



# Saint John's Hospice Newsletter

March 2011

1221 Race St  
Philadelphia PA 19107

215-563-7763

[www.saintjohnshospice.org](http://www.saintjohnshospice.org)

## Kevin Barr

Program Director

## David Stier

Operations

## Iraina Salaam

Social Services

## Gerry Huot

Community Relations

## Anthony Willoughby

Food Services

## Janet Dillon

Program Secretary

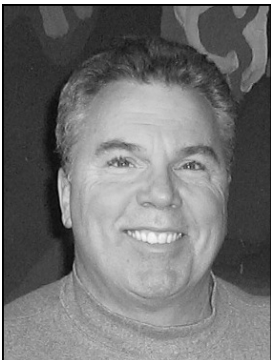
## William Jackson

Clothing Room



**Helping those in need  
on behalf of those who care**

**Saint John's Hospice  
seeks to be a  
community  
grounded in  
faith and service  
where homeless persons  
find dignity,  
respect,  
nourishment  
and opportunities  
for new beginnings.**



## **Blessing after Blessing ~ 1st Annual Fund Begins!**

**By Kevin Barr, Program Director**

Several years ago I worked with Mervyn, a man who was both deaf and blind. I asked him (by finger spelling in his hands) whether he was mad at God for the

loss of his sight and eyes. I was amazed at his response. He simply signed "I am not mad because God has given me **blessing after blessing after blessing**".

Not a day goes by that I am not reminded of the many blessings that flow everyday through the special place that is Saint John's Hospice. I never really considered fundraising to be one of those blessings but after being asked to co-chair our **1st Annual Fund** (which kicked off in November), I now have that perspective.

At first I was not optimistic about this fundraising challenge. An analysis of current economic conditions would certainly not encourage me to project a very positive outlook regarding our appeal. It is only when I allowed grace, gratitude and openness to more blessings to play an important role in this campaign that this optimism really began to flourish.

**Fran Connell** of our Advisory Board and co-chair of this 1st Annual Appeal shared his perspective of the blessings he receives when helping to support us:

"Each time I serve at Saint John's Hospice is a great blessing. I feel the presence of God strongly as the wonderful men pass through the serving line to receive their meal. The Gospel message of Love is so profoundly evident at 1221 Race Street."

We are excited to share with you more stories of Saint John's Hospice in this newsletter. We are also taking the opportunity to report on our stewardship of the gifts you have provided us over the past year and our outlook for the future.

I am amazed and blessed by the responses of both Mervyn and Fran. We know that we will be amazed and blessed by your continued response to this appeal. We have received over \$140,000 toward our goal of \$250,000 and more is pledged.

God does give all of us blessing after blessing after blessing. We pray that in your support of this 1st Annual Fund that you are open to receive the blessing after blessing that will come your way.

## **Inside ...**

<i>Brother Kip Ledger leaves rich legacy</i>	2
<i>Man to Man ... an Insight into Chris</i>	2
<i>Report to Stakeholders</i>	3-4
<i>W. W. Smith Charitable Trust Helps SJH ...</i>	5
<i>This and That ...</i>	5
<i>In Loving Memory</i>	5
<i>The Christ of the Breadlines</i>	6

**United Way Donor  
Option #272**

**Combined Federal  
Campaign #25893**

**Twitter: [saintjohnshosp](https://twitter.com/saintjohnshosp)**

**Facebook:  
[Saint John's Hospice](https://www.facebook.com/SaintJohnsHospice)**

# Brother Kip Ledger Leaves a Rich Legacy

Brother Kip Ledger completed four years as Day Services Case Manager in September. He offered this reflection:

## Saint John's Hospice The Best Program in the City A personal reflection by Brother Kip Ledger, OFM Cap

Saint John's Hospice has been serving the Homeless Culture since 1963, doing the best they can with what they have. And what they have is a humble building and a staff that cares, where every person has a name. The staff are people who care about people and want to make a difference. They are a mixture of Christian denominations, Muslims, and others who have one thing in common; a love for God and God's holy people.

The Office of Supportive Housing (OSH) of the city of Philadelphia has inspected the bed program at Saint John's Hospice and concluded that it is the best in the city. Not only has this been mentioned by OSH, but also by many men from the street. For the man on the street SJH is not just another bed program. It is a beacon of hope that someday they might be able to get a bed there. They know that they will be treated with dignity and be able to live in a safe, drug free, God-centered environment. This is the wish of every person on the street, this is their HOPE.

