



Catholics for Peace and Justice October 2011 Newsletter

Again this month there are many positive actions and efforts happening in our community. Dedicated groups and individuals continue to stay the course for peace and justice.

The way of Christ reminds us that peacemaking is not just a series of actions but a way of being, a way of loving and a way of life.

On October 8 The Milwaukee Coalition for a Just Peace [a coalition of 21 local organizations including Catholics for Peace and Justice] will mark the 10th year of war in Afghanistan with a Rally and Speakout at City Hall. Local elected are expected to be in attendance. Your turn out is important to demonstrate the need to end this war. Details are below.

"... 'If you work with and for the poor, you inevitably run into injustice.' In other words, poverty isn't caused by accident. There are unjust systems and structures that create and perpetuate poverty and human suffering. And service alone is never enough; working to change both the attitudes and institutional arrangements that cause poverty is required." [From "What is Biblical Politics?" by Jim Wallis, Sojourners 9/15/2011](#)

As always blessings on your ministry...

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Against Ten Years & \$459 Billion of War in Afghanistan – Rally Oct 8

YES. We are asking you to once again SPEAK OUT by joining the Milwaukee Coalition for a Just Peace on Saturday October 8 for a Rally and March on the 10th anniversary of war in Afghanistan – the longest war in American history. To date the U.S. has spent \$459 billion of your money on this war alone. Since 2001 taxpayers in the state of WI have contributed \$7.5 billion to the war [\$20 billion combined with Iraq]. We must continue to state publicly our demand to redirect our funds toward education, jobs, health care, housing, poverty and other sustainable actions that will bring about peace and hope for all.

Rally and Speakout – 10 Years of War in Afghanistan! - Saturday, October 8:

12 pm Rally on Water St. and Wisconsin Ave
12:45 pm March to City Hall at 200E. Wells
1-2:30 pm "Speak Out" in the City Hall of the Rotunda
Local elected politicians expected to attend

Let's fill the City Hall Rotunda and let your voice be heard!

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Coalition for a Just Peace. Coalition members include National Lawyers Guild Milwaukee, Vets for Peace, Citizens for Global Solutions, Bolivarian Circles, Greater Milwaukee Green Party, Peace Action WI, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, US Labor Against the War, Catholics for Peace and Justice, Voces de la Frontera, Office of World Mission-Archdiocese of Milwaukee, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Casa Maria, Faith Community for Worker Justice, Marquette University Center for Peace Making, Socialist Party of Milwaukee, Candlelight Coalition, Milwaukee Students for a Democratic Society, Progressive Students of Milwaukee, Progressive Democrats of America, and the Wisconsin Fair Trade Council.

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SOA/WHINSEC Vigil Nov 17-20

On June 20th, former Guatemalan Army Chief of Staff, General Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes was indicted on charges on genocide, crimes against humanity and forced disappearance. General Lopez Fuentes was trained at the US Army School of the Americas, now known as the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). While the General's arrest is important towards justice, the institution that provided his training, the SOA/WHINSEC continues to train and graduate Latin American Military personnel to follow in the General's footsteps. The General's arrest reminds us for peace to truly come to Latin America the SOA/WHINSEC must be "shut down"!

Join compassionate peacemakers traveling from Milwaukee to Ft Benning on the weekend of November 17 – 20th by bus or by plane. Through action, presence, and prayer we will work for the closure of the SOA.

If you cannot join the delegation this year, we hope that you will join the Milwaukee vigil at St Benedict the Moor from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 20th. Additionally, in preparation for the 2011 vigil, SOAW/PA-Wi is bringing internationally known photographer Linda Panetta to Milwaukee to share with us her photos and the story of the struggle to close the SOA/WHINSEC.

