

## NORTH SHORE INTERFAITH HOUSING COUNCIL

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

In his encyclical letter "Peace on Earth" Pope John XXIII says that every man has the right to life, to bodily integrity and to the means which are necessary and suitable for the proper development of life. These means are primarily clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and finally the necessary social services.

The Synod of bishops in Rome has declared that it is the solemn obligation of the Church to speak out against injustices of any kind.

In our concern about proper housing for the old, the handicapped, the poor, we need be inspired by the simple words of Jesus: "Whatsoever you do for the least of my brethren, you do for me."

Msgr. Eugene F. Lyons  
Saints Faith, Hope and Charity, Winnetka

"Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me." Jesus' ending to the Parable of the Last Judgment points arrowlike to the direction Christian ethics must take. The first question it asks is: "Who's hurting?" The second question: "How can I help?" "Who's hurting?" directs us away from ourselves and our well-fed neighbors to "the least, the last and the lost." "How can I help?" points to the something we can always do -- and thus give a cup of cold water, or a needed roof, to the easily-overlooked neighbor-in-need who represents Christ. Most of us on the North Shore don't need help in finding good housing in peaceful communities. But some of us do -- the aged, for example, or families in which the breadwinner becomes incapacitated. Some would like to live in our communities who perform highly useful work here but can't afford the tab -- teachers and firemen. And then there are neighbors in the city and elsewhere who long for a chance to escape grime, crime and dying neighborhoods. Our religious faith won't let us escape responsibility for seeing and helping. "Inasmuch as you did it unto one of the least of these, you did it unto me."

PAUL S. ALLEN  
Pastor, Winnetka Congregation Church

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together." These words from Psalms are a reminder that in the eyes of our religious belief we are all of the same family. Cain asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Our response should be patterned after the words of Isaiah who told the worshippers that God was not satisfied with prayer alone. What God expected of the people was to "shelter the homeless, feed the hungry and clothe the naked." If we accept the premise that there is to be a brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God, then our positive support of good housing for those who lack it is a direct corollary.

Our prayers during the Days of Awe urge us to be penitent not only for the wrongs we have committed but also for the good that we could have done but failed to do. The North Shore Interfaith Housing Council provides an opportunity for each of us to participate in helping others in a most vital area of concern.

Rabbi Harold L. Kudan  
Am Shalom, Glencoe