

Defend the lowly and the fatherless, render justice to the afflicted and needy. Rescue the lowly and poor, deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82, 3-4

T H E O K L A H O M A C I T Y +CATHOLIC WORKER+

Volume XI #1 The world will be saved by Beauty! + January 2012

Isn't it time we got organized and started fighting back?

There's a lot of bad stuff going on in this state. The Legislature is about to eliminate the tax credit for sales tax, the state earned income credit, and the personal exemption on the state income tax. This will raise the taxes of more than half the people of this state – and it's not a tax increase for the rich, it's a tax increase for the poor and all of us with low and moderate incomes. Meanwhile those who make more money will be getting a nice tax cut, at the expense of the rest of us. Talk about a perverted Robin Hood – they're going to take from the poor and give to the rich!

Do you know what God says about that kind of politics? ✚ **GOD SAYS** – What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding down the poor when they look to you? *Isaiah 3:15* ✚ **GOD SAYS** – Woe to those who enact unjust statutes and who write oppressive decrees, depriving the needy of judgment and robbing my people's poor of their rights, making widows their plunder, and orphans their prey! What will you do on the day of punishment, when ruin comes from afar? To whom will you flee for help? *Isaiah 10:1-3*

Since 2007, we of the Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House community have worked with 24 other Oklahoma City area congregations and organizations to develop an organization that would stand for the rights of ordinary people, which would speak truth to power. We have come together out of a deep sense of mission and concern for the pressures faced by families in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. We want to better understand those pressures by asking our own members to talk about the experiences of their families in the community. We strive to foster real conversations about real experiences without ideological shouting matches! We want to be a voice for families and to hold our government accountable for its actions. We want to stand for the kinds of issues on our agenda: better public schools, better public transportation, dignity for immigrants, health care for all, economic justice, more effective family support services, better services for seniors, and better infrastructure (like getting some sidewalks around here)! Maybe better bus service?

We invite you to join us. After nearly three years of organizing activity, we are holding our Founding Convention on **Sunday, February 12th, at 3:00 PM, at the First Christian Church, located at NW 36th and Walker.** We are launching a new organization – **VOICE – Voices Organized In Civic Engagement.** I invite you to come to this historic founding convention and sit with us as part of the Catholic Worker House group. If you will do this for me, please call me at 557-0436 and tell me you will be there. If you want to come, but don't have a ride, tell me that and we'll see what we can do to get you a ride.

United we stand, divided -- they grind us into the dirt.

*You are cordially invited to join the Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House
and 24 other local churches and organizations at the*

VOICES ORGANIZED IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT FOUNDING CONVENTION

Sunday, February 12, 2012, 3:00 PM, First Christian Church, NW 36 and Walker
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good!

WISDOM FOR LIVING

Sandwich every bit of criticism between two thick layers of praise. . . Three essentials of happiness are something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for. . . Sometimes we have to replace "what ifs?" with some good old fashioned "so whats?". . . When you need to knock on wood is when you realize the world is made of aluminum and vinyl. . . The secret of happiness is learning to accept the impossible, do without the indispensable, and bear the unbearable. . . Treat your friends like family and your family like friends. . . People are like pianos – grand and upright, but

no good unless in tune. . . We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. . . Our duty is not to see through one another, but to see one another through. . .

Cream of Vegetable Soup

1 Cup cooked vegetables, mashed | 4 cups milk | chopped onion | 4 tbsp butter | 4 tbsp flour | salt and pepper

Saute onions in butter, stir in flour, salt, pepper. Add mashed veggies, cook 1 minute, add 4 cups milk, cook until hot and it thickens a little. Variations: Creamed Corn Soup, use 2 cans creamed corn. Cream of Tomato Soup, add 2 cups tomato juice, reduce milk to 2 cups.

Wisdom of Romero

Oscar Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador. In 1980, his own government assassinated him while he was celebrating Mass because he defended the poor against the attacks of the rich.

When we say “for the poor,” we do not take sides with one social class, please note. What we do, is invite all social classes, rich and poor without distinction, saying to everyone: Let us take seriously the cause of the poor as though it were our own – indeed, as what it really is, the cause of Jesus Christ, who on the final judgment day will call to salvation those who treated the poor with faith in him: “Whatever you did to one of these poor ones – the neglected, blind, lame, deaf, mute – you did to me.”

I believe that today more than ever we need to know Christ. Today needs Christians, and from Christianity will come humanity’s true liberators. Otherwise, we’ll be given violent, aggressive political movements of the extreme right or the extreme left, but we won’t be given true human beings. From Christianity, from you, beloved brothers and sisters, communities that ponder God’s word as we are doing today in order to know Christ’s mystery, will come the true liberators the nation needs.

