President’s Peace Commission Mission Statement

The President's Peace Commission fosters an ethical commitment to participate in the establishment of world peace and social justice. The Commission encourages respect for human rights and dignity of all people. The Commission annually hosts symposia that offer opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to grow in their active pursuit of peace and justice. Through the symposia and other activities, the Commission seeks to build within the St. Mary's University community a greater awareness of the Roman Catholic and Marianist perspectives on peace and justice. The President's Peace Commission reflects the University community through student, staff, and faculty representatives appointed by the University President.

For more information, please see our website:

http://www.stmarytx.edu/ppc

Faculty: Celeste Diaz Ferraro; Marcella Lesher; Leona Pallansch; Richard Pressman

Staff: Paul Felarca; Bro. Brian Halderman, SM; Krystina Irvin; Irene Quesnot

Students: Christian Ekleberry; Tyler Ingraham; Philippe Nassif; Lauren N. Sanchez; Matthew Zamaripa; David Zapata
In the fall of 2008, rumors of a recession were confirmed when the effects of Wall Street’s troubles began to show up on Main Street USA and the rest of the world. The struggling financial sector, corporate cutbacks, and widespread layoffs have become part of everyday news and have caused economic woes for countless people. This has had an impact on the political, economic, and cultural climate of the country. But is this necessarily a bad thing? As we grapple with the challenges associated with a worsening economy, can making changes in our values and lifestyles offer hope to us in this troubling time?

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

9:45 am
Invocation
Rev. Rudy Vela, SM, DMin, Vice President, Mission and Identity, StMU

9:45 am–11:00 am
Reflections: How Has Life Changed This Past Year?
Speakers
Laura Cisneros, Social Service Manager, Department of Community Initiatives, City of San Antonio
James Aldridge, Web Editor, San Antonio Business Journal
Moderator
Bro. Brian Halderman, SM, University Minister for Social Justice, StMU, PPC

11:10 am–12:25 pm
Business NOT as Usual: New Solutions for a New Economy
Speakers
Mari Aguirre, Manager of Community Affairs, Rackspace Hosting
Thomas Galvin, Vice President, University Advancement, StMU
A. J. Rodriguez, Deputy City Manager, City of San Antonio
David Zapata, StMU, PPC
Moderator

12:35 pm–1:50 pm
Estrangement to Engagement: Empowering Communities
Speakers
Melissa Schulz, President, San Antonio Volunteer Administrators
Cynthia Medina, MSW, Sociology, Director, Center for Volunteerism and Service Learning, Our Lady of the Lake University
Tramelle Jones, Recruitment Director, Public Allies
Krystina Irvin, Interim Service Learning Coordinator, StMU, PPC
Moderator

2:00 pm–3:15 pm
Tightening Wallets, Tightening Belts: Eating Better with Less
Speakers
Suzy Holleron, Marketing Director, Whole Foods of San Antonio
Leslie Provence, Sustainable Food Advocate, San Antonio Food Policy Initiative
Stacie Montalvo, Assistant Food Service Director, ARAMARK, StMU
Rosemarie Wahl, PhD, Biological Sciences, StMU
Moderator

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

9:20 am–10:10 am
Economic Woes and Mental Well-Being
Speakers
Dan Ratliff, PhD, Counseling & Human Services, StMU
Laura Bryan, PhD, Clinical Administrator, Family Life Center, StMU
Moderator
Christian Ekleberry, StMU, PPC

10:20 am–11:10 am
Social Entrepreneurship: The Great Impact
Speakers
Students from the High Technology and Society class
Moderators
Rafael Moras, PhD, Engineering, StMU
Jonathan Michelon, Political Science, StMU

11:20 am–12:10 pm
Making College Affordable
Speakers
Joaquin Castro, Texas State Representative, District 125, Vice Chairman, Higher Education Committee
Charles Cotrell, PhD, President, StMU
Moderators
Rosalind V. Alderman, PhD, Asst. Vice President, Retention Management, StMU

1:45 pm–3:00 pm
How a Bad Economy Can Lead to a Better Ecology
Speakers
Laurence Doxsey, Director, Environmental Policy, City of San Antonio
Allison Rivenburgh, CEO, Sustainable Perspectives Group
Moderator
Irene Quesnot, Minister for Faith Formation and Enrichment, University Ministry, StMU, PPC