



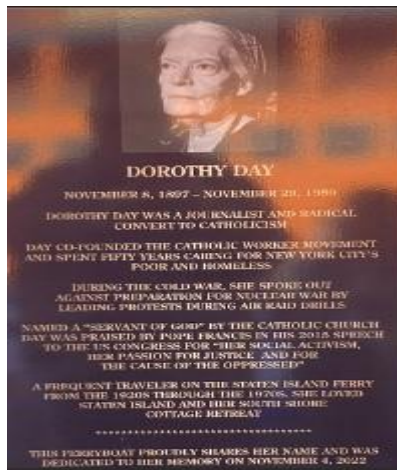
Staten Island

Catholic Worker

Spring | 2023 “The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart.” Vol. I | No.3
- Servant of God Dorothy Day

She Sails - Happy 90th Anniversary!

On Friday, April 28th, 2023, at 12:30pm, the Dorothy Day Staten Island Ferry was launched across the New York harbor for the first time. Many Catholic lay and ecclesial leaders and Catholic worker volunteers gathered for the half-hour ceremony before the launch. You can view the ceremony on YouTube under the Dorothy Day Staten Island Ferry Inaugural Ride. It is truly amazing how Dorothy Day can unite so many people of all different backgrounds, both Catholic and non-Catholic alike. The city officials and Coast Guard captain were just as impassioned as Bishop John J O’Hara and Dorothy’s granddaughter, Martha Hennessy. Dorothy’s impact is already being felt by the younger generations on Staten Island, as the captain’s story about her young daughter coming home from school excited about learning about Dorothy Day illustrates. Her daughter started volunteering and going to food pantries and wants to follow in the footsteps of her new hero! This is what the Catholic



*Dorothy Day Staten Island Ferry
Plaque*

Worker movement is all about – educating and inspiring others to serve to help make the world a better place for those being served as well as for those serving. Cookies, quotes from Dorothy Day & Peter Maurin, and the 90th anniversary edition of the NYC Catholic Worker newspaper were distributed during the ferry ride. The Dorothy Day guild held a short prayer service at the Whitehall Ferry terminal in Manhattan after the ride. We hope many are inspired, like the Coast Guard captain and her daughter, to look up Dorothy Day and get involved in the Catholic Worker

movement! (See page 3 for Bishop O’Hara’s quote with links for articles and page 4 for Martha’s quote from Dorothy Day).

90th Anniversary!

On May 1, 2023, the Catholic Worker movement celebrated its 90th anniversary. May 1, 1933 was the day Dorothy chose to distribute the first issue of *The Catholic Worker* newspaper in Union Square Park not far from where she was living on the east side of Manhattan. She chose this day to directly oppose the communist May Day holiday as a way to counteract the destructive message which attempted to seduce unemployed workers to their godless philosophy and empty promises to revolutionize labor. Peter Maurin had educated Dorothy (any anyone who would listen to him in Union Square Park and beyond) on Catholic social teaching and Dorothy was impassioned to spread this message to the masses with emphasis that workers did not have to look outside of the Catholic church for answers and compassion. The Catholic Worker movement was formed precisely for this purpose, not only to relieve the burden of the poor through the Corporal Works of Mercy, but to

instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, and admonish the sinner through the Spiritual Works of mercy as well. The Catholic Worker movement continues to do this by what Peter Maurin termed “the clarification of thought” whereby weekly or monthly roundtable discussions continue to teach Catholics and non-Catholics alike the value of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and how we can bring this richness of the Gospel into our daily lives and work.

90th Anniversary Mass

Fr. Raymond P. Roden celebrated Mass at St. Joseph House for the 90th Anniversary of Catholic Worker on the memorial of St. Joseph the Worker and shared the following three quotes from his homily with us:

“We must stand strong. We must love the world---for God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to save it (John 3:16) but we must not kneel before it, as Jacques Maritain prophetically wrote decades ago in *The Peasant of the Garrone*.”

Cf Installation Homily +Francis Leo, Toronto, 3/25/23

II

“We will love those who are near and those who are far from us; we will love our country and that of others; we will love our friends; we will love our enemies. We will love all social classes but especially those in most need of help, of assistance and of advancement. We will love the young and the old, the poor and the sick. We will love those who mock us, those who scorn us, who oppose us, who persecute us. We will love those who deserve, and we will love those who do not deserve to be loved. We will love our adversaries: We will want no one to be our enemy. We will love our times, our civilizations, our technologies, our arts, our sports, our world. We will love striving to understand, to have compassion, to esteem, to serve and to

suffer. We will love with the Heart of Christ.” St. Paul VI, as Abp Montini, Second World Congress of the Lay Apostolate, Rome, 1957. Cf. Installation Homily +Leo, Toronto, 3/25/23.

