

Faith & Justice Newsletter

Screening of Documentary Cooked: Survival by Zip Code - August 27, 6:30 pm at St. Thomas More

This summer is predicted to be the hottest on record according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with temperatures 30 to 50 percent above normal in much of the United States. Extreme heat harms human health, especially the elderly and outdoor workers, with 2,300 deaths nationwide in 2023, a number that is increasing annually.

Cooked: Survival by Zip Code delves into the story of the worst heat disaster in U.S. history in 1995 in Chicago, when 739 residents—mostly elderly and black—died over the course of one week. The film links the deadly heat wave's devastation back to the manmade disaster of structural racism, shining a light on the issues of poverty, race, class, and education that underlie how natural disasters take lives.



Refugee Support

Our parish's Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to assist two Afghan refugee families. Both Afghan families are on the road to independence and stability. However, one family who has their working papers has been unsuccessful in finding full time employment. They may need to move to another home since their landlord has said she will not continue to lease without a cosigner. The lease expires in September 2024. The Society provided a food gift card to help with their expenses.

StVdeP is also working with Catholic Charities' to help two Congolese families. Good news! The Congolese families have moved to apartments in Philadelphia. Catholic Charities is still helping them, and they still need assistance with food. StVdeP provided two food related gift cards.

There is a third larger family seeking asylum from the Congo that Catholic Charities asked for specific items. A parishioner provided bedding, towels, and other household items. Our parish's Women's Club provided a Visa gift card.

Our parish has been very active in supporting refugees and those seeking asylum from difficult situations. They are following the words of Christ. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me ... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

TREX Recycling Plastic Challenge

This is such a wonderful program, that it spreads easily. We started because we heard about it from Christ our Light. St. Joan of Arc heard about us doing it and is now going to start.

If you know of other parishes that might be interested, feel free to share the [link](#) or our email stmfaithandjustice@gmail.com and we'd be happy to answer their questions.

Prayer

Gracious and loving God, let your Spirit be with me today

Hear my prayers, and increase in me the will to follow your Son Jesus.

Help me to draw on the resources of my faith as I use the opportunities of our democracy to shape a society more respectful of the life, dignity, and rights of the human person, especially the poor and vulnerable.

I ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.