



PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

PROMISE GROUP UPDATES

November/December 2019

PROMISE: We promise to live radical hospitality in all relationships, especially with people made poor, through our commitment to contemplation, service, advocacy, dialogue, communication, and education.

- 1. First initiative:** To learn more about our own racism and to determine ways to share our learnings with others.
 - a. We have developed a small group module *"Learning about our own racism."* We each will use the module locally January/February inviting others in our local areas to gather for an hour to pray, watch short videos (2-5 min.) on three basic concepts: bias, prejudice, and racism, reflect and share, and commitment to ongoing education and sharing. We will then share this module and other modules about racism with our wider community.
 - b. Through the invitation of the Justice Promoters Group, several members of our Promise Group will participate in a January 23-25, 2020, *Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism* workshop sponsored by Chicago Regional Organizing for AntiRacism (CROAR)
 - c. Some of our members attended local events: "Race in the Heartland" conference; presentation in Dubuque by the authors of *Picking Cotton*.
 - d. To learn more about our own racism we are processing and packaging to share with others in usable units an extensive list of resources. This includes Ted talks, films, videos, articles, books and more on white privilege/supremacy, stories of persons discriminated against, aspects of personal and institutional racism and suggestions from our Justice Promoters, other Promise Groups, committees and others.
- 2. Second initiative:** The Radical Hospitality Promise Group commits to learn about other racial and ethnic groups through personal relationships.
 - a. We are committed to accountability by sharing our experiences at our meetings.
 - b. One member helped promote a parish Saturday evening donuts-after-Mass which over 50 individuals/ students/ staff from Divine Word College attended.

- c. We continue to explore learning about others' cultures/ethnicity by connecting with Presentation Lantern Center students, personnel at Divine Word College and Vietnamese sisters living at Mount Loretto. We will investigate having small group gatherings.
- 3. Third initiative:** To support specific efforts of reunification of children at the borders with their parents.
 - a. We have no leads yet due to changing circumstances for available shelters/housing situations in the U.S. and due to changes with actions of the U.S. Administration affecting Customs and Border Protection or Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).
 - b. We are not yet able to move on this initiative but continue to investigate.
- 4. Our next meeting: Sunday, January 5, 2 to 3 PM.**
 - a. We will review the learnings on racism module and discuss options for using it with others whom we might each invite to a small group sharing in our various locations by our March meeting.
 - b. We will discuss future modules for 2020 and developers for each module.

PROMISE: We promise to practice non-violence of mind and heart, speech and action as we address injustice directly and systematically.

The group shared many insights from the 1st and 2nd Chapters of the Nonviolent Life by John Dear. Members also shared how they are communicating with our Wisdom Members. The sub-committee working on the Spring Nonviolence training workshop will meet via ZOOM with Alan Heisterkamp to work out the details of the weekend. They will communicate via email with the other members of our group keeping us updated on their progress. Our next ZOOM meeting is set for January 12, 2020.

PROMISE: We promise to form partnerships and utilize resources for the purpose of mission.

GOAL: Within the context of mission sustainability, care of members and legacy, we will study, research, develop and initiate implementation of a phased plan for property and resources of Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa.

Last month our promise group established two sub-committees that will begin to develop a communications plan and to create a list of recommended facilitators/consultants that we might consider hiring. The first sub-committee helped us determine the difference between a facilitator and a consultant, and we decided that we are in the consultant phase. The sub-committee will continue to develop a short-list of candidates. The communications sub-committee presented an initial communications plan. After input, a second draft of materials will be presented at the next meetings.

PROMISE: We promise to implement governance practices that foster dialogue and communication in decision-making.

Define what we mean by governance practice

Possible definitions:

“Governance is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented.”

“Governance is a relationship that works to satisfy the common good through a mutual decision-making process.”

A subgroup is still working on this

Identify current governance practices

Subgroups are working on the following:

- Gathering information from survey sent to other PBVM communities
- Current practices
- Associate Partnership:
 - Associate Survey
 - Garage Sale
 - Associate Advisory Committee

Chapter Preparation:

Who participates?

Who serves on planning committee?

How might we incorporate this into the process of Community Days?