



Rochester Catholic Worker

Rochester, New York — Fall 2011

Haiti Food Program Update

by Sarah and Kevin Ahimsa

It has been almost three years since the Catholic Worker community at St. Joseph's House began extending the dignity of "a good meal in good company" to some of the poorest people on earth: the elderly and disabled living in Borgne, Haiti. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, food prices are at an all-time high—higher than they were during the food crisis of 2008 when the food program began.

The situation in Haiti: Overall, Haiti is in worse shape now than three years ago, struggling to pull itself up out of the rubble of last year's earthquake and fighting the ravages of cholera. Half a million or more people are still homeless and living under tarps as they prepare for the hurricane season. Another million have moved back into unsafe buildings damaged by the earthquake that could fall at any moment. Cholera has directly affected 320,000 people, taking the lives of more than 5,000.

The Catholic Worker Food Program in Borgne: The food program serves 400–500 meals a month at a cost of \$750. Along with food, the program provides bath and laundry soap and a time twice a week to share jokes, stories, songs, and friendship. Food costs are high because the program is still committed to

buying *only* Haitian produced agricultural products to help support farmers who still grow food, rather than falling for the cheap imports.

The cooks for our food program, Marivierge, Marceline, and Somane are so enthusiastic about their work that they make extra time to transport food to and visit any of the participants who do not come to the meal, even during pouring rain and flooding. When they lost the use of the building where they cooked and served the food this past year, Somane moved the program to her back yard and put up tarps to protect the people from rain and sun. Each year on the program's anniversary in October and on New Year's Day/Haitian Independence Day they commemorate the dates with a traditional Haitian celebration. It isn't often that the forgotten elderly and disabled who beg in the streets of Borgne get invited to a party!



Guests waiting to be served at the Catholic Worker Food Program in Borgne, Haiti

Rising Food Prices:

Although natural events such as widespread flooding and droughts decrease supply and cause a price increase, world food prices are not merely the result of the whims of nature. They are most affected by the activities and policies of people. Generally, the people who make the decisions are not the same ones that worry about how they might afford their next meal.

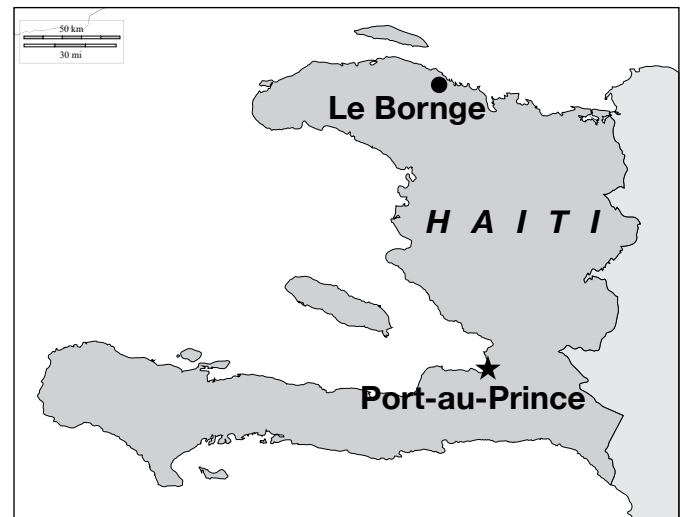
For example, planting corn to make ethanol to fuel

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Haiti Food Program Update (continued)

cars is a commitment to take land away from planting corn for food, since they are not the same corn species. According to Economic Policy Institute data, a quarter of U.S. corn was converted to ethanol in 2009 and the percentage is expected to grow to 30% by 2012. Less corn for food in the market place means higher prices.

Our Role: Those of us who live in wealthier countries can work to change these devastating policies. We can urge the government to use our land for food rather than fuel. We can ask our pension funds not to invest in food commodities. We can do our best to lower our carbon footprints. We can urge our non-profits to feed the hungry with food produced as local to the hungry people as possible. We can support the Catholic Worker Food Program in Bornge, Haiti, with a check to St. Joseph's House and writing "Haiti" in the memo section. Together we can directly improve the situation of hungry people around the world. A billion Lazaruses at our gate. ☪



Haiti Facts

Population

9.7 million (July 2001 est.)

Age Structure

0–14 years: 35.9%

15–64 years: 60.1%

65 years and over: 3.9%

Median Age

Total: 21.4 years

Male: 21.1 years

Female: 21.6 years

Life Expectancy at Birth

Total: 62.17 years

Male: 60.84 years

Female: 63.53

Good News!

by Paul Frazier

Bread for All, St. Joe's community-supported bakery (CSB), has sailed through its first year of operation. We are grateful and joyful to announce that the year has been a success.

You, friends of St. Joe's, responded with over 150 subscriptions to our bread—a hearty pound-and-a-half loaf of organic wholewheat goodness. Thank you. Your support allowed us to bring into the bakery four trainees throughout this first year.