Specific questions: Plane questions: Dianne 1-262-695 9000 Bus questions: Joe 414- 332-2646 or 414-803-0755 General Membership Joyce 414-933-6157

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Next Global Day of Listening – October 21

The Global Day of Listening team includes individuals and groups who believe that we can change to a non-violent way of living with each other - if we get to know each other better. Listen to, and talk about, what it is like to live in war-torn countries & about the wish to live without wars with ordinary people from Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Libya, and other countries. Click here to learn more about how to participate in the [next Global Days of Listening](#). Sponsored by Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers, Afghans For Peace, Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project, Voices for Creative Nonviolence and Fellowship of Reconciliation.

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Catholic Relief Services – Empowerment and Advocacy

By Debra Schneider

Often we hear in the media about the down side of the doings of the Catholic Church, but rarely hear about the many positive things that the Church is involved with especially as it relates to social justice. Recently I met with Jessica Howell of Catholic Relief Services [CRS]. I was reminded of the many ways that CRS is involved in empowering our sisters and brothers around the world. Much of CRS works on the basis of subsidiarity – that Catholic social teaching word that I have failed to find in a dictionary. In short it means that the God given human dignity of a person is empowered when she or he is able to take care of themselves, their family and be a contributor in their community. Caring for ones direct needs is an important first step. Teaching people and equipping them to care for their own needs as well as paving the way for that to happen and continue to happen is what we are called to do, which brings us to my conversation with Jessica.

For some time in the past CRS viewed itself as an organization focused on relief efforts- not involvement in local or U.S. politics that might affect the people they were serving. The atrocity in Rwanda brought a wake up call. How could CRS stand back and watch a genocide take place in Rwanda without advocating for peace both at home and in the country they were serving? Meeting immediate need and empowering people to care for themselves and others is good, but advocating for peace and justice is an imperative.

There are an estimated 67 million Catholics in the U.S. Yes. Like all traditions our numbers include a wide range of thinking and cultures; but, when we can we should speak with one voice – the voice of Christ. [Learn more about CRS current advocacy efforts and how you can help.](#)

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To all of you – my brothers in Christ – A Letter to Bishops and Clergy on 9/11

By Jim Fowler

The following was addressed to Bishops ListECKi, Sklba, Hying, Weakland and the recent past and present clergy of St. Francis Cabrini

To all of you – my brothers in Christ,

Current topics have merged and melded for me – “learning” what with school years starting up, the “9/11 anniversary”, and the readings for (9/4) the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Without question or explanation the 9/11 anniversary is a time for continued prayer, reverence, respect, and reflection. But it is also a time that we are called to an examination of conscience. What have we learned from 9/11? What were the true deep-seeded causes? What role did we play by what we did and didn't do? Has the situation changed? Have we changed? And therefore, are we “doomed to repeat it” if we haven't learned?

This is where the tie-in comes with learning and the season of schooling being underway. With all that is desperate in the need to reform and improve education in our culture, should we not also examine how all of us not in school also fail to learn – as in the case of 9/11?

And what of us who call ourselves followers of Christ? How easily and humanly we fail Ezekiel's watchman's test. Each of us personally silent too often toward the sinfulness of those around us, as well as ourselves. But more to the point, how consistently silent we all are to the social and cultural sinfulness of our land. Just as much "called" are we to that as we are to the personal level.

Our ordained are the first called to be watchmen. They do well at the personal level – but why are they so silent to the ills of our culture and especially its policies - all those many that pervade us today - all those, still with us today, that were also the fertile soil in which terrorists and evil grew before 9/11? Are we so ashamed of ourselves that we lower our heads? Where is our faith in Christ's love of us, that we so fear our society's rebuke of us, should we as sinners proclaim the sins of the whole? Here again is that failure to learn from history. Christ rebuked the "church" of his time as they focused on washing bowls instead of their souls. Today, we focus on which words to say and sing in our praise but are deaf and mute to our land's ills.

And so, I write you all. Am I not called to pursue resolution to sinfulness, even that of the church, in the manner prescribed by Christ as Matthew related? And ever so more to the point, is it not my obligation and passion of Christian love to do so as Paul translated?