The word on the street is that SJH also has the best food program in the city. They dish out casseroles that are made by people from different churches throughout the greater Philadelphia area. The men are always given plenty and they know that they will always be treated with respect. In one hour SJH serves over 300 men and they always give preference to veterans, disabled and senior citizens.

The Day Services Program gives individual attention to about 350 men a week. They are provided with a caseworker, showers, clothes, mental health counseling, and an onsite nurse. The mail program is the biggest in the city, allowing 3,000 men to receive their mail at SJH.

Is Saint John's Hospice the best facility serving the homeless culture in the City of Philadelphia? Don't take my word for it; ask the men in the street.

And if you do, don't forget to ask their name!



Bro Kip Ledger, OFM Cap; artist Doug Sanders talking about his painting

We honored Brother Kip at our September Donor/Volunteer appreciation day for his work with the homeless.

Every day for four years Kip helped 30-50 men in his small basement office. The men who entered had a great love and respect for Kip. You couldn't walk the streets around center city without several men yelling out "Hey, Brother Kip" or "Hey, Father John's".



Saint John's Hospice resident **Doug Sanders** painted the scene above of Kip interacting with one of his day service clients. At first Doug wanted to do a portrait of Kip by himself. He changed his mind because he knew that service and relationship are what Kip is all about. On the painting are the words "LOST FOUND BROKEN BLESSED". Kip was a great fan of the TV show *Lost*. More importantly, he knew that the spiritual path for the men he served included this cycle of being *lost* and *broken*. It is the support of Kip and the other staff that help these men *find* the ways that even in their brokenness they are *blessed* and can be a blessing to others (including all of us).

Thank you Brother Kip for giving so much of yourself to this beautiful and challenging ministry!

Doug's remark about his Saint John's experience - "There is no place like Saint John's. I've been in several shelters. The singular reason that makes John's stand out is that the amount of dignity they offer here goes such a long way."

*Brother Kip now serves at Ministry of Caring's Sacred Heart House, a work of the Capuchin Franciscans in Wilmington.*

# Man-to-Man ... An Insight into Chris

By Rob (SJH Resident)

I recently had the pleasure of interviewing a current resident of Saint John's Hospice. He was very eager to speak of how Saint John's has helped him in many ways. He is grateful and humbled by his experience and has developed a positive outlook for the future during his stay.

Chris has been at Saint John's for over six months. I asked him, "What is it about Saint John's that has helped you during this difficult and transitional time in your life?"

Chris said, "Saint John's has helped me the most by giving me the opportunity to be part of something bigger than myself". He went on to say that, "I appreciate all of the staff and residents who have encouraged and motivated me to put the past behind and to have faith in myself and my future".

Chris also enjoys giving back to the hospice by working in the cafeteria. This allows him to serve the hundreds of men who come in daily for a hot lunch. Chris also liked his weekly Thursday outing to the Cranaleith Spiritual Center (in the Somerton area of Philadelphia, operated by the Sisters of Mercy) where he and other residents put in a good morning's work on the land: gardening, landscaping and other maintenance tasks. After a couple of hours on these chores, Chris says that they enjoy a good lunch while they sit and chat with the nuns who live there.

Thanks to Saint John's and Chris' personal determination and new found faith, he is now equipped to live a prosperous and self reliant life.

**"To all at Saint John's Hospice: you are an amazing, friendly, welcoming people who shine with the love of Christ. Thank you for bestowing some of that on me. You are true blessings and I hope to follow in your footsteps."**

Summer Volunteer with the Center for Student Missions

## Brother Kip CD Available

Brother Kip is an accomplished musician and composer. He leads music at St John the Evangelist Church in center city and recently completed a CD, *We Will Know Ourselves Only In Christ*. The last cut is by a former SJH client.



Available at Saint John's Hospice for \$12 or at [cdbaby.com/cd/kipledger](http://cdbaby.com/cd/kipledger).

# A Report to our Stakeholders

Donors ~ Volunteers ~ Patrons ~ Staff

Saint John's Hospice subscribes to openness and transparency principles for charitable organizations. This report helps us fulfill that responsibility.