Trainees have received a modest stipend for their 15 hours of work each week and generated for themselves a solid resume from their bakery learning experiences. Our trainees not only learn about basic bread-baking, but have a great time at the bakery. We have been blessed with the energy and willingness to learn from Robert, Glen, Theresa, and Lonnie, the Bread for All trainees.

We have four bakers in place for next year, anchoring the weekly bakes. Rachael, a community member at St. Joe's, bakes twice a week, in addition to managing the books, overseeing the markets, and coordinating subscriptions. She loves to bake and offers 5- and 6-braid(!) loaves at the Farmers' Markets. Tammy joins Rachael in sharing weekly baking responsibilities, and with Peg and Paul we “get it done.”

Beginning in June we offered our breads: our basic loaf, onion-dill

loaves, focaccia breads—that always sell out right away—and cookies to two local Farmers' Markets, the Westside Farmers Market held at St. Monica Church in the 19th Ward on Tuesdays and the South Wedge Farmers Market behind Boulder Coffee (S. Clinton and Alexander) on Thursdays. The markets will stay open through October. Stop by our table.

Further, and this is what Bread for All is all about, under Peg's supervision we bake a wholesome, organic dessert once a week for the noon St. Joe's meal. We are challenging the community to let go of the packaged, not-so-fresh “dessert treats” that have diabetes and obesity written all over them.

Several churches brought in orders of 20 or more loaves, complementing our individual subscriptions. We deliver to the churches. We are happy to meet, bring our samples after your service

some Sunday and share our encouragement.

We are now taking subscriptions for the fall. Subscriptions will begin on September 19 and run for 10 weeks (until November 21). Pick-up days: Monday or Tuesday. We are offering you a delicious choice: our basic wholewheat 1 1/2 pound loaf, selling at \$4, with oats, ground flax seed, sunflower seeds and barley malt (the “Martha” subscription); or the “Mary” subscription, every third week we will give you a specialty bread: raisin-cinnamon, potato, or focaccia loaves.

We are grateful this first year has gone so smoothly, this “good news” for everyone. We are most grateful to you, subscribers and support people who make the bakery what it is: work (as in employment) of human hands, providing the basics so everyone eats, no one goes hungry. ☪

New phone number: 585-775-9135



Rachael (left) and Rosemary at Westside Farmers Market

St. Romero Update

by Rev. Chava Redonnet



St. Romero's, the little church that worships in the dining room at St. Joe's on Sunday mornings, has an outreach program. All summer long we have been celebrating Mass in Spanish with a group of migrant workers on Thursday nights.

Week after week we stand in a circle in the parking lot outside a small house that is home to fifteen people and celebrate the Mass. After a couple of weeks I thought it would be good to have a coffee hour afterwards because that's such an important part of our experience on Sunday mornings. So, I made some chocolate chip cookies, put them in a plastic container, and brought them along to share after Mass.

Just as I began the homily, everyone began shouting and pointing behind me. A raccoon was running off with the container in its mouth—three dozen cookies! The animals had a party that night, I guess! Ever since then we have successfully kept our cookies for the human beings, and sitting around and talking afterwards has become a lovely part of our experience of community.

There are a few people who are pretty much always there, and some others who come now and then. One night, Santiago was not there. He is a man of about 60, who had until then always been there. The others said he was working late. That night, and other nights since, he came in at the end of Mass, tired, dirty, not having had his supper, having worked until about 9:00 p.m. Now when we sing "Come to the Water," at St. Romero's, when we get to the verse about "all who labor, without rest," I always think of Santiago.

We continue to meet on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in the dining room at St. Joe's. ☞

Bike Update

by Bill D'Anza

Using our back entrance you will be surprised to see the new shed the guys from R Community Bikes built from scratch in July. It will house their benches, tools, and bike repair parts that formerly had been stored in our smaller shed. They are here every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. doing repairs for guests and neighbors from mid-April to mid-October. This is the 10th year the Bike Clinic has been in operation at St. Joe's. So far this year the Bike Clinic has made repairs to 226 guest bikes



On Thursday, July 21, a crew from R Community Bikes, led by John Zachman, who developed the plans for the 8'x 10' shed inside our backyard fence started to work. The material for the job was donated by John's son, Paul, who is the owner of Boardwalk Designs (www.boardwalkdesigns.com), a full-service remodeling and deck-building business. The crew that erected the shed included Bill Cochrane, Carl Palmer, Rich Wheaton, Curt Penoyor, John Laing, Chuck Fujita, Scott Costanza, and Dave Teegarden. ☞

Calendar

September

22 Project Homeless, War Memorial

October

7-9 Catholic Worker National Meeting, Las Vegas

9-14 Closed for maintenance/cleaning

17 Shelter Opens

November

13 Sunday Foot Clinic, 2:00 p.m.

House Comings and Goings by Rev. Chava Redonnet

We were sad to say goodbye to Dani in June who is now studying at a yeshiva in Jerusalem. Eli who served with us last year came back from his home in Grand Rapids, MI, for a visit, and brought his fiancée, Alison! Mirabai dropped in recently to say hello.

