 words in length.

We are available to speak with school, church or other groups interested in learning about the Catholic Worker movement, nonviolence and social justice.

Our needs include Financial support, knives, produce and toilet paper. Thank you!

This Land Was Made For You, Me and Everyone

By Dan Thelen

The more I educate myself, the more my eyes are opened each and every day to just how pervasive racism still is in our country. Looking through my photo albums, visiting my hometown, and being with my friends, I notice how almost everyone is white. I see more clearly now the subtle privileges I receive because of my whiteness. How history books and mass media and culture enforce the dominance of my race. The realization that, historically, this land was not made for you and me, but for white people (especially men) at the expense of nonwhites: Native Americans, Blacks, Hispanics, and on and on.

But I am not writing only to delve into the pervasive depths of racism. I write with hope that this land is in fact made for you and me and everyone. I write from the belief that undoing racism needn't be so grave and intimidating. I believe it can be a path of great joy, discovery, healing, and above all, new and transformative relationships. I share with you these inspirations of mine that have helped make this a process that ignites passion in my soul and ennobles my spirit:

1) Exploring books, movies, music and art of people from nonwhite descent.

A common thread I discovered in nearly all my media sources is that they almost all originated

from a white person or group of mostly white people. It is not that my education is thus bad, but it is sorely lacking. When I read books, watch movies, and listen to music by people of other races, not only is my soul enriched by their art but I am offered a new way of seeing the world. They also deeply challenge the very one-sided and sometimes blatantly incorrect history I have been taught. This awakens me to see the world more fully for what it really is, not how those with power would have me think it is.

2) Meeting people / Making Friends with people of other races and backgrounds.



Justin and Dan with 'Big Red'

Though I don't consider myself racist, I clearly feel more comfortable associating with people of my same race. But it is clearer to me as I make friends with people of other races that I have much to gain by widening my circle. For example, my church, neighborhood, and the communities where I volunteer are great places where I have formed relationships with amazing individuals of other races.

These relationships truly make my life richer and help me to grow in ways that are profound. Of course, people are people regardless of their race, class or anything. But living in a society of deep racial inequality guarantees that our experiences are often quite different. Our lives and indeed our communities can be greatly enriched by befriending and getting to know one another across racial divides.

(Thelen, Continued on page 2)

Homelessness —

Values and Freedom

By Pavan Lewis

What are the values by which we live, in our society? I don't mean the values we say we live by, but the ones actually lived out in our day to day lives, and in our relationships with others. And especially, in our relationships to those who are less fortunate than ourselves?

If we want to understand our cultural values, we need look no further than to the plight of those whom we label as 'the homeless.' For the plight of homeless people speaks far beyond their individual lives and circumstances. Those who have no right to a place to sleep, to any legal place to rest their heads or meet their basic life needs, reveal through the hardship of their lives a lack of true freedom and ethics at the foundation of society.

Like all human adults, those who are homeless have made mistakes. And like the rest of us, the homeless can at times be selfish or short sighted. However, the condition in which they live has less to do with their personal choices, as it does with the current organization of society itself. Much as those with privilege have done nothing to earn it.

Homelessness reflects our common attitudes and ideas of social justice and personal respon-

sibility. It reveals the failings, not of those experiencing homelessness, but of a culture that holds economic success above honesty and compassion, and lifts the greedy and competitive above the meek and gentle in spirit.

If we want to have a culture that is based on the values we claim to believe in, we have to change how we treat those who do not compete successfully in our economic system. We have to insure that if a person fails, for any reason, she/he is not persecuted and degraded, but is allowed some basic 'right to place' within society. Without such a right to place, society will push those already at the margins into a place that is cruel and unjust, stripping them of their essential freedoms. And no society has the moral right to do this.

