

The Consistent Ethic of Life “Economic Justice—or Injustice?— and Flint”

Fr. Tom Firestone

Tues, Jan 26, 2010 7 pm – 9 pm

Donnelly Hall

Flint is a city in the midst of significant change. Factories and parishes have closed. Resources are restrained and competing interests fight over what remains. A “Consistent Ethic of Life” requires that all people have an opportunity for authentic development through access to adequate resources.

How are resources prioritized between city and suburb?

How does race play a factor in this allocation?

What signs of hope can we find?

How is St. Mary Student Parish involved in supporting economic justice initiatives within Flint?

Fr. Tom Firestone was pastor of St. Mary Student Parish until January of 2005. He currently serves as pastor of St. John Vianney and his parish boundary includes the north side of Flint. He serves as chairperson of FACT (Flint Area Churches Together) an interfaith effort to improve life for residents of Flint through projects on school improvement and blight elimination. He is also instrumental in the ongoing service project for SMSP students with the St. Luke New Life Center.

Recommended reading: “The Fact of Poverty Today” Cardinal Bernardin, January 17, 1985. Available on parish website and at the parish office.

“Poverty is present but, when we plan for the future, the poor are not central to the planning. Poverty is present but, in the policy debates of the nation, the poor exercise little leverage”

Reflection/Discussion Questions:

- 1) How *should* resources be prioritized between city and suburb?
- 2) How can we get past racial bias to address the needs of all citizens?
- 3) Does Ann Arbor or Ypsilanti face similar issues of resource allocation with the surrounding communities?

Action Possibilities: Flint Student Service project: Contact Trista Doyle at: tddoyle@umich.edu or Carolyn Lusch at: lcarnolyn@umich.edu.

Common Grounds Conversation:

“Roger and Me” – SJM will show the 1989 film on GM and Flint

February 2, 2010 at 7pm

Place: St. Mary Student Parish

Resources

Mott Foundation - www.mott.org/about/programs/flintarea/commdev.aspx

Flint Area Congregations Together: www.flintfact.org

American Public Transit Association - www.apta.com

Transportation Riders United - www.detroittransit.org

“An Effort to Save Flint by Shrinking It” -

www.nytimes.com/2009/04/22/business/22flint.html?_r=1

“Caritas in Veritate” Pope Benedict XVI, June, 2009

“Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the Economy,” US Bishops, November, 1986.