Rachael continues to be one of the pillars of the bread program. We now sell bread each week at the Westside public market. She has been assisted by **Rosemary**, who is a student at the University of Rochester and with us as a summer intern. Also here in our summer intern program has been **Ryan**, who just graduated from Nazareth College with a Peace and Justice Studies degree with a

religion minor. Both will be back in school when you read this.

In July we welcomed **Jennifer**, a Philadelphia lady, along with **Joe** who recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire. They join **Sheila**, who arrived from Florida in May, and Tom and Rachael to form a vibrant live-in community on the third floor.

On the second floor: **Yu**, our computer geek completing his degree at RIT, is still with us, along with **Felix**, **Mark**, and **Joe Moore**. **Vandy** has moved out but still has major responsibilities in the kitchen. **James W.** has recently been handling the very important kitchen coordinators role. He is our liaison between the volunteers, the cooks, and the folks that donate the fresh produce at our back door. Also in the kitchen is **Juan** who is available to do anything needed

day, it was such a blessing to get out of the heat on a hot July day. Their hospitality, like Alison's, bowled us over.

Some 5–6 community members and friends spent a week in August attending a nonviolence and peacemaking seminar run by the Gandhi Summer Institute at the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity Center. Participants listened to guest lecturers, mediated together, and joined in discussions. The

Gandhi Institute is legally separate from the University of Rochester but based on its campus.

After a two-year delay, Project Homeless Connect returns to the Rochester War Memorial Thursday, September 22, to address the needs of our growing homeless population. In

one location our marginalized citizens can have their needs addressed ranging from medical/dental to picture ID, to clothing, to social service problems and many more along with food. St. Joe's is one of many organizations that will staff the one-day effort. Our Foot Clinic will also be there and is planning to have a lot of socks to give away. ☞



Sheila (left) and Jennifer

from washing the dishes to helping unload donations coming in the back door.

It's been a full summer for community experiences. Alison Clarke welcomed us to her cottage on Canandaigua Lake for a day of swimming, walking and talk, and it was lovely. Don and Mary Monefeld opened their home to us once again for a day retreat. Besides having a peaceful and good

Reflections

by *Ryan Sawyer*

As a summer intern, I set out to St. Joseph's with several internal journeys in mind. As an academic, I wanted to avoid becoming an "armchair scholar," knowing the Catholic Worker could provide a vehicle for me to engage with my area of study in a real life setting rather than simply reading or writing about God in books. I also sought direction in my understanding of religion and modernity and the role of faith in the pursuit of social harmony.

Before coming to St. Joe's, I already owed the heart of my spiritual and intellectual journey to Rene Guenon. He was an early twentieth-century French metaphysician and social critic who, despite a conversion to Islam and initiation into the Egyptian Shadhiliyya Sufi order, is still devoutly read and revered by many pre-Vatican-II-style Catholic traditionalists. The reason: his powerful and insightful critique of modernism, moral relativism, and the societal deviation from divinely revealed tradition. This has given the West and consequentially much of the postcolonial world its problematic, contemporary identity.

In our present setting, the urge to advocate for the disadvantaged tends to be seen as a cause altogether separate from tradition. The virtue of compassion is mistaken for a modern and liberal value, as though it were constructed by European Enlightenment thinkers. Today, the social consciousness and perseverance of Jesus Christ and the Prophet Muhammad are mistaken for the moral failures among current followers. The heart of their teachings is forgotten in the frustrations of modern man. Our divinity is the root of all peace, yet in a world in which religion is painted as an

instrument of war, our brothers and sisters frequently run away from tradition.

Striving for peaceful coexistence and having compassion for one another is an important responsibility for all of us. Those of this belief must ground their appreciation in faith rather than tolerate others simply because it seems practical to do so. Throughout the text of the Holy Koran, God has reminded Muslims and indeed all of humanity that it was He who willed our diversity. When we fail to accept our differences, we fail to accept our Lord. Muslims are taught in the Koranic text not only to love people of other religions, of whom Christians and Jews are noted by name, but that these traditions are of Divine origin, authentic paths of salvation for those who strive faithfully in the name of their Sustainer.



Rosemary and Ryan

My 10 weeks at St. Joe's has provided me a probe to remind the modern world of what authentic religion teaches and has not ceased to practice. Catholic anarchism is by no means an innovation within the body of Christ's teaching, nor is it a syncretism

of traditional and modern values. Catholic and Islamic social thought, as long as it remains authentically Catholic or Islamic, derives its meaning from its origins in the Word. Compassion is not an invention of man cultivated in appreciation of its expedient or practical results, but the heart of all divine teaching.

