

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL NEVADA CLAY GUILD Empty Bowl

Benefit



Luncheon and Auction

(ARTWORK BY CHRISTA OCCHIOGROSSO)

Helping to Feed the Hungry in Las Vegas

Saturday, April 5, 2014

11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Green Valley High

School Cafeteria,

460 Arroyo Grande Blvd.

(just North of Warm Springs Rd.)

Henderson, NV, Adults: \$15,

Children 12 & under: \$12

A lunch of soup and bread will be served in hand-made bowls. Each attendee will select their own unique ceramic bowl made by members and friends of the Nevada Clay Guild and keep it as a lasting reminder of world hunger. All proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the Las Vegas Catholic Worker and their soup line serving the poor and homeless. There will be a live auction of original ceramic art and art from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. A silent auction will also take place. Tickets will be sold at the door. For advance tickets or info contact Julia at 234-0755 / julia@lvcw.org or Donna at 799-0950 x114034. Thanks to Green Valley High School, Aardvark Clay, and all the artists who participated in making the bowls. This event is sponsored by the Nevada Clay Guild, Green Valley High School, Aardvark Clay, and the Fiber Guild.

<http://lvcw.org/emptybowl>
Buy tickets online (small fee)

MANNA

in the wilderness

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker
March 2014

Volume 28, Number 3

Willing to Give It a Try

by Gary Cavalier

The Catholic Worker house is on the "Pioneer Trail" and was built by the Christensens, an African American couple. Built in 1933, it is one of the oldest homes, if not the oldest home still standing in Las Vegas.

I was unaware that Las Vegas was a segregated city in the 1940's and 1950's until I moved out here twenty-three years ago. Famous black entertainers such as Sammy Davis Jr. and Nat King Cole had to walk in the back doors of the casinos they performed in and could not stay in the casino hotels. They stayed in the Westside in boarding houses until segregation ended in 1960. This neighborhood has had a lot of struggles and a rich history. St. James the Apostle was the second Catholic Church built in Las Vegas (in 1940) and is also on the "Pioneer Trail". One block south from the Catholic Worker house is Jackson Street, the main street in a once thriving neighborhood. When segregation ended, many black middle class families moved to other parts of Las Vegas and the neighborhood began a slow decline.

One morning doing dishes after the Catholic Worker morning soup line, I said; "I should go down to the barber shop one block away instead of driving to a barber shop a few miles away to get my haircut, but I was apprehensive about going there because I was uncertain how I would be received in an African American barber shop." One of the men who lives with us said; "That's just wrong, Gary! The barber there has a barber license and can cut any kind of hair."

Well, about six years later I was in need of a haircut and from

our house I could see there were no customers, so I walked one block to Jackson Street and walked into the barber shop.

The barber asked me, "What do you want?" I said, "I would like a haircut." He said, "I don't know if I can cut your pretty hair." and I was wondering if he wanted me to go? From the sound of his voice, I decided he was asking me sincerely, so I said, "I'm willing to give it a try if you're willing to give it a try." He said "Okay" and an hour later I had a nice haircut.

It turns out Mr. Dixon has had Dixon's Barber Shop since 1965. He is 80 years old and still enjoys cutting hair and talking to people.

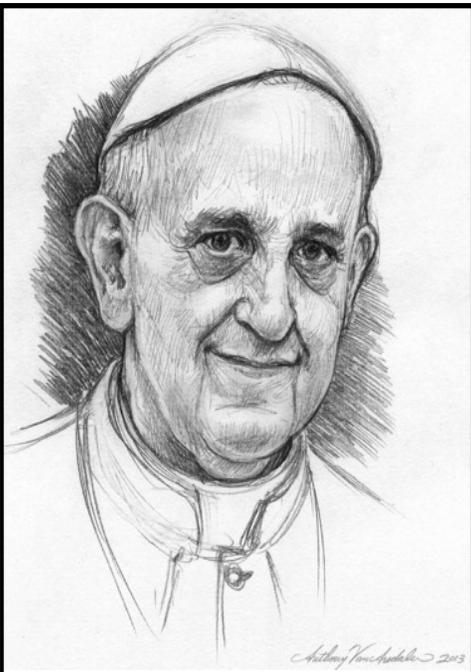
He knew about the Catholic Worker house and asked if we were going to put cold water in the alley for people walking by again this summer.

We ended up talking about my former neighbor Mrs. McLemore (she died five years ago) and then he asked if I knew what became of Sherry Lee Walker. I did, because our volunteers Peggy and Dale Devitt had been bringing her food boxes for years and when Sherry Lee became ill and moved into a Convalescent Hospital, Peggy kept visiting her until she passed away.

After the haircut, I told Mr. Dixon I would come by once in awhile for a haircut to "keep him in practice." He has seen me for years driving by the barber shop, but now I wave every time I pass by.

