



## **Year of Renewal Tuesday Evening Gathering Participant Feedback to Share with the SJF Community**

Approximately 75 people took part in the fourth Year of Renewal Tuesday Evening Gathering on March 2. This Gathering was focused on “Finding Christ in the Marketplace” and five our St. John Fisher faith family members provided a brief overview of an outreach ministry they are involved in. These ministries included Ignatian Volunteers, Pontiac Tutoring Program, Manna Meals, Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT) and Tax Preparation for Low Income Families.

As with the other Tuesday evening sessions, attendees completed a brief survey that asked for reactions to the material presented, list any surprises and respond to the question “What ideas do you want to carry away with you?” Responses to this survey are provided in the following summary.

### **Reactions**

- Very informative, very enlightening
- Revelation, unresolved
- Volunteers only have to reach one person. It boils down to that one person and his/her choice. If these choices can be guided or altered, all the better.
- Several were impressed by the various ways the volunteers used their time and talents to benefit others.
- I liked hearing the personal “Face of Jesus” stories – very inspiring
- This was an excellent presentation; very moving. Good witness!
- The presenters gave excellent examples of seeing Christ in others.
- Inspiring witness from each one regarding Jesus in the Marketplace. The questions from the audience enhanced the speaker’s comments.
- I am inspired to do this work.
- Good food for thought
- Understanding what the various groups do give a better idea of where I will be called.
- The “pressure” to join one of these volunteer opportunities
- This was an inspiring session. As one on the cusp of having some free time, I feel as though a door has been opened.
- I am a little frustrated that I am perhaps “over volunteered” at SJF. Perhaps I should reduce this involvement to take on one of these other opportunities.
- Our parish has so many amazing opportunities to serve. We are blessed.
- We must understand the needs of those in need. We have to work with them to develop programs that will improve their outlook and make changes that will help them.

Continued



## **Year of Renewal Tuesday Evening Gathering Participant Feedback to Share with the SJF Community**

### **Surprises**

- I was surprised by the different activities that are available.
- How much we are involved in at St. John Fisher
- The commitment of each speaker; the variety of places to volunteer
- Many areas to serve and even more than mentioned
- Did not realize to what extent SJF community members are involved in outreach activities
- It was great to hear about others call and finding it in the marketplace.
- Pride in what all the presenters represent
- I was surprised by the pressure to sign the form to volunteer for one of these ministries. Many here tonight are very committed to service ministry - it is almost like "preaching to the choir."
- Glad the issue of involving those in need with finding a resolution to the problems that confront them was brought to the forefront. Let's work to make it happen.

### **Ideas to Carry Away**

- Can always find Christ
- Patience and awareness
- Christians need to serve others as part of their faith
- We can all give a little time.
- Christ has no body but ours!
- Mission is a lifelong call - it matures.
- Need to get the 20-40 year olds involved. We also need to help people get comfortable with volunteering in these and other situations.
- The idea of bridging the gap between the problems and root of those problems.
- There are many opportunities to see the face of Christ – there is a way for everyone to serve.
- Consideration of what and how to help
- Am I making a difference?
- The message of Jesus is alive in our community.
- Need for commitment to our community
- How to get from those in need what it is that will help them
- "Christ has no arms or feet on earth but yours."
- How to seek assistance from those who are not active in ministry
- Need to discern present ministry involvement
- We cannot improve a person's situation without their involvement.