

Catholics for Peace and Justice

AUGUST 2012 Newsletter

LET'S GO MAD!!!

Really? Seriously – Go MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!! The whole thought of asking our communities to “Go MAD” is radical - even crazy. Just the thought of go “Go MAD” raises a whole new energy, even frenzy, about doing the work of God. It is exactly what one of our local parishes is asking their community to do – GO MAD for God.

Are you willing to Go MAD for God? Take a risk? How about Faith and Politics? Now there is some risky business. So let's ask the tough question. Will civil discussions about faith and politics really “Make a Difference”? It's crazy to expect that sharing the Word of God and a few civil discussions will some how turn the world upside down. Oh wait... isn't that what Jesus did? Maybe its time to Go MAD!!! Check out the opportunities to learn below then Go MAD!

We'd like to draw your attention to the Catholic Charities Social Ministry Conference taking place Friday evening, November 2 and Saturday, November 3. it's a good time to save the dates for this excellent opportunity to gather, share and learn . More details below.

Peace and blessings on your ministry.



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“Politics flow from the pulpit in good faith”

If you missed the article [“Politics flow from the pulpit in good faith”](#) printed in the Journal Sentinel in July, here is another chance. The article includes an interview with Fr. Chuck Shramm, pastor, and Pam Lownik, social concerns director at St. Mary Hales Corners. It references the “Do Religion and Politics Mix” program that was held at St. Mary’s in March along with other local efforts and thoughts about civil dialogue.

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Wisconsin Council of Churches: A Season of Civility

“Want to undermine American democracy? Start by making citizens so distrustful and dismissive of each other -- especially of those who are "different" in their political/religious/philosophical convictions or their sexual orientation/ethnicity/race -- that the power of "We the People" dissipates as we tear each other apart instead of confronting democracy's true enemies.”

“How do you do that? Not to worry. It's already being done by the fear mongers and dividers-and-conquerors who have made the public arena so abusive that many citizens have fled from it.” Parker Palmer

Author Parker Palmer has recently released a new book, [Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit](#). Palmer sees a valuable role for faith communities in renewing our civic life. [The Wisconsin Council of Churches Season of Civility Project](#) uses “Healing the Heart of Democracy” as a departure point for constructively addressing our differences, and by helping Wisconsin's religious community take the lead in modeling a more faithful and life-giving manner of civil discourse. Regional Training Workshops will take place in August/September. The Milwaukee training is Sunday, August 26. [All Training Dates and Details on the Program are listed on the website](#) including a Healing the Heart of Democracy Study Guide.

Thirty-six regional and statewide religious leaders have called upon the citizens of our state to enter a "Season of Civility" amidst the partisan rancor of the recent recall campaigns and the anticipated divisiveness of the fall election cycle. [Read full statement here along with a full list of signatories](#). Laypersons can ask their religious leaders to sign the statement

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Wisconsin Catholic Conference Faithful Citizenship Bulletin Inserts

[WCC has prepared a four-part bulletin insert series](#), available in English and Spanish as follows:

1. Forming Consciences
2. Life & Dignity of the Human Person/Peace & Non-violence
3. Religious Liberty/Immigration Reform
4. Marriage & Family/Economic Justice

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On LCWR Reform, The Sister-President Speaks

On NPRs Fresh Air, Terry Gross interviews both Sister Pat Farrell, the president of the LCWR and Bishop Leonard Blair on the Vatican's Criticism of the U.S. Nuns. Links to both interviews are below

[An American Nun Responds To Vatican Criticism](#)

[Bishop Explains Vatican's Criticism of U.S. Nuns](#)

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Common Ground Update

[The latest news on Common Ground and Newsletter can be found Here.](#)

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Farm Bill Advocacy – Local Food Security

On July 12 the Farm Bill proposal passed in the House Agriculture Committee cutting funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] by \$16 billion over ten years. The cuts are the result of restricting states ability to coordinate SNAP with tow other low income programs. Every cut to SNAP means less food in the refrigerators and the cupboards of the hungriest people in America – children, seniors, working families, unemployed workers, people with disabilities and others. And such cuts have been rejected by the American public. Seventy-seven percent of voters say that cutting SNAP would be the wrong way to reduce government spending. For more information on the farm bill and actions go to the [Food Research and Action Center \[FRAC\] website.](#)

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Farm Bill Advocacy – Global Food Security

From Catholic Relief Services

The Food for Peace program supports poor and hungry communities by: Feeding hungry people suffering from natural or human-made catastrophes and by Feeding persistently hungry people through development programs known as the “safe box.” The safe box serves some of the poorest and most marginalized people worldwide by addressing the underlying causes of persistent hunger.

Despite this program's effectiveness and success, though, the House Agriculture Appropriations committee already slashed more than 20% of the funding for Food for Peace. As a result of this cut, up to 8.5 million people will no longer be served by Food for Peace programs. While this cut will cost lives, we know there are Members of Congress who will try to cut the Food for Peace and other international food assistance programs even more. [Learn More](#)

WHAT CAN I DO? –

JOIN US FOR A VISIT TO SENATOR KOHL'S OFFICE in August: Contact Debra Schneider at djschneider@wi.rr.com for more information.