Because I am loved by Christ I love others and myself. Because I am loved by Christ I love my church, my land, and my world. Because I am loved by Christ, I break my silence and write to you.

In God's Peace,
Jim Fowler
St. Frances Cabrini West Bend; and, Catholics for Peace and Justice
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New Poverty Statistics Out – The Lost Decade

Adapted from [Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good's Morna Murray](#) and [Sabrina Tavernise of The New York Times](#)

According to Murray, "The new census shows more than 1 in 5 children living in poverty. That is an increase of nearly 3 million children in 3 years. The poverty level, as currently calculated, is \$22,000 for a family of four. Has anyone ever tried living on \$22,000 a year, even as one person? How we define the poverty rate is a whole different issue and for another time, but the fact is, it is an extremely low indicator for truly calculating people living in poverty."

Here in the wealthiest nation on earth, 15.1 percent of us — almost one in every six Americans — are living on less than \$22,314 a year for a family of four. One in 10 children now live in extreme poverty - 50% below the poverty level in households with annual income less than \$11,056. Children represent 24.4 percent of the total U.S. population and 35.5 percent of all people living in poverty. "This is truly a lost decade," says Harvard economic professor Lawrence Katz "We think of America as a place where every generation is doing better, but we're looking at a period when the median family is in worse shape than it was in the late 1990s."

"If this is going to be a Christian nation that doesn't help the poor, either we have to pretend that Jesus was just as selfish as we are, or we've got to acknowledge that He commanded us to love the poor and serve the needy without condition and then admit that we just don't want to do it." *Stephen Colbert*

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Obama Administration Widens Challenges to State Immigration Laws

From the Washington Post: The Obama administration is escalating its crackdown on tough immigration laws, with lawyers reviewing four new state statutes to determine whether the federal government will take the extraordinary step of challenging the measures in court. [Full Article](#)

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Common Ground Update on Education, Foreclosures and Healthcare

[View the new Common Ground Newsletter here.](#)

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Common Ground University – November 1, 8 and 15

Want learn more about community organizing? The next Common Ground University will take place on November 1, 8 & 15 (need to attend all 3 sessions) at 6—9:00 pm with dinner at 5:30 pm. Place: Mt. Mary College. RSVP: julie.lange@commongroundwi.org to register

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Common Ground Delegates Assembly – Oct 4

The Common Ground Fall Delegates Assembly will take place on Tuesday, October 4th 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Mount Mary College – Helfaer Hall [child care available]. The Common Ground Delegates Assembly is made up of: Core Team Leaders from each Member Organization, Friends of Common Ground, and Prospective New Member Groups. The Delegates Assembly meets several times a year to: Vote on new Strategy Team Members, Welcome new Member Organizations, Set our Strategic Direction for the coming months, and to Learn about how you can become a leader within the organization. Would you like to attend? Contact Debra Schneider at

info@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org

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WCC sees opportunity for peace in Palestine's UN application

Sept 29, 2011: The World Council of Churches (WCC) has today urged strong positive action by the United Nations on behalf of Palestine. While the WCC has advocated justice for Palestinians and Israelis for decades, the United Nations Security Council's consideration of full membership for Palestine was hailed by the WCC and regional churches as an opportunity for peace.

In his statement, Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, the general secretary of the WCC, said, "It is now a unique opportunity for the UN to take important decisions, to fulfil its role according to the UN charter, to make peace with justice prevail between Israelis and Palestinians, and with their neighbours." [Full Statement by the WCC General Secretary](#)

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The Editors of "America" weigh in on statehood for Palestine.