Ryan is from Dexter, NY, and a recent graduate of Nazareth College with a degree in Peace and Justice Studies. He spent 10 weeks in our summer intern program. He will be in a graduate program in religious studies at Temple University starting in September. He converted to the Islamic faith after participating in the People to People program in high school. ✉

Governmental Killing Was Not Obstructed, But Most of the Hancock 38 Face Trial by Harry Murray

At a hearing on July 20, the district attorney announced that she was dropping the charge of Obstruction of Governmental Administration that had been lodged against 37 people on Good Friday/Earth Day (April 22) 2011. As reported last issue, we had conducted a symbolic die-in in front of Hancock Air National Guard Base near Syracuse to protest the control center for MQ9 Reaper Drones. As reported last issue, those arrested included Kathy Kelly, Brian Terrell, Martha Hennessey, Jim Clune, all long-term Catholic Worker folks, as well as Judy Bello and myself.

From a certain perspective, it seems fitting that the obstruction charge was dropped. Killings by drones continue. Clearly what we did that day did not obstruct the governmental administration of long-range, remote-controlled death. Since April 22, in Pakistan alone, drones have killed between 101 and 180 people, of whom between 71 and 153 were civilians, according to Pakistan Body Count. Figures on civilian deaths from drone attacks in Afghanistan are difficult to come by.

Our case, however, is not over. The charge of Disorderly Conduct remains, although it is only a violation carrying a maximum of fifteen days and does not entitle us to a trial before a jury of our peers; however, our judge has agreed to consolidate our cases into a single trial. A couple of us have had their cases settled already. Jerry Berrigan, aged 91, was given an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal, and one or two have agreed to a plea bargain.


Syracuse lawyer Ron Van Nostrand has graciously been representing those who wanted a lawyer, while most of us have continued to represent ourselves through a series of court appearances. In many ways, the strain of having to attend a series of court appearances, often in which little seems to be accomplished, is a major cost of civil resistance actions, although being able to gather and breathe together with one's co-conspirators (so to speak) makes it worthwhile.

At our most recent court appearance, Wednesday, August 24, a trial date was set for November 1 at 5:00 p.m. in



Symbolic drone demonstrations continue.

Dewitt Town Court before Judge Gideon. Please keep us in prayers, but, more importantly, pray for the victims of the drone strikes that our tax dollars fund every day.

In the meantime, both drone and anti-drone activity continues in the area. The drone control center in Syracuse continues to operate. RIT campus continues its work on improving drone engines to achieve “sustainable slaughter.” Due in part to the work of our own Peg Gefell and Paul Frazier, a workshop was held recently to build half-a-dozen model drones to use for future demonstrations in upstate New York. Anti-drone demonstrations continue, as evidenced by the photo above. 

“If we are ever to reduce Al Qaeda from a threat to a nuisance, it will be by working with Pakistan, not by continuing unilateral drone attacks.”

Blair, Dennis. “Drones Alone Are Not the Answer,” *New York Times*, August 15, 2011, pg. A21. Dennis C. Blair, a retired admiral, was director of national intelligence from 2009 to 2010.

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality Rochester Catholic Worker Community

Some of us live in houses; some of us live on the street; some of us have a room of our own, or a bed and a place to keep; some of us have a cot or piece of a couch or patch of floor to return to each night; some hold special positions of power and roles with specific responsibilities, some do whatever they can. Our aim is to try each day to "build a new society in the shell of the old" as we practice the various works of mercy and labor with whatever resources, physical as well as spiritual, that we have been given at the time.

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Prayers	Sugar	BLEACH	Hoodies	Athletic Socks
Butter	Boots/Sneakers	Toilet Paper	39-gal. Trash Bags	Pillows
Laundry Soap Powder	Jeans/Cords	Coffee	Razors	Toothbrushes/Paste
Men's Underwear (32-44)	Jelly/Jam	Single Sheets	BATH TOWELS	Deodorants



To Subscribe or To Volunteer

Call Rachael at 775-9135

Email st.joes.bakery@gmail.com

Fall subscriptions begin Sep. 19

Celebrants for

5:00 p.m. Tuesday Ecumenical Service

We suggest that you call the House in case the service time or celebrant has been changed.

9-6 Rev. Chava Redonnet	10-18 Minister Joanne Kaiser
9-13 Deacon Tom Cleary	10-25 Tim McGowan
9-20 Fr. Larry Tracy	11-1 Fr. Jim Callan
9-27 Fr. John Firpo	11-8 Deacon Bill Coffey
10-4 Donna Ecker	11-15 Sr. Grace Miller
10-11 Rev. Lawrence Hargrave	