

## Green Committee Minutes

**Date:** 6/28/2011

**Place:** Pastoral Center Conference Room 1

**Attendants:** Katia, Laisz, Ann, Gerard, Laura

**Faith Sharing:** Katia brought a prayer from Elizabeth which we used before, but Gerard offered a new one called "Earth, Teach Me" by the Ute tribe, which we used.

**Organization:** Still no "chair", but Laura will take minutes and email them

**Regular meeting time and place:** Fourth Tuesday, Pastoral Center (permanently booked)

### Potential Projects:

- Green Corner: Katia will continue.
- Liaison to Diocese's Catholic Green Initiative of Santa Clara County: Gerard to continue, from last meeting: of the 59 parishes in the diocese, trying to get some to start Green Teams such as ours, planning a series of articles to run in the Valley Catholic (he is to come up with topic e.g. air, water, energy, food choices etc.; perhaps we can author an article), want to cover some accomplishments by the different parishes, such as our energy audit, Holy Spirit parish's solar roof etc., Chancery needs to set example so a questionnaire is being developed to let staff report on energy usage patterns at the Chancery; e.g., total shut down of PC's before leaving? Eschew bottled water?
- Building & Maintenance Committee recently established a policy to replace every cut tree with TWO new trees. There are 10+ sick trees cut at OLR a couple years ago. Stumps were not removed because of high costs. Maybe we can do fund-raiser to remove the stumps (approximately \$350 each) and plant new trees.
- ISP has installed double-paned windows to save on energy costs, benefitting the parish as well, since we share the same set of utilities meters. We can consider doing the same for all buildings in parish.
- Waiting for utilities bills to come so we can calculate the reduction of carbon footprint over last year.
- Every time the parish is doing repair/remodel, we must think of "green" options, for appliances (Energy Star), carpet (recycled materials), paints (non toxic), windows, light bulbs, pews (wood harvested in a sustainable manner), everything. We ARE already doing so: LED exit signs, motion sensor switch, not accepting gas stove for STA because it has pilot lights that burn 24/7 (like OLR's). Green Committee can do the research and put links on website for everyone's reference.
- Replace stove at OLR and SAG Gym
- Organize special "green events" on special key dates: e.g.
  - 11/11/11 check out 350.org for suggestions
  - 11/19-20/2011 Faith Formation Conference - Exhibit Table
  - 2/12/2012 Commemoration of Sister Dorothy Stang (who was killed in Brazil standing with poor farmers and land stewardship)
  - 3/22/2012 World Water Day
  - 3/31/2012 Cesar Chavez Day ( Labor & Civil Rights Organizer - pesticide in fields)

3/31/2012 Earth Hour (8:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

4/22/2012 Earth Day

5/12/2012 Fair Trade Day

6/5/2012 World Environment Day

6/17/2012 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- Advocacy, political support of “green” initiatives, legislature, etc.
- Plant more trees
- E-Waste collection
- Rummage sale to promote “Re-Use” as well as to raise funds
- Establish a “Tools Bank” for parish
- Green library for green theology (books, videos, DVD’s)
- Purchase and have installed at all sites: Programmable thermostats
- Conduct JustFaith module for Climate Change (maybe in conjunction with Diocese/surrounding parishes)
- More presentations at Spirituality Tuesday Assemblies (e.g. for Lent, talk about leading simple lives)
- Have table at Sept 18<sup>th</sup> Parish picnic to do games, quiz, hand out brochures, recruit new members --- YES !!!!! (Ann has this great idea) Possibilities: taste test between water from bottom, tap, filters etc. Sorting game for garbage, compostables, recyclables. Invite GreenWast rep to come, get brochures etc.
- Arts competitions with recyclables, as part of SAG 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (Katia to talk to the committee head, Mary Martinsen)
- Bike–To-Mass in August (after thoughts from Laura: can do it over several weekends. Invite all who did not drive solo (family) to fill up lucky drawing entry forms and put into donation baskets. At parish picnic, do a drawing. Prizes can be bike stuff – solar head lights, helmets, locks, etc.

**Interfaith Power and Light**, should we join? Gerard: used to be member of their peninsula chapter but they went dormant for a while and now he is too busy to re-join the group. Paul has more info so we can discuss further at next meeting when Paul is here. Could be just sign up with the yahoo group and get updates and newsletters.

Next TWO meetings: July 26<sup>th</sup> and Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>

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