Saint John's Hospice serves homeless and other needy men among us. We fulfill an essential ministry of the Church and are part of Catholic Social Services (CSS) of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

We serve in four distinct areas:

40-bed residence for men—drug- and alcohol-free—to transition from homelessness to independence. Our men meet with our case managers to work through what caused their homelessness and direct them to appropriate treatment and skill development.

12-bed Good Shepherd Program for medically fragile homeless men. Once again, this is a transition from homelessness to independence, working with our case managers.

Day services for men in need—a nutritious and hot noon meal for more than 300 men each weekday; as well as counseling services, daily showers and clothing, and a mailroom for over 3,000.

Overnight "Coffee House" for up to 27 men each night from 10 pm to 6 am. We build trust and encourage our men to seek the help they need to break their own cycle of homelessness. We provide refreshments, restrooms, showers, and staff support 365 nights a year.

In all these services, we go beyond meeting basic and physical needs. We strive to provide the dignity and respect that offers each of our guests the strength to break out of homelessness.

Saint John's Hospice serves all without discrimination. We target our services to adult men regardless of faith, race, economic condition, health, or sexual orientation. (CSS serves women and children

through the Mercy Hospice and Women of Hope programs.)

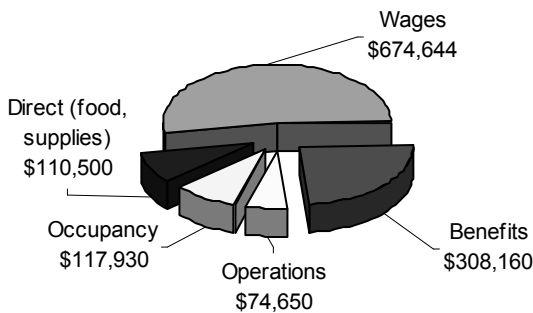
Saint John's Hospice is highly respected among the needy. We're known on the street as "John's" or "Father John's". Our men see us as a holy place in addition to a place to get assistance and nourishment.

We began in 1963—almost 50 years ago—as a ministry of St. John the Evangelist Church in center city. The Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd served here for 25 years before turning Saint John's over to CSS. Saint John's today has a Franciscan flavor, with the long service of Brother Kip Ledger, OFM Cap, and many Franciscan Capuchin postulants.

Through almost half a century, we have been supported by donors and volunteers of all faiths. Our mission embraces not only Christians but also our Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist brothers and sisters.

## Financials ~ July 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2011

### Budgeted Expenses ~ \$1,285,884



### Expenses

Because of the generous gifts of food & clothing, wages/benefits are our highest expenses.

"Occupancy" ~ facility expenses (maintenance, insurance, heating, electricity, ...)

"Operations" ~ phone service, vehicles, gas, computers, ...

~ We operate on an annual budget of almost \$1.3 million. We receive almost \$300,000 (~23 percent) each year from federal and local governments ("operating revenue"). We believe we have a more stable operating base than if we were more dependant on volatile government funding. Thus we embrace and welcome the charity of others for the remaining \$1 million each year.

~ Revenues consist of legacies and bequests, private donations, the United Way campaign plus investment income from our operating fund. This fund provides a cushion in lean years and is available for major capital improvements. We have drawn on this fund over the past three years, though, to meet day-to-day operating expenses.

~ 1st Annual Fund. Without this Fund, our projected revenues are only \$850,000. We thus need the additional \$250,000 to keep our doors open (\$150,000) as well as to replenish the operating fund and to adequately prepare for the future (\$100,000).

~ Gifts in Kind are not shown in these charts. We conservatively estimate over \$200,000 per year in casseroles, breads, desserts, clothing, toiletries. Plus, volunteers worked over 20,000 hours last year, valued at over \$200,000.

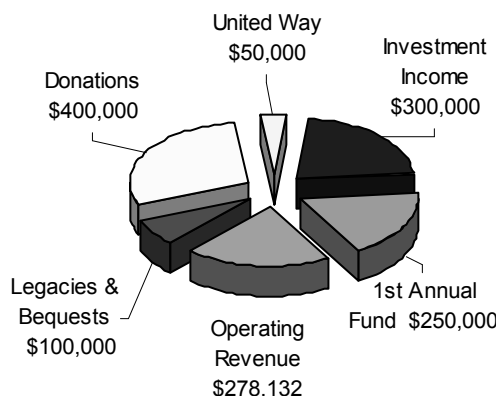
### Revenue

Our operating fund has helped sustain us for the past 4 lean years. We now need to replenish it.

