

## Community

You don't have to be Catholic to be a member of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community, or even Christian. You do need to have an affinity to the Aims and Means of the Catholic Worker movement.

As live-in members of the Des Moines Catholic Worker Community, we are not paid for our work. Live-in community members receive room and board. We offer our time and energy in the spirit of personal sacrifice, and we invite others to do the same.

The community owns four houses on the near north side of Des Moines, all within a half block area. Community members live in all four houses.



"No one asked us to do this work... No one asked us to start an agency or an institution of any kind. On our responsibility, because we are our brother's and sister's keeper, because of a sense of personal responsibility, we begin to try to see Christ in each one that comes to us."

- Dorothy Day

## Funding & Support

We rely completely on the generosity of supporters for the funds and materials needed for the hospitality we offer. We strive to be good stewards of the resources that come our way.

Because we are personalists, we do not seek non-profit charitable status from the IRS. We accept no government money, and we are not financially supported by any foundation or denomination. Instead, individuals, groups and individual churches donate money, food and other supplies.

We have Catholic in our name because of our desire to live in accordance with the justice and charity of Jesus, our shared source of inspiration from the scriptures, our advocacy for the Catholic Social Teachings, our love for the Sacramental life of the Church and the example of the Saints. We have no official or institutional connection with the institutional Catholic Church. The local Bishop is not responsible or in control of what we say or do or the properties we own. We are an ecumenical crowd who embrace the best of all Faiths in their efforts to live lives of nonviolent love for all peoples.

## Other Activities

The Via Pacis Newsletter: Mindful that Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin published the Catholic Worker newspaper before they ever served a bowl of soup or started a house of hospitality, the Des Moines Catholic Worker publishes and mails out the Via Pacis, our community newsletter, four times a year. A subscription is free upon request by email.

Nonviolent Actions for Peace: Following the example of Jesus, we partake in nonviolent demonstrations and civil disobedience to redirect lives and resources currently used for war into efforts such as community revitalization and unification, and green jobs.

**Attend a weekly Peace Vigil, on Thursdays from 11:30am-12:30pm at Nollen Plaza, 3rd and Locust.**

Urban Agriculture: We are replacing our grassy yards with raised beds, fruit bushes and edible flowers. We also have a flock of backyard chickens.



**Join our Lectionary Bible Study, on Monday nights from 7-8pm at the Phil Berrigan House, 713 Indian Ave.**

## How You Can Help

- Donate money to help pay our Community bills such as utilities, van up-keep and gas, house maintenance, property taxes and the cost for printing and mailing the Via Pacis.
- Volunteer to prepare and serve meals at the Dingman House
- Donate food, paper products and personal toiletry items.
- Come spend some time at our house visiting with the guests.
- Offer your skills: hair-cutting, gardening, carpentry, electrical, plumbing etc. There are always maintenance and building projects -both small and big that people can help us with.
- Bring a work-group for cleaning and fix-up projects.
- Participate in social justice activities. Ask a community member for info on most current efforts ...
- Join us for weekly Friday evenings - Mass/Service or Round Table.
- Spread the word: Arrange for us to speak to your group or church about our movement, community and work...
- Organize a group of gardeners to grow vegetables and grains for us to cook with and give away.

## Contact Info

For more information about the Catholic Worker or to be added to our mailing list, please contact us:

### Mailing Address:

Des Moines Catholic Worker  
P O Box 4551  
Des Moines IA 50305  
E-mail: [dmcatholicworker@gmail.com](mailto:dmcatholicworker@gmail.com)  
Phone: 515 243-0765

### The four Community Houses:

**Bishop Dingman House**— Drop-in Center  
1310 7th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
515-243-0765

**Viola Liuzzo House**  
1301 8th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
515-401-4197

**Rachel Corrie House**  
1317 8th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
515-326-4832

**Phil Berrigan House** — Autonomous and Sister with the DMCW.  
Houses a Peace & Justice Library and meeting place.  
713 Indiana Ave.  
Des Moines IA 50314  
515-282-4781  
[frank.cordaro@gmail.com](mailto:frank.cordaro@gmail.com)



Bishop Dingman House  
1310 7th Street  
(515) 243-0765  
[dmcatholicworker@gmail.com](mailto:dmcatholicworker@gmail.com)  
Sign up for our  
Via Pacis newsletter by email!

Trying to build a society  
"where it is easier to be  
good." Peter Maurin

## History

The Des Moines Catholic Worker Community, founded in 1976, is a response to the Gospel call to compassionate action as summarized in the Sermon on the Mount. In the spirit of the Catholic Worker tradition, we are committed to a simple, nonviolent life style as we live and work among the poor. We directly serve others by opening our home for those in need of food, clothing, toiletries, a shower, or a cup of coffee and conversation. We also engage in activities like protests and direct nonviolent actions that foster social justice.



The Catholic Worker movement was founded in 1933 by Peter Maurin and Dorothy Day in New York City to implement the teachings of the Gospels and Catholic Social Teachings and to promote the biblical promise of mercy, compassion, justice and love. Grounded in the firm belief in the God-given dignity of every person, the movement is committed to nonviolence, voluntary poverty, personalism and the Works of Mercy as a way of live. The movement has spread far and wide; over 213 Catholic Worker communities, Idaho to Australia, serve those in need in their neighborhoods.

## Works of Mercy

We open the Bishop Dingman House - 1310 7th St. - five days a week and welcome others as guests in our Home.

### Dingman House Schedule:

**Monday:** Closed

**Tuesday:** Snack at 3 pm to Dinner at 6 pm.

**Wednesday:** Closed

**Thursday:** Snack at 3 pm to Dinner at 6 pm.

**Friday:** Snack at 3 pm to Dinner at 6 pm.

**Saturday:** Snack from 12 pm to 4 pm

**Sunday:** Snack at 3 pm to Dinner at 6 pm.

### Besides the meals served

- Showers are available the first two hours the house is open.
- Free clothing
- A phone is available for use.
- Guests can receive their mail at our house.
- Canned goods and toiletries are available upon request at our Pantry -Dingman House

Free Food Store: For more than 20 years the Des Moines Catholic Worker has been doing a Produce Giveaway. We give away donated produce on Saturday at 10:00 am at Trinity United Methodist church at 8th and College.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Friday at 4:00 pm at the Phil Berrigan House, located at 713 Indiana