*Stewards of Justice and Peace*

Next Meeting: January 22, 7pm Oscar Romero Room

Agenda: Father Fred is challenging committee members and the parish at large to think “out-of-the-box” about how we intend to take a stand against endemic racism and its attendant judicial and economic injustice. We are called to examine biases within our hearts; asked what we can do better within the parish to ensure true inclusion; and required by the Gospel to engage the broader community in an effort to be part of the solution. *Minutes from the prior meetings available on request*

Minutes from January 8, 2017

\* We began with a Daily Meditation from Richard Rohr

\* We concurred with Ftr. Fred to go ahead with a parish wide Lenten study on Jim Wallace’s

America’s Original Sin This was announced from the pulpit this week in consultation with the Faith Formation committee.

\* Two possible programs were mentioned for parish participation: “Beloved Conversations”, headed by

Unitarian Pastor, Jennifer Grant; and a locally based anti racism day program offered through the Episcopal Diocese of CNY.

\* Mention went to Derrick Wilson, the local convicted drug dealer who successfully defended himself in a

 murder case having turned his cell into a law office.

\* Editorial summation of some recurring themes: We have three classes of people relevant to the discussion.

1) Activists 2) Hardcore purveyors of “odious” racism 3) Middle road decent minded white people (and some black) who support unconscious racism by supporting candidates and policies that inadvertently or inevitably further disproportionate impact on people of color. (See sewerage in basement of Fowler High) This is the target group for conversion and it will take “more than 15 minutes” This is the group Dr. King excoriated for complicity. This is the group necessary for success. Minorities and activists less likely to succeed w/o their participation.

\* A point was made regarding how common language serves to reinforce negative identification;

see “African Slaves” vs “Enslaved Africans”.

\* Some of our members are crossing over to other area task forces. We had 2 participate in the Police

Acountability group 1/8; 6 joined the ACT group 1/9 and 1 hosted the FREEnewyork info session 1/17 in the Oscar Romero Rm.