Let us be today’s Christians. Let us not take fright at the boldness of today’s church. With Christ’s light let us illuminate even the most hideous caverns of the human person: torture, jail, plunder, want, chronic illness. The oppressed must be saved, not with a revolutionary salvation, in merely human fashion, but with the holy revolution of the Son of Man, who dies on the cross to cleanse God’s image, which is soiled in today’s humanity, a humanity so enslaved, so selfish, so sinful.

Works of Justice and Peace

A statement of the mission and purpose of the Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House

+LIVE simply and justly in solidarity with the poor and marginalized and be a good neighbor. Make no war on them, rather, be one with them in spirit, truth, and love.

+HEAR the truth when it is spoken to you. Discern the signs of the times and speak truth -- to power, to the people, and to the Church.

+MAKE injustice visible -- witness, remember, teach, proclaim, tell. Light candles, do not curse the darkness.

+PROTECT the poor and powerless-- listen, learn, educate, organize, empower participation, and respect life from the moment of conception to the time of natural death.

+WORK for reconciliation with truth, evangelism, catechesis, orthopraxis.

+CELEBRATE life, goodness, beauty, virtue, responsibility, & joy. Practice peace, non-violence, servant leadership, harmony, community, voluntary cooperation, & the proper stewardship of God's creation. Pray without ceasing.

+ ENSURE fair distribution, subsidiarity, economic opportunity, justice, and food security for everyone everywhere. RMW 1998

Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House

We comfort the afflicted & afflict the comfortable.

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Catholic Worker Help Line – 405-557-0436

Info needed: Name, address, zip code, phone, number of adults and children. January deliveries to Wesley Village, Towers, Belle Aire, Towers Annex apartments will be **February 18th**. All other deliveries will be **February 25**.

We do not deliver in MWC, Del City, Yukon, Mustang, Moore, Edmond or east of Bryant in OKC.

TEN TASTY WAYS TO FIX GRITS

Your Basic Very Tasty Boiled Grits. 1 cup grits, 4 cups water, salt and butter to taste. (One cup of uncooked grits serves 4.) When the water is boiling, add the salt and slowly stir in the grits. Simmer, stirring frequently, until the grits are done. "Done" means thick and creamy.

Cheese grits. After the grits are done add 1 cup or so (more if you like it cheesy) of grated cheese. You could also add pepper (cayenne works fine, if you like it hot), You can also use the cheese powder packets from boxed macaroni and cheese.

Red-hot grits. Add as much cayenne pepper, paprika, chili powder, chopped jalapeno peppers, and ground cumin as your taste buds will permit to Your Basic Very Tasty Boiled Grits. Let cool in a loaf pan, slice and prepare as Fried Grits. Serve with salsa and beans.

Garlic grits. Add garlic powder or crushed roasted garlic to cooked grits. Add to cheese grits for garlic-cheese grits. Add jalapenos for garlic-cheese-jalapeno grits.

Chicken Fried Grits. After the grits are cooked, pour them into an ungreased loaf pan. Let this cool until the grits are firm, at least 30 minutes. Turn the pan over so the "grits loaf" slides out, slice about ½ inch thick. Mix some flour, salt, and pepper together on a plate and dip the grits slices (both sides) in the flour mixture. Put a quarter of an inch of oil in a skillet, and fry the slices (medium-high heat) for about 5 minutes (until golden brown). Flip and do the same on the other side.

Sausage Fried Grits. Prepare Basic Boiled Grits and set aside. Cook some sausage, breaking it up into small pieces. Drain fat and stir the sausage into the grits. Beat an egg and add it to the mixture. Pour into a loaf pan and put it in the refrigerator until firm. Turn out the grits, prepare as for Fried Grits.

Jalapeno Grits. Take your Basic Very Tasty Boiled Grits, add 2 cups shredded cheese, 1 stick of butter (½ cup), 3 beaten eggs, chopped jalapeno pepper, to taste (maybe start with 3 tbsps), salt and pepper to taste. Pour into a greased baking dish, bake at 350 degrees about 35 minutes (top will lightly browned).

Grits Casserole. Fry some hamburger, onion, garlic, and crushed red pepper, add cooked beans with the liquid, put in the bottom of a casserole pan, pour a recipe of jalapeno grits over the top, bake at 350 degrees about 35 minutes. You can also make this with sausage.

Grits breakfast. Fry sausage and eggs, mix with cooked grits.

If your heart is full of love, you always have something to give. . . Of all one’s fancy clothes, a smile is the most becoming. . .