"Operating Revenue" ~ government and private stipends.

Saint John's Hospice needs to sustain itself to maintain viable services to the homeless for many years to come.

### Projected Revenue ~ \$1,378,132



# Who Manages Saint John's Hospice?

**Management** ~ Archdiocese of Philadelphia

- Secretariat for Catholic Human Services, Joseph J. Sweeney, Jr., Secretary
- Catholic Social Services, James Amato, Deputy Secretary
  - Housing and Homeless Services Division, Deborah Wagner, Director
  - Saint John's Hospice, Kevin Barr, Program Director

**Governance** ~ Board of Directors of Catholic Social Services (CSS) of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (see list of Board Members, right)

**Development** ~ Saint John's Hospice Advisory Board, established in March 2010 (see details below).

## Saint John's Hospice Establishes Advisory Board

### Helps SJH Development Program

Saint John's Hospice has long recognized that we needed help to effectively manage our shelter operations and also raise the funds needed to support it.

Kevin Barr, program director, formed an Advisory Board in March 2010 to "support the immediate and long-term fiscal viability of Saint John's Hospice."

This Advisory Board reports to and advises Mr Barr and in turn Housing & Homeless Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and their governing board. Gerry Huot, Director of Community Relations, manages day-to-day operations.

The Advisory Board meets monthly to plan its activities. In keeping with the spirit of Saint John's, members also directly serve our men through parish appeals, serving lunch and other programs.

In less than one year, the new *Saint John's Hospice Advisory Board* can tout a number of accomplishments:

- Share the SJH message in parishes
- Organized the 2010 Donor-Volunteer Appreciation Day last September
- Backbone of the SJH 1st Annual Fund drive in November-December
- SJH publicity via newspaper articles, COMCAST "Newsmaker" segment, SJH billboard

This board will also play key roles in the events and observances for our 50th Anniversary on September 7, 2013.

## Board of Directors ~ Catholic Social Services

**Bishop John J. McIntyre**, *President, Ex-Officio*, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

**Sr M. Noel Albers**, SSND, Baltimore MD

**Mr Peter T. Ancona**, PECO Energy Co

**Ms Elizabeth Harper Briglia**, Chester County Community Foundation

**Dr Dorothy McKenna Brown**, *Assistant Treasurer*, Wynnewood, PA

**Ms Marion J. Corbin**, Chalfont, PA

**Mr Michael Crofton**, Philadelphia Trust Co

**Mr John P. Delaney, Jr.**, Office of the District Attorney, Philadelphia

**Msgr Edward P. Deliman**, St Martin of Tours, Philadelphia

**Mr Daniel K. Fitzpatrick**, CFA, Citizens Bank

**Mr Christopher J. Gigliotti, Jr.**, Village Homes and Properties, LLC

**Ms Denise D. Hodgson**, Blue Bell, PA

**Ms Maura B. Kelly**, *Treasurer*, Pinnacle Realty Services

**Mr J. William Knott**, *Vice President*, Bryn Mawr, PA

**Tara G. LaFiura, Esq.**, *Secretary*, Blank Rome LLP

**Mr Vince Liuzzi**, Wachovia Bank, N.A.

**Leonard P. Nalencz, Esq.**, Blank Rome LLP

**Msgr Nelson J. Perez**, St Agnes, West Chester

**Gina M. Smith, Esq.**, Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP

**Mr Julian Staniec**, Philadelphia, PA

**Mr Joseph J. Sweeney**, *Executive Vice President, Ex-Officio*, Catholic Social Services

## Donor Bill of Rights

Saint John's subscribes to the standards for fundraising organizations developed by the Association of Fundraising Professionals and other groups. Among these:

- We treat donors with respect and confidentiality. We publish donor names unless donors request anonymity.
- Only volunteers or staff solicit funds for SJH. We do not hire solicitors.
- All gifts are used for the purpose for which they are intended.

See our website for full "Bill of Rights".

