

Hail, hail, the gang was (mostly) all here: John, Laura, Eleanor, Gerard, Elizabeth, Laisz, Ann, Walt and Paul.

1. Faith-sharing - Eleanor chose one of the "Earth Prayers" (Chief Seattle's). We prayed also about the passing of Larry's father and for the Reeves family.
2. & 3. Approval of January minutes and February agenda - Smooth as silk! Mirabile!
4. & 5. Our 3/29 gig and Farm Bill. See New Biz.

NEW BIZ

- 6a. Status of Farm Bill - It's effective in 2012 and is now before the Senate Agricultural Committee. Desirable changes include more opportunity for small farmers, better access to markets, healthier food availability, growth of regional markets, environmental stewardship, a watchful eye and suspicion about genetically-engineered foods, reduction in farm subsidies for agribusiness.
- 6b. What To Do About It ? - We agreed we'd all write Sen. Feinstein, an influential member of the Senate committee.
7. 3/29 Presentation - We divvied up the tasks [#9 below.] We decided Elizabeth would set the stage [table?] with a Blessing before Meals. This will be a handout also. Its emphasis will be on the sacredness of the meal and care and respect for its sources. She'll mention a handout she has about our Western diet. She'll try to get some pastoral scenes from "Our Daily Bread" as background. She'll then introduce Ann for Salad.
Salad: Ann will compare local with foreign imports; refer to a handout of safer vegetables; mention that about 55% of CA's farm labor is undocumented. She'll introduce Paul.
 - b. Meat - some meat statistics, the bovine, porcine, poultry messes; animal feed operations; health issues, antibiotics. He'll introduce Eleanor
 - c. non-meat alternatives: high-protein items, Lappe's Small Planet Meals, rice and beans. She'll introduce Laisz.
 - c. Fish - Laisz will talk about trawler over-fishing, farm fish. In discussion Ann said there are duelling scientists on the issue and, depending on the process, they can be good; case-by-case study is needed. Laisz will introduce Laura.
 - d. Dessert (just Coffee and Chocolate) - Fair trade stuff.
8. Resources: We're pretty OK for research sites. We decided fewer paper handouts but more on power point. Handouts thus far: Blessing before Meals, list of safer vegetables, list of useful websites.
- 9, Divvy up - done. [See #7]
10. Spiritual and moral elements - Elizabeth has this in hand.
11. Another meeting? We said Yes, OLRH 3/18, 7:30 pm. Walt will make reservation. We'll decide then whether we need to meet also on 3/28 (the night before our gig). The Hispanic community has OLRH reserved. If they're using both sides we'll slink through and meet in Kerry's Corner.
12. Future meeting place - Laura will check on availability of the #1 Conference Room or #2, aka the Upper Room/Cenacle.

13. What's On Your Mind? -

- a. Gerard: Mentioned availability of Energy Upgrade California, listing green rebates available and green contractors. There were no takers to his request for a co-liaison person to meet quarterly with other parishes and exchange ideas..
- b. Laisz mentioned a DVD "The End of the Line" about over-fishing. In discussion we learned some developing nations have sold fishing rights to big commercial interests. One result: Somali fishermen, their nets empty, have become piratical fishers of ships.
- d. Walt said he was, for personal reasons, withdrawing from the Green Committee. The membership will need a new note-taker and minute man. Earth Day is 4/22. "Attention must be paid", as Mrs. Loman said. Green Committee ranks are thinning. He urged members to engage a friend. He ask about GM crops. They are sterile and patented, thus requiring poor farmers to buy crop seed from patentees. Misery! GM crops also tend to become dominant and to stifle varietals.
- e. Laura: She's going to reissue her ZWIP flier. Folks are still not being careful. There's a problem with single-ply compostable cups - too hot! So people are using two!. Laura provided sleeves - folks use two cups and a sleeve! Solution: Costco has cheaper Dixie cups with a paper (compostable) liner. . . . Let us pray.
- f. Elizabeth : Suggested we have wider publicity for our 3/29 gig. Walt will prepare something for the deanery and Gerard will use it for the diocesan green website. Elizabeth knows of some "green liturgies" that give focus to our connection and interconnection with the planet. She suggested that our refreshments for 3/29 should be in keeping with our green theme. Walt will tell Bev that we'd like to provide fruit and other healthful provender that will be fair trade, organic, local and brimming with natural goodness.

14. Next meeting - 7:30, 3/18, OLR. See #11 about maybe Kerry's Corner.

15. Faith-sharing - We'll use Elizabeth's 2/28 "Prayer before a Green Team/Committee Meeting."