

To: Rev. Anthony V. Szakaly, CSC

From: Sean McGuire, M. S. W., Pastoral Associate
St. Ignatius Martyr Parish

Subject: Apostolic Fund Grant

Dear Rev. Anthony,

In the summer of 2008, we received your generous grant of \$1,000 for the Harvest of Justice Conference. The purpose of this letter, with associated attachments, is to let you know how the funds were used, and to give you a little information about the 2008 conference.

This year's event was held on the beautiful campus of St. Edward's University in Austin, and received active involvement and support from several of the Holy Cross clergy at that institution.



As you know, the conference was sponsored by St. Ignatius, Martyr Catholic Church under the leadership of Fr. Joe Tomei, CSC. In addition, the very personable and charismatic Fr. Daniel Groody of Notre Dame was our keynote speaker and did an outstanding job with his presentation to conference attendees, organizers and guests.

I am pleased to provide the following enclosures to help describe the important work completed at this year's event, which your financial support helped bring about:

- ◆ A Summary Report of the Conference
- ◆ The Agenda for the Day
- ◆ Pictorial Reflections of Harvest of Justice Advocates

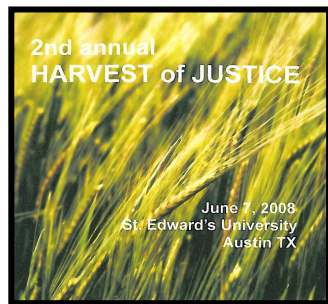
Should you desire any more information, please contact me and I will send it promptly.

Again, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for assisting us in putting on this social justice conference as a day of prayer, learning and a call to action.

Sincerely,

Sean McGuire, Pastoral Associate
St. Ignatius, Martyr Catholic Church
Austin, Texas 78704

cc: Rev. Joseph A. Tomei, CSC



2008 Harvest of Justice Conference Summary & Agenda

The 2nd Annual Harvest of Justice Conference was widely viewed as **a prayerful, informative, and inspirational experience** by the almost 200 participants attending the day-long event. Many people filled out the comprehensive evaluation form, and provided valuable, insightful feedback on the full agenda for the day, including speakers, logistics, activities, and atmosphere. This will help the organizers to continue to improve the Harvest of Justice Conference as we prepare for the 2009 event and beyond.

The most noted feedback was the **overwhelming accolades for Fr. Daniel Groody**, the keynote speaker. People loved the content of his teachings, his engaging style with good humor, and his humility. Fr. Groody, a professor at Notre Dame University, is also an author, film maker, the director of the Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture, a member of the board for JustFaith Ministries, and an international lecturer on subjects of social justice, immigration, and many other areas.

All of the **speakers for the breakout sessions received many very positive comments** for their talks and the discussions they led. Several people who attended the session on Globalization and Racism commented that it was outstanding. Another thing that people liked in these sessions was the opportunity for lively discussions, and the link to specific activities that are available for participants who want to become more involved in working on these issues.

A large number of participants listed the opening prayer service, **The Cloud of Witnesses**, as **awesome, moving**, and setting the tone for the day. They also enjoyed meeting other people who are committed to and active in the work for social justice and peace. These contacts were made throughout the day, particularly in the marketplace of vendors and exhibitors, in the table discussions, and in the breakout sessions. Several people mentioned that they would have liked more opportunities to buy fair trade products in the marketplace, a wonderful sign that so many are connecting buying patterns to justice for workers, fair wages, and human rights.

The venue at St. Edward's University was praised as a great site for the event, one that added an aura of importance and professionalism to the conference. Many noted that we need to be more attentive to controlling the temperature in the meeting rooms, as it was too cold.

The most often suggested area for improvement was the desire to be able to attend more than one breakout session, as all of the speakers and their topics were so powerful and relevant. Other suggested areas for improvement included better advertising, more healthy food options, less free time, and student rates.

All of these comments and suggestions are sincerely appreciated, and will help us to continue to develop this conference into an outstanding, major event for the Austin area in the work for peace and justice. Our hope is that all of you will return next year and bring a friend with you, and that you will invite groups to attend together for a day of prayer, learning, and inspiration.

Perhaps the following quote from Archbishop Oscar Romero best summarizes the conference:

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete but it is a beginning, a step along the way,

an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We pray that the 2008 Harvest of Justice Conference will, with the Lord's grace, produce a **bountiful harvest**.

NOTE: Conference photos are available at petehollandphoto.lifepics.com. Enter the website and click on "harvest".

HARVEST OF JUSTICE CONFERENCE - AGENDA
ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY – AUSTIN, TEXAS
JUNE 7, 2008

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| 8:00 - 8:30 | Optional: attend one of the following 4 prayer experiences: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rosary – led by Tony Ross, St. Ignatius, Martyr2. Centering Prayer – led by John Daniewica, St. Thomas More3. Taize – led by Pierre Riou, St. Mary's Cathedral4. Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) – led by Mike Richardson, St. Ignatius, Martyr |
| 8:30 - 9:20 | Registration and Continental Breakfast – Marketplace Open |
| 9:20 - 9:30 | Music and Seating |
| 9:30 – 9:40 | Welcome |
| 9:40 – 10:15 | Opening Prayer Service – Cloud of Witnesses |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Introduction – Sean McGuire, Pastoral Associate at St. Ignatius |
| 10:30 – 10:50 | Table Introductions (Music at 10:50 to signal end of introductions) |
| 10:50 – 11:10 | Break |
| 11:10 – 11:15 | Music to signal end of break and introduction of Fr. Groody |
| 11:15 – 12:15 | Keynote Address - Fr. Daniel G. Groody, CSC Holy Cross Priest, Assistant Professor of theology at Notre Dame, Author of "Globalization, Spirituality, and Justice" |
| 12:15 – 12:45 | Table Discussion – Keynote (Music at 12:45 to signal end of discussion) |
| 12:45 – 2:15 | Lunch – Marketplace Open |
| 2:15 – 3:15 | Breakout Sessions – see booklet for exact details |
| 3:15 – 3:40 | Break – Last Chance for Marketplace |
| 3:40 – 3:45 | Music to signal end of break |
| 3:45 – 4:45 | Closing Presentation – Fr. Daniel Groody |
| 4:45 – 5:00 | Break |
| 5:00 – 6:00 | Closing Mass |