## Meet our Advisory Board Members

**Beth A. Bresnan**, retired Saint John's Hospice Volunteer & Community Relations Coordinator

**James V. Coffey**, Vice President, The Papal Foundation

**Francis X. Connell**, Chief Financial Officer, The Papal Foundation

**Robert J. Juliano**, Vice President, Community Development, Beneficial Bank

**Ryan Newman**, Vice President, Investment Management Division, Goldman, Sachs & Co

**Christopher M. Pecoraio**, Vice President, TD Bank, Healthcare Financial Services

**Joseph Piccillo**, Jamison, PA

**Maureen Piccillo**, Consultant, Cerberean Consulting Group, LLC

Saint John's Hospice gratefully recognizes the work of two Advisory Board charter members who have resigned:

**John T. Fritz**, former Vice President, Marketing & Development, and former board member, The Sunshine Foundation

**John H. Heary**, retired President, Integrity Claims Consulting, LLC, and Vice President/Treasurer, Pennsylvania Anti-Car Theft Committee

## W. W. Smith Charitable Trust Helps SJH Serve the Elderly

### \$36,000 Targeted for Food, Clothing

Saint John's Hospice is very grateful for a grant from the W. W. Smith Charitable Trust for food and clothing for our elderly homeless patrons.

We received this grant in October 2010. This is Saint John's largest grant so far this fiscal year (July-June).

Over 46 percent of those who seek help here at Saint John's Hospice are elderly. That includes our residents as well as those who rely on us for a good meal, clean clothing, a hot shower, overnight respite in our coffee house, or simply speaking to one of our caring staff or volunteers.

The W. W. Smith Charitable Trust provides grants to non-profits for basic medical research dealing with Cancer, AIDS and Heart Disease, scholarship programs at predetermined colleges and universities-by invitation only, and programs providing shelter, food, and or clothing for poor children, needy families with children, and poor elderly.

It makes available basic necessities that are required to sustain life through the direct provision of food, clothing, and shelter.

**Michelle Montgomery**, grant administrator, visited Saint John's Hospice and commented on how pleased she was that W. W. Smith is able to take an active role in our mission.

Our website has a new section that shares information on governance, staff, financials, donors and gifts during the last fiscal year. Check it out at the "about us" link on the top line menu.



## Discovering the Right Questions versus Having Answers?

**Save the Date!**

**Kevin Barr**, Saint John's Program Director, will lead a reflection on spirituality at the **St Raphaela Center** in Havertown, PA:

**Wednesday evening, May 4th  
7 to 8:30 pm**

A portion of the \$20 admission price will benefit Saint John's Hospice.

Great music, inspiring images and reflections and many faith-filled questions will accompany us as we look at our faith journey through "new eyes".

Interested? Contact Kevin Barr directly at 215-776-3510 or kbarr@chs-adphila.org.

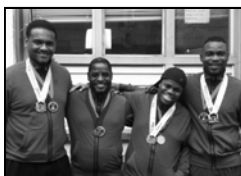
## This and That ...

The family of **Mesfin Melles** honored their brother on the second anniversary of his death on December 29th. **Betre Melles** describes how his brother Mesfin was a very strong advocate for the homeless, the poor and the disenfranchised. He was a gentle soul whose generosity touched many. The family shared in Mass, served lunch, brought clothing, and made a generous donation to Saint John's Hospice.



Mesfin Melles Family

... Philadelphia's Office of Supportive Housing awarded Saint John's Hospice its top honor, the "**Making a Difference**" Award for excellence in helping homeless individuals achieve independence and self-sufficiency. This award comes from and reflects excellence in accountability and compliance in the services we offer according to **Kevin Brazeale**, OSH's Assistant Deputy Director.



Azriel, Troy, Joe, Eric with marathon medals

... **Eric Fair, Azriel Yehalalel, Troy Smith, and Joe Nobel**, completed the Philadelphia Marathon in November. Each was active in the **Back On My Feet** program. Eric was featured in *Good Health* magazine ... resulting in a gift of running attire for all four from **Alo Clothing** of California.

... Saint John's Hospice surpassed **20,000 hours of volunteer service** for 2010. This equates to more than 10 extra full time employees. These hours include any non-paid help offered on site ... they don't count time spent gathering and delivering donations or preparing casseroles. All of these gifts-in-kind are an integral part of our being able to provide our services to so many.