"The main rationale the administration offers for casting the veto is that Palestinian independence ought to be settled in negotiations with Israel. Tying Palestinian statehood to negotiations is bogus. The two parties may be able to negotiate lesser issues, but Palestinian sovereignty and independence should not be negotiable." [Read the article.](#)

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Post a sign to keep guns out - WAVE

WAVE has started a campaign to ask businesses to be a Safe Wisconsin Business and keep guns out. You can help facilitate the process of asking businesses in your community to keep guns out by dropping off a card at your local community business. [Print your own cards here.](#) Then [let wave know about the cards you've distributed and what you are hearing from business owners in your community about keeping guns out.](#)

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Environmental Film Series at Four Corners Fair Trade

These films and discussion are brought to you **FREE** by Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store and Sunseed Eco-Education Ministries. Please **join us at the Four Corners Store, 5401 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee, Thursdays** in October. All films begin with Introduction and orientation at 6:30 pm with film at 6:45 pm. [Flyer](#)

Oct 6: The Future of Food

Oct 13: The End of Suburbia – Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream

Oct 20: A Crude Awakening – The Oil Crash

Oct 27: Transition Town – Panel Presentation

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The Challenges of Religious Pluralism in 21st-Century America – Oct 3

Monday, Oct. 3, 2011, 7 p.m. at Alumni Memorial Union, Ballroom A/B

Gathering Points: Tracking the Spirit in Challenging Times presents "Who's 'In' and Who's 'Out': The Challenges of Religious Pluralism in 21st-century America" with Dr. John L. Esposito, Professor of religion and international affairs and of Islamic studies at Georgetown University. Sponsored by Marquette University and Gesu Parish Free and open to the public. Parking is available. [See Flyer for details on the event and parking.](#)

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MU Center for Peacemaking Soup with Substance – Wednesdays in October

The Soup with Substance program invites members of the Marquette and larger Milwaukee community to listen to a local or national figure known for his/her academic or practical work in nonviolence while enjoying free soup and bread during the lunch hour. This program occurs every Wednesday and has existed at Marquette for over 40 years. Upcoming Soup with Substance dates and discussions include: Gandhi's Method of Social and Political Change - Wed, Oct 5, 12 – 1 pm, AMU 157 From El Salvador to Milwaukee: Seeking Justice from a Local Corporation - Wed, Oct 12, 12:-1 pm, AMU 157 [Check the Soup with Substance website for details and ongoing topics.](#)

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SOAW Peace Action, WI Presents Linda Panetta – Oct 6

Join us: For the presentation by Linda Panetta and a Latin American Pot Luck with the main course provided. (Bring your favorite Latin American side dish.) When: Thursday, October 6, 2011 6:00-8:00pm Where: St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church 128 W. Burleigh Street Milwaukee

Photojournalist and human rights activist Linda Panetta founded Optical Realities as a nonprofit organization, which uses educational outreach, including exhibits and speaking tours, to raise awareness about human rights, the environment, and socio-economic issues in the U.S. and war-torn regions of the world. Her goal is to build bridges to and solidarity with the global community.

The mealtime will be a great way to reconnect with others in the SOA Watch movement. There will be information about the trip to Ft. Benning. Linda will tailor her presentation and photos to the work of Father Roy Bourgeois, SOA Watch and their solidarity with the people of Latin America.

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The Women of Block 12: Voices from a Jail Ministry – Oct 9

Sunday, October 9 from 9:45 to 10:45 am in the church hall. "The Women of Block 12: Voices from a Jail Ministry - What does the Lord require of you?" with Linda Pischke, social worker and member of the Dismas Jail Ministry. Location: Good Shepherd Parish, N88 W17658 Christman Rd in the Falls. Free and open to all.

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Student Peacemaking Fellowships – OCT 12

Each year Marquette students receive grants to actively work for peace and explore nonviolence. At the end of their experience, the peacemakers present their discoveries to the community. Hear about their experience on October 12, 7:00 pm, Alumni Memorial Union 163

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The Earth Speaks: Water, a Sacred Gift of Life – October 16/17

The Earth Speaks: Water, a Sacred Gift of Life - An Interfaith Conversation will take place on Sunday, October 16 and Monday, October 17, 2011 at the [Siena Retreat Center](#), Racine, WI. The cost is \$100, including meals and overnight stay at the Retreat Center. A special commuter rate is available (\$70 w/ three meals) and a Sunday-only registration without meal is \$25.

