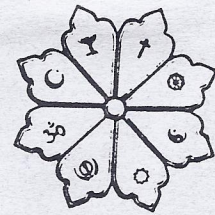

SAN FRANCISCO

INTERFAITH COUNCIL



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INTERFAITH CENTER AT THE PRESIDIO
PASTORAL PLAN FOR THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE

Editorial

As the San Francisco Interfaith Council approaches its second anniversary, some self examination is in order. When we came together in April 1992, our mission was to improve relationships among San Francisco's faith communities, work together on common concerns within the City - the homeless, racism, etc. - provide an interfaith vehicle for responding to "crises" such as earthquakes and other disasters.

Are these goals still valid? Are there others we should be considering? And of course we should reexamine the basic question - is there a need for a San Francisco Interfaith Council?

Today's headlines supply a ready answer to these questions. Everyday random violence, the absence of civility in the social and political arenas, the continuing problems of homelessness, the festering of intolerance for those who are different - all of these cry out for the religious community to address. And we cannot do that without a forum in which we get to know each other, respect each other and plan to speak on the basis of common values and ethical principles.

The active involvement of all of our members in this work is essential if we are to make a difference. There's much to be done and little time in which to do it. We must get on with the job!

Rita R. Semel, Executive Vice Chair

THE INTERFAITH CENTER AT THE PRESIDIO

Plans for an interfaith conference and retreat center at the Presidio when the property reverts to the National Park Service are moving ahead, according to Reverend Roger Ridgway, SFIC representative who chairs the working group for this project.

"The new entity called the San Francisco Bay Area Interfaith Coalition has emerged from the group called together by the San Francisco Interfaith Council more than a year ago", Rev. Ridgway said. "The SFIC responded to the call for proposals issued by the National Park Service in July of 1992 with its vision for an interfaith center. Since that time, interfaith groups from all over the Bay Area have joined to flesh out that original idea."

A case statement has been developed and a consultant has been engaged to develop the proposal for final presentations to the National Park Service's Presidio Conversion Committee, he added.

Among the programs contemplated for the Center are conferences, workshops and dialogues among local groups, national groups and international organizations on such subjects as religion, the environment, racism, religious intolerance, spiritual renewal and peace studies.

"The guiding principles for the Center will be interfaith cooperation and global ethics", Rev. Ridgway said.

Facilities at the Presidio are being researched which accommodate not only the Center for conferences but a library and a meditation garden.

In addition to the San Francisco Interfaith Council, some of the groups participating in the project are the Berkeley Interfaith Council, the Pacific Interfaith Network, the Alameda Interfaith Outreach, the Marin



Interfaith Council and the Vesper Society which is providing office space for the consultant during this initial period.

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE INAUGURATES PASTORAL PLAN

On November 19, 1993 Archbishop John R. Quinn accepted the recommendations for the first phase of a comprehensive Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. The Pastoral Planning Commission, composed of priests, religious and lay leaders from the three counties of the Archdiocese, drew on materials supplied by parish self-studies produced over the past several years, and the recommendations of parish representatives meeting in groups over the past eight months.

While the completed Pastoral Plan will embrace the whole Archdiocese, the first phase paid special attention to the city of San Francisco, because the need to make decisions regarding unreinforced masonry buildings is so pressing; there are fifty-three Catholic churches in the City, of which eleven are UMB's. demographic and social change have caused a significant decrease in church attendance among Catholics: from 125,00 weekly in 1961 to 47,000 weekly today.

The basic criterion used by the Commission in regard to UMB churches was to recommend that only those churches which serve a unique purpose by virtue of their location (for example St Boniface in the Tenderloin) be retrofitted. While the emotional issue of the merger and closure of parishes has gotten much play in the press, the primary recommendations made by the Commission look to the revitalization of Catholic life: a major lay leadership school, a restructuring of the parishes to enhance greater cooperation among them, and a "Caritas Corps", to encourage Catholics to spend at least ten hours a month in service to the poor and marginalized.

MARCH IS NATIONAL RED CROSS MONTH

The American Red Cross Bay Area is asking congregations to designate a day in March as Red Cross Day. They are in urgent need of contributions so that they can continue to respond immediately - as they did in the Northridge earthquake - as well as supply education on disaster preparedness, CPR, and first aid training. Please call Joy Daniels, 202-0642 for further information on how you can help. The chapter will supply educational brochures regarding emergency preparedness and home safety as well as other information.

WE SALUTE!

We salute the Reverend Lee Gerdes and the St. Paulus Lutheran Church community for responding in an extraordinary way to the needs of the homeless. They have been a part of the SFIC's emergency interfaith shelter program for the past several years. But last year when the women's shelter hastily set up by the City at the former Polytechnic High School had to move or be closed, Pastor Gerdes and

OLD FIRST CONCERTS

The Winter-Spring Concerts at Old First Presbyterian Church began this month and will continue until April. A mix of piano recitals, chamber ensembles, instrumental recitals, choral and orchestra music, jazz and contemporary, the concerts are open to the public and are held at the church, 1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, 94109. for further information on subscription and single tickets, call 474-1608.

CONGREGATION EMANU-EL LECTURES

Dr. Alan Cooper, Professor of Bible at Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, will speak on **Creation, Philosophy and Spirituality: Aspects of Psalm 19** at the annual Koshland Memorial lecture Tuesday evening, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Temple, Arguello Boulevard and Lake Street

Also at the Temple Harry Shreibman, Ph.D. will speak on Tuesday evening, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. on **Letting the Texts Speak: The Dead Sea Scrolls in Depth**. This lecture has been planned in conjunction with the exhibition at the DeYoung museum entitled *The Mystery of the Dead Sea Scrolls* which opens at the Museum February 25 and continues through may 29.

Interfaith Council members, clergy and their congregants are cordially invited to both lectures.

GOD AND THE BIG BANG

Professor Daniel Matt of the Center for Jewish Studies, GTU, will lecture on "**God and the Big Bang**" on Friday, February 25 at a Brown Bag lunch from 12-1:30 p.m. in San Francisco. For further information, call the GTU at (510) 649-2424.

1994 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Five years ago, the United Nations designated 1994 as the "International Year of the Family". The year has been set aside to recognize the important contribution the family makes to the well-being of the world.



Rev. Lee Gerdes

the congregation at St. Paulus stepped in and made space available. One year later, that special effort on behalf of homeless women is still going on at St. Paulus. They have continued to be part of SFIC's shelter program as well by providing a men's shelter for the month of January.

St. Paulus is truly a People's Place!

DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER

February

- 7 Mulk
- 10 Chinese/
Vietnamese New Year
- 12 Vasanta Panchami
- 16 Ash Wednesday
- 25 Purim

March

- 4 World Day of Prayer
- 9 Lailat-ul-Qadr
- 11 Mahashivarati
- 11 Juma-tul-Wida
- 13 Interfaith Serivces for
Commonwealth Day
- 13 Eid-ul-Fitr
- 16 Ghambar
Hanaspahmaedem
- 20 Spring Ohigon

March

- 21 International Day for the
Elimination of Racial
Discrimination
- 21 Naw Ruz
- 21 Baha'
- 26 Birth of Prophet Zarathustra
- 27 Holi
- 27 Palm Sunday
- 27 Pesach
- 31 Maundy Thursday

For more information about articles seen in the newsletter or items to be placed in an upcoming issue please call 282-9498

