

MANNA *in the wilderness*

May 2008

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

Volume 22, Number 3

Catholic Worker Movement: 75 Years!

"When college students are so often offered models of sanctity that are two-dimensional, irrelevant or boring, Sarah Melici's vivid and engaging presentation of Dorothy Day as a woman of humor, intelligence, passion, and conviction is a welcome and energizing alternative."

—HARRY MCDARGH, PHD, Boston College, MA

SARAH MELICI IN

Fool for Christ

THE STORY OF
Dorothy Day



The DVD of Sarah Melici's one-person play, *Fool for Christ: The Story of Dorothy Day* is now available. Sarah performed her play in Las Vegas seven years ago for the Las Vegas Catholic Worker's 15th anniversary. In the play Sarah discusses Peter Maurin, co-founder with Day of the Catholic Worker Newspaper and Movement, her daughter, Tamar; Forster Batterham, her common law husband and many others.

Daniel Berrigan, SJ, poet and activist writes: "*Fool for Christ* brings to the stage the story of a woman whose folly immeasurably surpassed the wisdom of this world. Dorothy Day was one of the guiding

lights of my lifetime. Without her courage and constancy, the church (and myself) would have been impoverished beyond my power of telling. We need not mourn her death: in this monologue, passionate, funny and heartfelt, Dorothy lives. Sarah Melici has graced us with a splendid evening. I can think of no greater praise, *Fool for Christ* is worthy of the original Dorothy."

For further information, the website is www.foolforchrist.com or call (732) 345-0573.

To order the DVD send a check or money order for \$19.99 per DVD plus \$5 shipping to: Sarah Melici, 28 Riverside Ave. #7L, Red Bank, NJ 07701.

"The Catholic Worker movement celebrates its 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, parishoners 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 DUTY of DELIGHT The Diaries of Dorothy Day Edited by Robert Ellsberg

According to Dorothy Day's wishes, her personal papers were to be sealed for twenty-five years after her death, that anniversary happened in November 2005 and Marquette University Press has produced the first of two volumes of edited diaries. Following are some excerpts from her journals: June 29, 1938

Thinking gloomily of the sins and shortcomings of others, it suddenly came to me to remember my own offenses, just as heinous as those of others. If I concern myself with my own sins and lament them, if I remember my own failures and lapses, I will not be resentful of others. This was most cheering and lifted the load of gloom from my mind. It makes one unhappy to judge people and happy to love them.

February 27, 1939

Every morning I break my fast with the men in the breadline. Some of them speak to me. Many of them do not. But they know me and I know them. And there is a sense of comradeship there. We know each other in the breaking of bread.

Available from Marquette University Press, www.marquette.edu/mupress/

WEBSITES:

www.lvcw.org

www.catholicworker.org

Hot Dog Feasts This Summer

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

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.

PRAY FOR
PEACE
IN OUR
WORLD!

(FOR
TAB)

*Thanks to all our
Donors who make this
ministry possible!*

Empty Bowl Benefit

The Eighth Annual Empty Bowl Event held April 5, raised over \$22,000 for our ministry with the poor and homeless. Sales of tickets and extra bowls was up 11% over last year's event.

Voter's Guide

A 12 page guide for the 2008 election is available from Maryknoll's Office for Global Concerns titled Loving Our Neighbor in a Shrinking World. Request copies by mail to P.O. Box 29132, Wash-

ington, D.C. 20017, by telephoning 202-832-1780, by e-mailing ogc@maryknoll.org or a PDF copy is available from www.maryknollogc.org/2008elections/index.htm.

Tamar Hennesy, R.I.P.

Dorothy Day's daughter Tamar died March 24, 2008 at the age of 82. Tamar married William Hennesy in 1944 and had 9 children. She was an accomplished spinner and weaver and a skilled organic gardener.

PLEASE JOIN US:

Wednesday-Saturday, 6:00 a.m.:

Morning prayer at Catholic Worker.

Wednesday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.:

Breakfast served at G & McWilliams street to the poor and homeless.

Last Saturday of month, 8:00 a.m.:

Deliver food to homes in need.

Wednesday, 8 a.m. - noon:

Hospitality Day, we invite 15 homeless men & women home for showers, to wash clothes, & lunch.

Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.:

Vigil for Peace in front of Federal Courthouse, 333 S. Las Vegas Blvd.

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