III

“In the face of this vast enterprise now engaging the whole human race, people are asking themselves a series of questions. What is the meaning and value of all this activity? How should these benefits be used? Where are the efforts of individuals and communities finally leading us? Cf The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World of Vatican II, Office of Readings for St. Joseph the Worker, May 1.

Update on Staten Island Catholic Worker!

We are in the process of finalizing our bylaws, consulting with local advisors, and planning our first holiday meal scheduled for New Year’s Day 2024. Just as Joe started with a team of volunteers and a holiday meal (see page 3), we will do the same, knowing that “The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones” (Luke 16:10). Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin were often overwhelmed with the largeness of the NYC Catholic Worker and stated often that ‘we should start small and keep it small’ (see page 4). The goal is to mobilize many to do the Works of Mercy together in community to ease the burden of all. I look forward to Sunday, October 8th when we can share and plan for the future of Staten Island Catholic Worker.

**JOIN US for our
FIRST Planning
Meeting
Blessed Sacrament
Church
Sunday, October 8th
4PM
(30 Manor Rd, 10310)**

How you can help:

a) We are looking for a house/apartment to rent for our missionaries to begin our House of Hospitality (A landlord who is sympathetic to our mission would be helpful!)

b) Financial donations can be made out and mailed to:

Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Inc, PO Box 61264, S.I., NY 10306 or electronically at the link or QR Code



<https://bit.ly/3WfGr8G>
501(c)(3) EIN # 88-3921341

c) Volunteers for our holiday meal **d)** Secretarial support for our apostolate and **e)** Volunteers for light errands. Email us for more info & to get your newsletter **digitally:** SiCatholicWorker@gmail.com

Ferry Launch Quote of Bishop John J. O'Hara:

"Our saint. Our Dorothy Day. Whom the Lord called over the years, and then in an encounter on the South Shore on the beach with a Sister of Charity, He began drawing her closer and closer and closer. As He formed those prophets of old, so too did He form this great woman. She is not to be admired; she is to be imitated. And as we set sail today on this vessel which bears her name, this 'Servant of God,' whom we pray will one day be St. Dorothy Day!"

<https://thegoodnewsroom.org/staten-island-ferry-named-dorothy-day- maiden-voyage/>

Link to Bp. Byrne article mentioning our SI Catholic Worker:

<https://thegoodnewsroom.org/staten-island-ferry-reminder-dorothy-day/>



(Dorothy Day 1940) Spending much time on Staten Island enjoying nature, finding love and God, giving birth and nurturing her daughter, and converting to Catholicism. She was baptized at Our Lady Help of Christians church.

The picture below is from the Dorothy Day guild website.

Join the Dorothy Day Guild!

To join the Dorothy Day Guild to help support her cause, visit:

<http://dorothydayguild.org/>

CWH of Lancaster -A Model

In the few months I've spent at the Catholic Worker House of Lancaster, PA, I have learned so much! This LCW and the Lancaster city community is a model we can follow in beginning a new Catholic Worker house in a way that is realistic to live, operate and grow, together with the local community. Unlike the 90-year-old New York City Catholic Worker house, which is open 7 days a week with a large donor-base from the tens of thousands of newspapers distributed each year, the LCW was started by a retired man named Joe Dougherty 17 years ago with nothing more than the strong desire to do so and the prayers and support of his family and community. Joe passed away about 2 years ago during the pandemic and his daughter Tara, who had helped him from the beginning, took over as director. When Tara sent out word that she was looking for a Catholic worker to help build up LCW after the pandemic, I thought this would be a great way to learn and experience a different model that could be imitated more easily than the CW in NYC. I was not disappointed! Since I have been here, we have built up the

weekly Saturday soup kitchen back to half of what the numbers were pre-pandemic. I have experienced and helped to serve two holiday meals, one on Christmas Eve and one on Easter Sunday. We served over a hundred guests at each meal and I am learning how to coordinate and organize these meals and volunteers, as well as a large clothing drive that will take place in the Fall. I am also gaining experience and ideas for fundraising as well as with community efforts to support the homeless and those struggling on low-income. Reading about Joe Dougherty and how he started the LCW house has inspired me with a renewed enthusiasm to do the same on Staten Island. But the biggest lesson learned is that the gifts of the local community must be utilized – that means YOU!