For a brochure about the Catholic Worker house (The Christensen home) and other historic places see: <http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/files/PioneerTrailBroch.pdf>.

LAS VEGAS CATHOLIC WORKER, 500 W. VAN
BUREN AVE., LAS VEGAS, NV 89106-3039



“War is madness. It is the suicide of humanity. It is an act of faith in money, which for the powerful of the earth is more important than the human being.”
-Pope Francis,
March 5, 2013

Pope Francis: War is a Scandal

(Vatican Radio) War is a scandal to be mourned every day. These were the words of Pope Francis at Mass on Tuesday morning (February 25, 2014) in the Vatican’s Casa Santa Marta.

We see war in the newspapers every day, Pope Francis said, and we’re used to reading about it: the number of its victims is just part of our daily accounts. We hold events to commemorate the centenary of the Great War and everyone is scandalised by the many millions of dead. But today it’s the same, Pope Francis exclaimed: instead of one great war, there are small wars everywhere. When we were children in Sunday School and we were told the story of Cain and Abel, we couldn’t accept that someone would kill their own brother. And yet today millions kill their own brothers and we’re used to it: there are entire peoples divided, killing each other over a piece of land, a racial hatred, an ambition.

Think of the children starving in refugee camps, Pope Francis continued: these are the fruits of war. And then think of the great dining rooms, of the parties held by

those who control the arms industry, who produce weapons. Compare a sick, starving child in a refugee camp with the big parties, the good life led by the masters of the arms trade. And remember, the Pope added, that the wars, the hatred, the hostility aren’t products we buy at the market: they’re right here, in our hearts. The Apostle James gives us a simple piece of advice: “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” But the spirit of war, which draws us away from God, doesn’t just reside in distant parts of the world: the spirit of war comes from our own hearts.

Let us pray for peace, Pope Francis concluded, for that peace which seems to have been reduced to a word and nothing more. Let us follow James’ advice: “Recognise your misery.” Let us recognise, the Pope prayed, that misery which breeds wars within families, within neighbourhoods, everywhere. How many of us weep when we read the newspapers, when we see the dead on television? This is what Christians should do today, in the face of war: we should weep, we should mourn.

Letters from St. John Neumann Youth

In October of last year, students from the Youth Ministry at St. John Neumann Catholic Church came to serve at the Catholic Worker as part of their Social Justice Retreat. Following are some excerpts of letters from the students and the Director of Youth Ministry:

“Enclosed you will find copies of the letters the students were sincere about. Please see how much your work is valued in the community and among the students. Thank you for your continued commitment and dedication of doing something special for our community and for inspiring others to serve, welcome, and to see Christ in every person we come in contact with everyday. May God’s peace be with each of you and all who help to keep the Catholic Worker alive.” *Sincerely, Lori Ann Gabriel, Director of Youth Ministry*

“Thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate is such an eye-opening experience. It really changed my view on how homeless people live. They showed so much appreciation just to get one meal. Some of them were even generous enough to share their meals, even though they didn’t know when their next meal

was going to be. They are very nice people, I appreciate what you guys do for them.”

“The experience I had today showed me that the people who aren’t as lucky as me are struggling everyday. You showed me a door that I have never seen before. I feel lucky to be able to come home everyday to a house with food, beds, etc.”

“The place I was impacted the most was when we went to the Catholic Worker. It was nice, I enjoyed myself. I was the plate guy and the napkin guy too. It’s hard to describe the feeling I got, but it was good.”

“The thing that impacted me the most was when we went to feed the homeless. This affected me because I was surprised because of the amount of people that showed up for a meal. Also, how respectful each person was to one another and us students.”

“It made me feel joy that I could do something for someone else. It was a happy experience, nothing like I expected it to be.”

THE WORKS OF MERCY

- Feed the Hungry*
- Clothe the Naked*
- Give Drink to the Thirsty*
- Shelter the Homeless*
- Visit the Imprisoned*
- Care for the Sick*
- Bury the Dead*

THE WORKS OF WAR

- Destroy Crops*
- Seize Food Supplies*
- Contaminate Water*
- Destroy Homes*
- Scatter Families*
- Imprison Dissenters*
- Inflict Wounds and Burns*
- Kill the Living*

PLEASE JOIN US:

- Wednesday-Saturday, 6:00 a.m.:** Morning prayer at Catholic Worker.
- Wednesday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.:** Breakfast served to 150-200 poor & homeless people.
- Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.:** Hospitality Day, we invite 20 homeless men home for showers, to wash clothes, and for a great lunch.
- Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.:** Vigil for Peace in front of Federal Courthouse, 333 Las Vegas Blvd. S.
- Thursday, 10:30 a.m.:** 50 lunches taken to the homeless.
- Third Saturday of the month:** Deliver food boxes to homes in need.