



"Co-Responsibility and Care for the Vulnerable"

The Catholic Worker as an Ecclesial Response to Care of the Vulnerable

(Called & Co-Responsible: Summer Seminars for Church Life Renewal, July 8, 2020)

Hosted by Jessica Keating. Featured speakers: John Cavadini, Charles Camosy, and Margaret Pfeil)

- I. Church as Sacrament of the Body of Christ in the World: Eucharistic, incarnate, suffering and resurrected, pain and joy, all held together
 - A. Mt 25: 31-46: Works of mercy - meeting people where they are (personalism); Jesus Christ is present
 1. Tent camp
 2. Quarantine center
 3. Our Lady of the Road and Houses of Hospitality - still open
 - a) Supporting pregnant mothers and their children: We had one birth just after Easter at Our Lady of the Road!
 4. Creating and streaming Taize prayer for our dispersed community
 5. Other Catholic Worker communities have been present in similar ways in their local communities.
 - B. Witness of the Saints and holy people:
 1. Mary, Dorothy Day, St. Oscar Romero, St. Therese, and St. Brother Andre have been especially important for our community through this time.
 - a) Inviting people without homes to take strength and hope from them as well, particularly in the face of two life-threatening pandemics: COVID-19 and systemic racism/white supremacy.
 - C. Solidarity of many volunteers from local ecclesial communities:
 1. Physically distant but present in solidarity through prayer and donations: material and spiritual gifts. Much like the first Christians, there is a felt sense of connection, of being part of one family in Christ, a family that includes everyone.
 - a) Homemade pies and masks, spontaneous weed wacking and small exterior repairs are all signs of Christ's love that we have experienced as part of care for the most vulnerable.
 - b) This includes acts of love among the most vulnerable, taking care to meet the needs of someone worse off, looking out for others. As Gustavo Gutiérrez has said, the vulnerable are also called to exercise the preferential option for the poor.