For all to be free, each person must have a place in society that is theirs by right, and not by privilege, or charity. It must be a right which cannot be taken away simply because a person is not earning money; a right which allows us all, including the homeless, a place in the world, with justice, dignity, and autonomy. If we cannot do this, then none of us are truly free. Ω



Dorothy Day, Catholic Worker founder

NEW ORLEANS CATHOLIC WORKER

ST. THOMAS HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

1910 Constance St.
New Orleans, LA
70130

Phone: 504-527-5363

Email: cw@nolacatholicworker.org

(T)he revelers came onto the screen. Bin Laden was dead, ding-dong, the wicked witch was dead, evil itself had been destroyed, and the virtuous U.S.A. is finally victorious... In the process, we have learned that great wealth, military might, and technological sophistication can be humiliated by impoverished men who live in caves... This is not victory; this is humiliation, and thank God for that, because only out of humiliation will we learn not to do this again. -Jeff Dietrich, *Catholic Agitator*, June 2011

Around the House

by Stephanie Malinowski

June in New Orleans means the start of summer plans, a bounty of blackberries from our garden, and heat, heat, heat! As our fruits from the earth grow, so do those of our community life around the St. Thomas house, and there is much to feel gratitude for. The end of Lenten season was followed by a restorative Easter, celebrated in the good company of friends. Our community was also fortunate to participate in a reverent procession of Hope House's Way of the Cross.

The Spirit was abundantly present during April, having brought us several visitors, including a Jesuit novice on pilgrimage and friends from the New York Catholic Worker. We were also graced by visits from

family, Katy's sister and niece, on one occasion, and Katy's father, on another. He arrived just in time to witness Micah's baptism, which was a joyful ceremony for all involved and especially for parents Joe and Katy and brother, Cylis.

Our call for volunteer support was answered when Helena Carlsson joined our house as a volunteer from Stockholm, Sweden. Her gentle spirit and lovely singing and guitar playing were among her many gifts shared with our community. We were also grateful for her international experience and perspective brought to our table.

In May, Helena returned to Sweden, and another volunteer, Pavan Lewis, joined us from California where he was working at an emergency shelter in local religious congregations. He comes full with enthusiasm and experience in areas of leadership and justice, and we look forward to his participation in our community.

In addition to receiving these visitors and new friends, our Bible Study group finished a study of Acts. We appreciate the presence and contributions of all who attended over the months, and do plan to resume our study in the fall. After some time in reflection, we are ready again to invite new guests into our house, and pray that we can offer them a supportive communal space. In other

news, Joe was fortunate to take on a new job with daytime hours. Dan received much peace and spiritual nourishment on a retreat he helped lead for homeless men. I enjoyed a visit from a college friend, as well as a trip to Tuscaloosa, AL to take part in the ongoing relief work since the tornadoes that devastated many communities in Alabama and other areas of the South.

We continue to grow in our understanding of the justice issues affecting immigrants and migrant workers, while recognizing their complexity and the fact that we've much to learn. During our Clarifications of Thought, Sue Weishar led us in a presentation on the threatened status of Haitian migrants in Louisiana and the deportation raids which have unjustly wrought their communities. Members of the Congress of Day Laborers shared a presentation on their Right to Remain Campaign, part of a movement to secure rights for Latino/a peoples to stay in the places like New Orleans where they've worked and made their homes.

As I recall all of these recent events, I arrive again at immense gratitude. How good life is when we can share in it together, and support one another on our individual undertakings. Blessings on your summer months ahead! Ω



Helena and Colleen sing at St. Thomas House

(Thelen, Continued from page 1)

3) Finding ways to educate myself on racism and seeking out people with whom I can talk openly.

My eyes have only been opened because there have been courageous people in my life who have been willing to talk with me and educate me about racism. There are many books about undoing racism and workshops like the "People's Institute for Survival and Beyond" in New Orleans that are extremely useful for helping people see how injustices play out in unconscious and unseen ways in our lives. More importantly, they offer great tools as to how we can become stronger activists for racial equity and solidarity.

These are three ideas just to get started. America is a country that is incredibly rich in diversity, but at times sorely lacking in solidarity. I pray that we may in fact be emboldened to widen our perspectives, our circles of friends, and mostly our hearts to people of different races and unite together to create a more just and abundant society for all people. Ω

Flowers Will Win

By Jacob Michael

One day flowers
will be the FBI
headquarters and
vines will cover CIA
torture chambers
man

Langley VA will be
everything it was meant to
when there are no more
secret police
and

they say not one domestic terror
attack since nine – eleven
but I seen the FBI raid homes
of school teachers and school
children and SOA and Guantanamo Bay
trains terrorists every day
but

one day flowers will
cover the FBI headquarters
and vines will cover CIA
torture chambers



Pat Down, graffiti art by Banksy

Jacob Michael is a Charlotte area poet. This poem was published at the site www.JesusRadicals.com. His blog can be read at www.jacobmichael.org.