

The Social & Eco Justice Committee
(2016-2017, annual report submitted by Yvonne Hsieh)

Since its inception in April 2016, the SEJC has grown from 5 to 11 members. It has met 8 times and organized the following events:

– a **Write for Rights** session at Holy Cross on Dec. 10, 2016, on behalf of Amnesty International. 20 participants wrote 43 letters in support of social justice issues.

– the **99 + 1 dinner** at Holy Cross on Feb. 24, 2017, in collaboration with the Development and Peace committee. 1 person, selected at random, was served a 3-course gourmet meal, while the remaining 65 or so participants ate rice and lentils. Sister Marina Smith gave a presentation on D. and P. and on her own work in Haiti and Ethiopia.

– a **breakfast sponsorship at Our Place** downtown on March 11, 2017. Fr. William and 13 parishioners (mostly members of SEJC and of Parish Council) served breakfast to 400 people. We were given a tour of the facilities at Our Place afterwards.

In addition, SEJC members participated in the Earth Walk downtown on April 23, 2016, and attended different organizational meetings of the GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together) throughout the year. Two members represented our parish at a meeting of the Saanich municipal council on March 20, 2017, speaking in favour of a proposal to have the District of Saanich become a 100% Renewable Energy city by 2050. The Chair of SEJC represents Holy Cross at the Capital Region Social Justice Action Committee, created by Bishop Gordon in January 2017.

Beginning in October 2016, “green tips” from the SEJC have appeared in the Holy Cross bulletin on a monthly basis.

For **2017-2018**, we plan on:

- working towards a “greener” parish;
- sponsoring two more breakfasts at Our Place (fall 2017 and spring 2018), thanks to the fundraising success of John Lucas’s show *Orlando and the BC Gold Rush*;
- organizing another Write for Rights Session (Dec. 10, 2017);
- organizing a “green” dinner for St. Patrick’s Day, 2018.