



# St. Francis / St. Joseph Catholic Worker

Summer  
2005

□ P.O. Box 10118 □ Cincinnati, Ohio 45210 □ 1437 Walnut Street □ (513) 381-4941 □

## OUR MISSION

St. Francis/St. Joseph House of Hospitality strives to provide hospitality to homeless men. We recognize that God created each human being with great dignity and respect. The community of those of us who live and work at St. Francis/St. Joseph House of Hospitality desire to uphold this principle and to serve our guests accordingly. (Rev. 12/11/98)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mark C. Schmieder**

**Brennan Hill**

**Joyce Kiernan**

**Michael Harmon**

**Arlene Turner**

**House Manager: Karl Fields**



## ***We Dedicate this Issue to Sister Dorothy (Dot) Stang, Sister of Notre Dame, (Cincinnati, Oh)***

On Feb. 12, 2005, Saturday, it was a rainy day and Sister Dorothy had just returned to the small village of Boa Esperaca in the Amazon region of Brazil. She had traveled there after taking food and clothing to families whose homes had been burned by ranchers and logging companies intent upon driving out the poor farmers. Sister Dorothy was walking to a meeting with the farmers to see what could be done about the worsening situation when two men approached her with weapons drawn. As the gunmen pointed their weapons at her, Sister Dorothy reached into her simple cloth bag, took out her Bible and began reading the Beatitudes... "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." After some hesitation, the killers shot her six times at point blank range, and she died on the muddy road.

Sister Dorothy died as she lived. Completely selfless. Faithful to the Gospel. Committed to social justice and devoted to the mission to educate and stand with poor.

Sister Dorothy began her work in Brazil nearly 40 years ago along with four other sisters. She was committed to the cause of the oppressed and poor farmers. And about a year ago, a graduate student was reading about her work with the farmers in the sustainable and self development and went to visit her. In his visit, the student decided to make a documentary and today there is a video documentary of her work which now has ensured more awareness and the future of the work for the oppressed and the development of the oppressed farmers.

Sister Dorothy's death has heightened the awareness of the plight of the oppressed throughout the world.

## KARL FIELDS, HOUSE MANAGER



Karl came to house as a staff worker in November, 2002 and became House Manager in February, 2004. His goal as House Manager is to be an example, a light to those in

darkness so they may see for themselves a way out. He states,

"Not long ago I too was a former convict, an addict, and a person in darkness. Thanks to a lot of prayers from family and friends, and hard work and a program called **Oasis**, I was able to overcome my adversity.

Today, along with a great staff and team, we carry the message of recovery not only from drugs and alcohol but also for changing ones life-style attitude and behavior. At this time I would like to personally thank everyone who supports our mission and ministry. Your efforts are greatly appreciated."

## IN MEMORIAM

**Alma Sullivan** died on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the age of 95. She had been a volunteer at the House till about five years ago but she continued to visit the House till 2 years ago. We thank God for her peaceful death and may she now have eternal peace.

### Recent Statement from South African Bishops:

"The recent devastation in South East Asia has shown that when the citizens of the world demand it, political leaders can act. However, poverty kills the equivalent of a tsunami every week through the world, a situation that is completely unacceptable and which requires the same political will if it is to be overcome."

### August is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Atomic Weapons Usage..

The least we can do is to pray for the decrease and limitations of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.



Hunger Walk, May 30, 2005, Mark Schmieder & Gail Miller crossing finish line. Supporters of the House participated in the fund-raising for the House in the Hunger Walk sponsored by the Freestore-Foodbank

**Thank you** to the **Sisters of Charity** and the **Sisters of the Precious Blood** for their recent support and donations

**Special Thanks** to the **UC/XU Helpout** for their Cleanup and Paint-up Assistance.

### WISH LIST

Upright Freezer  
Pillows  
Sheets (Single), Pillow Cases  
Wash Rags  
Towels



# Guests Who Inspire Us

**Lionel**, 53 years old, came to us out of prison, on June 1, 2004. For 32 years, his life had been one of addiction to alcohol and drugs. He was tired, wanted to change, prayed, and got a sponsor and went to meetings.

He left us on September 9, 2004 and has been drug free since June 2004. He states: "I attend AA meetings 6 times a week, and I thank God every day. I don't where I would be if it wasn't for God and the St. Francis/ St. Joseph House for being there for me.



**Kevin**, has been here 3 weeks on May 24, 2005 and has been sober (Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>) for six months. Kevin has been battling alcohol since 1996 and is 45 years old and has been Sober for two years but employment opportunities keep eluding him as he lost his driver's license. But with his plumbing skills he has installed a new water heater to replace the severely leaking one we had here at the House and did some minor electrical work here. Kevin has his goals set and is developing a spiritual life. He is trying to be very patient with not having a car and being able to get a job. He has been employed as a day laborer with a temporary employment agency.



## Way of the Cross

The staff, residents, and the Anawim Community sponsored the station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments; in the city wide observance of the Way of the Cross. The Station as seen in the above picture, is in front of the St. Francis/ St. Joseph Catholic Worker House.

# Dorothy Day: The Non-violent Warrior

..... Brennan Hill

Dorothy Day, the foundress of Catholic Worker Houses, was a pacifist. Please notice the spelling: not "passivist," but "pacifist", from the word "pacific," which means peaceful. Dorothy Day believed that the authentic gospel tradition opposes all war. She knew that Jesus told his disciples: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; Put away the sword; He who lives by the sword dies by the sword." She was aware that for the first 300 years Christians opposed war and were forbidden to be part of the Roman army. After that, Christianity adopted Augustine's "*just war*" theory, and from then on became part of feudal wars, crusades and world wars. Dorothy would have none of it. As a young woman she opposed the First World War. In the 1930's she opposed the rise of Hitler. When most Americans were clueless about Hitler, she was sent to jail for protesting a rally of Nazi-Americans in Madison Square Garden! When the Second World War broke out, she totally opposed it. As a result, many members

of the Catholic Worker movement left her and she had to close some of her Houses. Her newspaper, *The Catholic Worker*, lost many of its readers, but Dorothy Day stuck to her position. When we dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Dorothy cried out in protest. She wondered how President Truman could be a "Tru-man", when he rejoiced in vaporizing and killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people. She was jailed again later, this time for not following the air raid drills.

Dorothy also marched and demonstrated against the Vietnam War. This time she was surprised that so many were finally joining in her cause! In her last years, Dorothy joined Cesar Chavez in his non-violent struggle for rights of the migrant farmers. I call Dorothy a non-violent "warrior" because she was by no means passive. She always actively, loudly, and persistently opposed war with all its violence and destruction of human life. I have no doubt where she would stand today on the war in Iraq!



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