## In Loving Memory ...

**Mary Agnew**...April 5, 2010

**Eileen M. Carlucci**...January 23, 2011

**Victor & Anna Carnavelino**

**Francis "Frank" Conroy**...September 15, 2010

**Michael P. Cunningham**...August 3, 2010

**Elizabeth Davidson**...June 2010

**William B. Filer**...February 2010

**Kevin Thomas Flack**...August 26, 2010

**Francis L. Gilroy**...September 15, 2010

**Claire A. Lutek**...January 1, 2011

**Margaret "Jean" McFeeley**...May 10, 2010

**Mesfin Melles**...December 29, 2009.

**Emily M. Newns**...August 25, 2010

**Martin J. O'Connor**...December 17, 2008  
...grandfather of SJH board member  
**Christopher Pecoraio**

**Margaret Mary Raudenbush**...August 28, 2010

**Joseph Schulingkamp**...July 17, 2010

**Kathryn Siegfried**...January 13, 2010

**Catherine C. "Dottie" Smith**...January 12, 2011

**Charles C. Tyminski**...November 24, 2010

**Theodore Varga**...January 3, 2011

**Patricia M. Wade**...May 2, 2010

We appreciate the gifts in their memories.

... Because of everyone's generosity to our annual boot drive, we were able provide all our residents as well as many of our day-services guests a pair of waterproof winter boots. Thanks to all who also helped procure these boots for our men.

## Memorial Gifts

We are happy to send a **Memorial Card** to recognize prayer intentions referred to Saint John's Hospice.

We enroll all prayer requests and intentions in our Chapel.

Saint John the Evangelist Church in center city offers Mass every week for these intentions as well as for our residents, guests, donors, volunteers and staff.

Please call Janet at 215-563-7763 for more information.

## Saint John's Hospice



1221 Race St  
Philadelphia PA 19107

Phone: 215-563-7763

Fax: 215-563-0108

E-mail: [info@saintjohnshospice.org](mailto:info@saintjohnshospice.org)

[www.saintjohnshospice.org](http://www.saintjohnshospice.org)

(Please phone or email address corrections.)

*Helping those in need on behalf of those who care*

## The Christ of the Breadlines

People often ask about *The Christ of the Breadlines* illustration that captures so well what we are about at Saint John's Hospice. The illustration is a signature image for Saint John's Hospice as it is for the Catholic Worker Movement and other charitable organizations.

Christ stands in the center of five men and a woman. They are the unemployed, the homeless, the hungry. Christ stands tall and his halo gleams, bringing warmth and light to others. For us who serve, it's a reminder that we are serving Jesus himself in all that we do: when we offer food, clothing, showers, mail, a bed, as well as comfort, listening and care to the needy among us.

The artist is Fritz Eichenberg (1901-1990). He first met Dorothy Day in 1949 at a "Religion and Publishing" symposium in

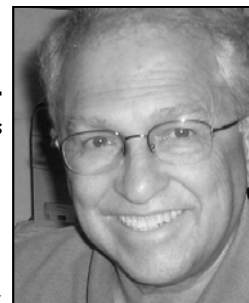
Wallingford, Pennsylvania. He had illustrated Russian novels including *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov* and used wood engraving as symbolic of creating life out of a void.



This image by Fritz Eichenberg graced the *Catholic Worker* newspaper many times from the early 1950s.

Eichenberg, a Quaker, confessed that "Dorothy Day was perhaps the most important influence in my life. ... She stood for everything that I thought would make life on this earth better. She stood for the un-

By **Gerry Huot**  
Director, Community Relations



derdog—the oppressed, the poor, the weak—the ones who were easily

discarded by society as 'hopeless cases'".

In response to Day's "Would you be willing to do some work for our paper?" he gladly provided illustrations as a sideline for which he accepted no pay and sought no rights. He considered it a privilege to support them.

Other powerful meditation images of Eichenberg are *The Lord's Supper*, *The Peaceable Kingdom* (a theme from Isaiah 11:6-8), and *St. Francis*.

A great source of information on Eichenberg and his "Mercy" images is Fr James Daprile who wrote a dissertation on Eichenberg's images, the Catholic Worker Movement, and Dorothy Day.