

Collin County Interfaith.doc

St. Francis is an active participant in the Collin County Interfaith organization (CCI) - which organizes and trains people to address problems of our poor and unfortunate brothers and sisters. CCI is part of a larger group, Dallas Area Interfaith (DAI). In April 2005, DAI is having its convention in Dallas. More information about that follows.

The Justice and Service ministry is trying to identify the problems faced by people in Frisco and surrounding communities, to take to DAI and put on the April convention agenda. We are also trying to identify leaders who are passionate about addressing particular issues.

What is Collin County Interfaith (CCI)?

It is a part of Dallas Area Interfaith (DAI). The people within this organization try to find ways to change our society and culture to help our poor, sick, and oppressed brothers and sisters. It is about being the body of Christ in our community.

How does it work?

Participation in CCI is about forming relationships among people through lively communication in order to:

- Identify the pressures within our community, schools and neighborhoods.
- Identify leaders with passion and time to work on shared areas of interest for change.
- Educate and inspire people to participate in bringing about justice through unity for change.
- Teach ordinary people how to speak, act, and engage in the politics of change for their communities, neighborhoods, and schools.
- Network with other leaders with shared passion and commitment to change what needs to be changed.
- Inform our political leaders of our issues, ask them how they plan to address them, and be able to hold them accountable.

What is our next event?

Our next event is a convention/rally on April 17th, 2005.

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The purpose of this is to:

- Network with Dallas and Collin County Area Interfaith leaders.
- Hold an accountability session with local and state political leaders. This will give the political leaders an opportunity to state where they stand on the issues of concern.
- Create media attention around the accountability session. Large numbers of people united on the issues speaks volumes to our political and business leaders. They need all of us behind them. We have to show them we will stand behind common-sense solutions to real problems.

What is our goal?

- Identify the issues relevant to residents of Collin County.
- To identify as many leaders as possible who are willing to help address the issues.
- To inspire 100 to 150 people to attend the convention.
- Rally the troops for post convention action.

What CCI is doing in the next month?

- Meet with as many people as we can for small informal discussions. These discussions will be about the community and/or family pressures they experience first hand or observe in others. To do this we are contacting as many of the church ministry heads as possible to see if we can get on their agenda and spend about ½ an hour doing these small informal discussions.
- Collect and refine these issues to present to the convention's agenda committee by Feb 20th, 2005.
- Identify potential leaders and supporters to attend the April 17th convention and work with us to make the changes we agree are needed.

How you can help?

Please consider an informal discussion during your next ministry meeting or a way in which St. Francis' CCI leaders could meet with some of your interested ministry members. Your help is appreciated. We will be contacting you or if you have any question please contact Chris Netto by phone (972) 712-8975 or email nettowoman@msn.com.