by Deborah Sucich

Roundtable Discussions

We are pleased to announce that the LCW will be hosting monthly roundtable discussions that will be available online (available to join via online link), as a supplement to our in-person talks scheduled throughout the year on Staten Island. Stay tuned for our in-person talks on various social justice issues, the Catholic Worker Movement, and the spirituality of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin. (See page 4 'In Their Own Words' for Peter Maurin on roundtable discussions).



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Peter Maurin:

"We need round-table discussions to keep trained minds from becoming academic.

We need round-table discussions to keep untrained minds from becoming superficial.

We need round-table discussions to learn from scholars how things would be, if they were as they should be.

We need round-table discussions to learn from scholars how a path can be made from things as they are to things as they should be." Quoted by Day, Dorothy. "Loaves and Fishes". *The Catholic Worker May* '67

Dorothy Day:

"Our Houses of Hospitality are scarcely the kind of houses that Peter Maurin has envisioned in his plan for a new social order. He recognizes that himself, and thinks in terms of the future to accomplish true centers of Catholic Action and rural centers such as he speaks of in his column this month. Our houses grew up around us. Our bread lines came about by accident, our roundtable discussions are unplanned, spontaneous affairs. The smaller the house, the smaller the group, the better. If we could get it down to *Christian families*, we would be content. Ever to become smaller--that is the aim. And to talk about incorporating is somehow to miss the point of the whole movement. So all right, St. Joseph, if you have brought about clarification of thought by your little joke on your feast day, all right, we are grateful to you. Meanwhile there is that printing bill of \$1,100

that needs to be paid. We are only hinting at you about this, because St. Francis de Sales is the special patron of writers and journalists. Maybe we had better ask him." Day, Dorothy. "Day After Day - September 1942". *CW* 9/19/42

Martha Hennessy Quotes from Ferry Launch Ceremony:

"We are at war, a declared war, with Japan, Germany, and Italy. But still we can repeat Christ's words, each day, holding them close in our hearts, each month printing them in the paper.

[*The Catholic Worker* will quote our Pope, our saints, our priests. We will go on printing the articles of Father Hugo, who reminds us today that we are all 'called to be saints,' that we are other Christs, reminding us of the priesthood of the laity.

We are still pacifists. Our manifesto is the Sermon on the Mount, which means that we will try to be peacemakers. Speaking for many of our conscientious objectors, we will not participate in armed warfare or in making munitions, or by buying government bonds to prosecute the war or in urging others to these efforts.

But neither will we be carping in our criticism. We love our country...] "Our works of Mercy may take us into the midst of war. As editor of *The Catholic Worker*, I would urge our friends and associates to care for the sick and the wounded, to the growing of food for the hungry, to the continuance of all our Works of Mercy in our houses and on our farms. We understand, of course, that there is and there will be differences of opinion ever among our own groups as to how much collaboration we can have with the government in times like these.

There are differences more profound and there will be many continuing to work with us from necessity, or from choice, who do not agree with us as to our position on war, conscientious objection, etc. But we beg that there will be mutual charity and forbearance among us all. Because of our refusal to assist in the prosecution of war and our insistence that our collaboration be one for peace, we may find ourselves in difficulties. But we trust in the generosity and understanding of our government and our friends, to permit us to continue to use our paper to 'preach Christ crucified.' And may the Blessed Mary, Mother of beautiful love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope, pray for us." Dorothy Day January 1942 *By Little And By Little* p.262-3

Our Goals and Mission:

The CW movement has been growing since 1933 and now has about 200 houses worldwide with many here in New York State. **Our goal is to start a Dorothy Day House of Hospitality here on Staten Island where Dorothy lived and is now buried, to carry on the CW movement. We seek solidarity with the most vulnerable through living voluntary poverty, educating ourselves and others in Catholic Social Teaching, and living simply in respect of God's creation. Dorothy Day's House of Hospitality on Staten Island would serve the needs of the local community allowing others to engage in both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy to enliven the local church in the spirit of faith, love, and service.**