



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING at ST. CHARLES
Acting on our faith tradition, making OKC a great place for families

HOUSE MEETING CAMPAIGN . . .

Acting on Archbishop Beltran's encouragement to parishes to "continue efforts of being witnesses and leaven in the world and thanking pastors for their commitment to Catholic Social Teaching" through the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee, the St. Charles Community Organizing Committee conducted a house meeting campaign this spring, resulting in 85 people coming together in small meetings to talk about life in Oklahoma City. An additional 50 people attended meetings and trainings in 2009, sharing their stories and learning about community organizing.

These stories of personal experience surfaced a range of issues, some of which can be addressed in parish ministries, and others which will require the combined efforts of the 25 metropolitan area member churches of the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee (including 5 other Catholic parishes.)

ST. CHARLES ASSEMBLY . . .

On April 17, 50 St. Charles parishioners met in Beckman Hall to share stories of pressures facing them and their families living in OKC. The day included a prayerful and "playful" study of Nehemiah, Ch. 1-5. Participants acted out the story of Nehemiah, who asked God's help when he heard of the suffering of his brothers and sisters, who worked to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He listened to the needs of the Jewish people and helped them resolve the injustices they experienced in their time.

During the assembly, parishioners shared their own experiences of injustice. They approved an agenda based on these stories, which will be presented to the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee on May 16. Issues on the St. Charles metro agenda include:

- Care for the mentally disabled and special needs students
- Proposed cutbacks to senior services such as Mobile Meals of Oklahoma County
- Scarcity of public transportation
- Community violence, especially pertaining to youth
- Access to health care
- Immigration issues

Likewise, St. Charles parishioners would like to work at the parish level to:

- Improve Anglo/Hispanic interaction
- Strengthen church/school communications
- Support Catholic school education to make it more affordable
- Work on the deterioration in the church neighborhood
- Continue and further strengthen our support of pro-life activities

YOU'RE INVITED MAY 16 . . .

to attend the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee city-wide assembly at Fairview Baptist Church, 1700 NE 7th, 6:00-7:30pm. We hope that at least 50 St. Charles people will be in attendance to demonstrate we care about families. To sign up to attend, or for more information, contact the parish office.

*For more information on the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee, visit
oksponsoring.org and CatholicsForOrganizing.org*