

Present: Gerard McGuire, Eleanor Hansen, Katia Reeves, Laura Chiu, Mary Ann Ho, Laicz Lam, Ann Akey, Walt Lundin

1. We began with a simple prayer.
2. & 3. The November minutes and our agenda made the cut.
Announcements: We learned that Elizabeth Fitting this year will be spending a lot of time out of town doing presentations and stuff. She asks to still receive our communications and will help when she can. Rosemary Gill and Mary Ann Ho also informed us that they too will be busy, busy, busy and are withdrawing from the committee. We thank all three for their participation. Ladies: When your circumstances permit, our welcome mat (free range, organic and compostable) is always out.

OLD BIZ

4. Post mortem of 11/2/10 Spirituality Tuesday - We thought Elizabeth did a superior job of leading the discussion. We'd have felt merrier with more, but were told that the attendance was up to par.

5. Follow-up to November "What's On Your Mind?" -

- a. . List "Ten Most Influential Books" [or some other description] on our website:
We decided to list them first in the bulletin and then the website. Some titles and ideas mentioned [as I heard them]: Eco-Barons, Greenopoeia, Silent Spring, Earth Prayers, something on cooking and gardening, something from Thomas Berry. [In the midst of all this Mary Ann aptly and flawlessly recited Wordsworth's sonnet "Westminster Bridge"]. Katia will give us a selection list. Send her any additional book suggestions.
- b. Need for "legislative advocacy": The Nov. election results have weakened chances for significant federal climate change legislation. Funding for enforcement of environmental regulations by the EPA may be reduced. Statewide [CA] there are better chances for environmental measures, but adequate funding is doubtful. We concluded that we'll just follow the issues and await some unifying actions we can support. (I think it was at about this point that) Eleanor suggested we push the envelope a little more than we have, while continuing to rely on principles found in scriptural, conciliar, papal, episcopal and other Church sources. [This is a summation of a lengthy discussion.]

NEW BIZ

5.5 [added to agenda] Bottled water - There is strong consensus that tap water is very much cheaper and as potable as bottled water and readily available around town. The plastic bottles use energy in their manufacture and transportation and too often end up, with an eonic shelf life in landfills. SVdP nonetheless asks for bottled water with food donations. Paul asked them about this and learned SVdP thinks nothing else is feasible for providing water. So we did a little poverty simulation: We're poor, maybe homeless, maybe on foot and thirsty, at University

& Waverley. Where's available water? Police Dept., City Hall, downtown library, the pay toilet on Hamilton (50 cents), the park near Avenidas, perhaps the train station. It's around, but you have to know where and walk. Conclusion: SVdP clients have it tough enough and, compared to the middle class, leave only a tiny footprint. All things considered: continue to offer bottled water.

6. Plans for this year - What should we work on; have we the energy to work on it?: We had a broad and diffuse discussion. We concluded that we can and must remain active. We discussed:

- a. A Catholic Green Initiative 6-part educational series (details not yet available),
- b. Our 3/29 Spirituality Tuesday event (subject TBD)
- c. Start a build-up for observance of Earth Day 4/22.
- d. Something on food preparation and gardening, maybe using a speaker from the World Centric Group and add an element of spirituality. [Elizabeth: any suggestions on this subject?]
- e. Carbon fast for Lent [Ash Wednesday is 2/9]
- f. We should develop a year's calendar.
- g. Bike to Mass campaign in the Spring when the sap runs.
- h. Book reports.

7. Plans for Earth Day 4/22 - Walt wrote CGI for their plans. [1/25 CGI executive director Tony Strawa wrote Walt, asked for phone conference. Stay tuned.]

8. Carbon footprint report - Katia reported: Our energy consumption is down (very modestly); still working on OLR stove problem; we plan to publish our 2009 vs. 2010 comparisons; keep closing dem doors. A major mystery: Gas at SAG/SESS since 7/10 has inexplicably exceeded 2009's performance. We can think of no reason. It's a puzzlement. (Someone wondered: Gas leak?)

9. Message from Elizabeth - See "Announcements" above.

10. What's On Your Mind? -

- a. Eleanor - do more research on bottled water; interested in food growing and preparation; parishioners want "information, not nagging".
- b. Less meat is better all around. Meatless Monday, meatless Friday or both; carbon fast.
- c. Laura: With ZWIP well underway, are our garbage bills lower or higher? Are the bins filled? If not, can we get smaller capacity bins? At OLR, between us and ISP, is there too much capacity? What is the cost split?
- d. Gerard: John Miller (Holy Spirit) has some energy audit ideas. Gerard will connect him with Katia. Gerard suggested Walt should offer his GreenNews digest to parishioners
- e. Katia: City will change lights at SESS. She'll put something in the bulletin on this.
- e. Walt: We should re-stock our committee. He'll put something in the bulletin, but members, one-on-one, should try to enlist their buddies.

f. Mary Ann: Started brief discussion about carbon footprint of flower purchases for church decorations. This is something to think about. The OLR Site Committee will muse about this.

g. Someone suggested we ask Fr. Matt to come again to one of our meetings.

11. Next meeting: 2/28; location TBD.

Faith-sharing volunteer, please.