

# What did people say?

Update on the Listening Session on Unemployment  
Held on February 25, 2009 with 38 parishioners/participants

## What concerns the people?

- Losing “rainy day fund”
- Age-related issues: over-qualified, senior vs. junior, experience vs. age  
– How can senior employees compete with younger applicants?
- Fear of having to choose between paying rent or medication or being healthy.
- Health insurance limitations
- Increase in debts
- Anxiety in global economic crisis
- “I don’t feel undesirable” – emotional impact of looking for a job
- Limited unemployment benefits
- Underemployment’s pressure not to report injury on the job for fear of losing it.
- Impact of technology vs. face to face meetings

## What are the available resources for the unemployed or underemployed in the community?

- Worksource of Oregon – free classes on resume and interview, unemployment benefits, job resources, etc.  
[www.workingfororegon.org](http://www.workingfororegon.org)
- PCC Resource center – Women’s Center
- Multnomah Library – free computer use
- Job search engines (list available in the Parish Office and website)
- Franciscan Spirituality Center – for spiritual resource-  
503-794-8542

## What are our ACTION items as St. Clare community?

- Put together a network of the presently unemployed or underemployed to support each other.
- Organize parishioners who have the skills to help network, train and support parishioners who are unemployed.
- Contact Catholic universities’ career centers to collaborate with parish on training and networking
- Provide forums and workshops for skills development
- Create a special fund earmarked for helping the unemployed
- Continue listening to people’s stories
- Have a follow up meeting on March 24, 2009 at 7pm.
- Seek opportunities to engage in addressing and acting on long term solutions for the systemic problems.
- **PRAY.....**

For more information or to volunteer- call 503-244-1037, ext 107