Catholic Worker Movement: 75 Years!

“The Catholic Worker movement celebrates it 75th birthday. It did not dissolve after Dorothy Day’s passing in 1980. The seeds of the movement were planted in the most fertile and enduring soil—the daily practice of the works of mercy. The work itself is the tie that binds, sustains, unites and brings great joy.” —Willa Bickham and Brendan Walsh, Baltimore Catholic Worker

by Gary Cavalier

The Catholic Worker movement started on May 1, 1933 when co-founders Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin produced the first copy of the Catholic Worker newspaper and sold it in Union Square in New York for a penny a copy.

In this newsletter we provide information on two new DVD’s and two new books which focus on Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement. At the end of each article is information on where to order the DVD or book. We will also have copies available at the Catholic Worker to borrow.

In April, Mark Kelso moved into the Catholic Worker house. He has been cooking the soup on Saturday mornings for many years and is a member of the Third Order of the Carmelites. Mark is also studying Religious Studies at Regis University.

We mourn the passing of Fr. James Swenson, Pastor of St. Bridget’s Roman Catholic Church in downtown Las Vegas. Fr. Swenson was very generous to our ministry and he had a big heart for “God’s poor”.

Since March, parishioners of St. John Neumann have been making about 100 sack lunches every Thursday which we have been giving out to day laborers around the neighborhood.

This August the Las Vegas Catholic Worker will celebrate 22 years of service to the poor and homeless citizens of this city. Thank you for your generous support over these many years.
The Catholic Worker after Dorothy

Practicing the Works of Mercy in a New Generation by Dan McKanan

When Dorothy Day died in 1980, many people assumed that the movement she had founded would gradually fade away. But the current state of the Catholic Worker movement—more than two hundred active communities—reflects Day’s fierce attention to the present moment and the local community. "These communities have prospered," according to Dan McKanan, "because Day and Peter Maurin provided them with a blueprint that emphasized creativity more than rigid adherence to a single model." Day wanted Catholic Worker communities to be free to shape their identities around the local needs and distinct vocations of their members. Open to single people and families, in urban and rural areas, the Catholic Worker and its core mission have proven to be both resilient and flexible. The Catholic Worker after Dorothy explores the reality of Catholic Worker communities today. What holds them together? How have they developed to incorporate families? How do Catholic Workers relate to the institutional church and to other radical communities? What impact does the movement have on the world today?

This book is available from Liturgical Press, call toll free: (800) 858-5450 or the website is www.litpress.org

Dorothy Day: Don't Call Me A Saint

Dorothy Day: Don’t Call Me A Saint tells the story of the New York writer and Catholic anarchist who the Vatican is currently considering for canonization. But Dorothy is no ordinary saint. Dorothy’s career began as a writer for radical papers during the Bohemian whirl of 1917 Greenwich Village. There was a doomed affair, an attempted suicide and an abortion; love anew, the birth of her daughter and a conversion to Catholicism. Her conversion, however, forced her to sacrifice her common-law marriage, and her quest "to build a new world in the shell of the old" cost her only child a normal life.

The film begins at the height of the Depression with Dorothy meeting the French peasant philosopher, Peter Maurin. To order this film, contact writer/director/producer Claudia Larsen at: dorothydaydoc.com.

Hot Dog Feasts This Summer

Christ the King Catholic Community is again providing hot dogs, watermelon and macaroni salad this summer for our morning soup line. We can use volunteers to help serve up this meal. Dates are: June 5, July 3, August 7 & Sept. 4. Call: 647-0728