Keynote Speakers: the Rev. Dr. Clare Butterfield, Executive Director of Faith in Place; and Dr. Peter McIntyre, Assistant Professor, Center for Limnology, UW-Madison.

[Event flyer with a mail-in registration form](#) . [Event brochure with agenda and complete program information](#). [Online registration with payment by credit card or check](#). To register persons for more than one type of registration please phone (608) 837-3108 or use the mail-in form.

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Project Homeless Connect – Oct 20

Project Homeless Connect is a one day event held to provide needed services to homeless Milwaukee residents. Individuals, families, and youth have access to housing, legal services, healthcare, employment services and other basic resources at Project Homeless Connect. Join us in our fight to end Homelessness! Check this flyer for details then call Erin Quandt at 414-461-7672 or email at mphcvolunteer@gmail.com to get involved.

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"Creating a Safer Wisconsin: Loaded Guns in Public?" – Oct 22

"Creating a Safer Wisconsin: Loaded Guns in Public?" with Jeri Bonavia, Executive Director and Heidi Rose, Program Director of WAVE [Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort], October 22, 2011, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at St. Francis

Convent, The Troubadour, 3221 S. Lake Drive, St. Francis. Sponsored by Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee, Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. For information, contact Irene Senn, 414-744-1160 [Flyer attached here.](#)
Part of The Esther Hofschulte, OSF Memorial Lecture Series
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Doing Justice in an Unjust World – Seminar and Workshops – Oct 29

Saturday, October 29 – 8 am to 3 pm, Doing Justice in an Unjust World features keynote speaker Rev. Patrick Keen of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, New Orleans on The Social Determinants of Health. Workshops include “Medical, Governmental, and Business Obstacles in the Path to Health Care for All”, “How to Plan a Mission Trip” “Sophia” and more. [See flyer for full list of workshops and registration.](#) Cost \$10 per person.
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Our Lady of Lourdes' Annual Fair Trade and Social Justice Market – Nov 19/20

Come to the 4th annual Fair Trade and Social Justice Market on Saturday, November 19, 4 to 7 pm and Sunday, November 20, 9 am to 1 pm. Location: Our Lady of Lourdes 3722 S. 58th Street, Milwaukee. Admission: canned goods for the OLOL food pantry. [Flyer – Please distribute widely.](#) Great opportunity for holiday shopping!!!
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Nonviolence Study Group at MU Continues

Faculty and Graduate Student Nonviolence Study Group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month beginning September 1, 2011 at 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, Center for Peacemaking, 735 N 17 St. This study group is open to the public. This semester we will be studying Jim Douglass’ “The Non-Violent Cross: A Theology of Revolution and Peace.” Email Patrick at patrick.kennelly@marquette.edu to be added to the mailing list for the assigned readings for each week.
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A Mother’s Pledge

A Mother’s Pledge and Covenant with Every Other Mother

I will not raise my precious child to kill your precious child.
And if it is within my power, I will
Not hand over my beloved child to others
To kill your beloved child, or
To learn how to kill the one you cherish.

From MU Retreat September 17, 2011 Inspired by the Gospel of Peace

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Prayer

Jesus, thank you for calling me to be your friend and disciple,
Teach me to follow you freely and fearlessly along the way of love
Teach me to be faithful to you not only when my prayer is flowing,
but also when it is a labor of love.
Teach me how to reach out to others
in a way that unites us all in love, reverence, and peace.
Fill my heart with your gracious Spirit and set my heart on fire.

Amen

Adapted from The Word Among Us September 2011

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