CALL or EMAIL Senator Kohl's office and share the following message: Thank the Senator for not cutting funding for Food for Peace in the Senate Agriculture Appropriations bill and Let the Senator know that you're very concerned about the provision he included in Food for Peace that would divert funds from the safe box that helps hungry people grow their own food, to emergency programs, which only pass out food. Urge him to remove this provision as the bill moves to conference.

Direct your communications to:

Phil Karsting, Chief of Staff - phil_karsting@kohl.senate.gov ; 202-224-5653

Dianne Nellor, staff member for the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee

dianne_nellor@appro.senate.gov ; 202-224-8090

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Immigration: Deferred Action Process

From Archdiocese Justice for Immigrants Campaign

Department of Homeland Security secretary Janet Napolitano announced a new directive on June 15, 2012; the Deferred Action Process for Young People.

DHS says this new directive is designed to allow undocumented young people who meet specific criteria to apply for deferrals, allowing them to stay in the United States. This gives them opportunities to stay with their families, finish high school and even go to work. This policy is not a change in immigration law.

Undocumented youth should not take any immediate action but should be advised to wait for more information because the process is in development. The Department of Homeland Security is scheduled to issue instructions within 60 days of June 15, 2012.

It is critical that you advise families to avoid public notaries, unscrupulous entities and legal representatives—especially those who are not authorized to practice immigration law. If you know individuals who may fall under this directive, [please read on](#).....

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More Immigration Resources

From National Immigration Forum

[This week, the National Immigration Forum](#) posted a set of arguments explaining how the Administration's decision to stop deporting certain young undocumented immigrants is good for the U.S. economy. [Go to their publications page](#) to download the document.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision on the Arizona's anti-immigrant law, the Forum has produced a very short roundup of the status of similar laws in other states. [That can be found on our resource page on the Arizona law.](#)

While we wait for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to publish an application process for deferred action (for certain immigrant youth), there has been a lot of effort put in to educating communities around the country about the dangers of immigration fraud, as unscrupulous individuals take advantage of a new immigration program to get people to pay unnecessarily. [There are links to anti-fraud materials produced by a variety of organizations on this page of the Web site.](#)

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Sustainability and Faith – Looking for Water

By Carol Waskovich, Coordinator Sustainable Living Committee, St. Catherine Parish - [Print Version](#)

Water, water, water everywhere... Oh, yeah?

Some of us feel safe because we're living in the Great Lakes' area. We think we don't have to worry about access to water, reasonably clean water. But you just have to read the headlines to start to wonder about that availability and how long it's going to last. Here's what I found in today's Journal-Sentinel.

First, and obviously, there's the present drought. Our front lawns tell the story. So there has been a call to not water the grass. The water level of the Lake is 8 inches below last July and 20 inches below long-term average for the month.

A gas spill in Jackson, WI, has contaminated soil of several homes and at least 3 wells.

Although a business lobby urges the mining group not to continue talking about the construction of a massive open pit mine in northern Wisconsin, ground water and wells remain at risk.

The Keystone project is not settled, putting at risk more rivers and aquifers. The use of fracking in mining uses enormous amounts of water and often leads to the poisoning of fresh water with arsenic and sulfur. Many cities and states are looking to the Great Lakes for their supply of water. And so on.

Whether you accept Climate Warming is a scientific fact or not, water conservation must be a priority for each one of us. We have to hold our officials responsible for policies to protect our water. Because it's not OUR water - it may be water for much of the country in years to come. To have the EPA or DNR implement short cuts to speed up mining or other projects that put our water at risk is not the way to go. It'll cost much more to clean up the water, and most likely, it'll be the tax payer who doles out the money, not the corporation.

There are three things that we can do: conserve, write officials, vote for politicians who have a proven concern for the environment. Here are some simple ways you can conserve water.

- Install water barrels around your house and garage. Places like Home Depot can show you how.
- Wear clothes more than once before washing them.
- Use earth-friendly (no phosphates) detergent.
- Water your lawn less and at night, or not at all, with rain water that you trap in rain barrels.
- Avoid automatic sprinklers; water when needed, given the weather.
- Wash and rinse dishes in a basin and reuse the "grey water" for washing your car or bicycle or adding to your compost.
- Use a bucket to hold water when washing your car or bicycle. Use rain water for washing.
- Fix leaks.
- Turn off water when shaving, brushing teeth, washing dishes or lathering.
- Turn the faucet on low or use an aerator on the tap or shower head.
- Use low flow toilets and shower heads.
- Save shower (while water is warming up), dehumidifier, or rinsing water for other uses, like watering plants.
- Refill water bottles or use a reusable bottle.

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"The Story of Change" from "The Story of Stuff" Project

The Story of Change is to inspire Community members and others to step out of the consumer mindset and into our full power as citizens to build a better future. That's because too often, when faced with daunting environmental and social problems (say, disruption of the global climate) many of us instinctively flex our power in the only way we know how: as consumers.

Plastic garbage choking the oceans? Carry our own shopping bag. Formaldehyde in baby shampoo? Buy the brand with the green seal. Warming planet? Change our light bulbs. Without a doubt, those are all good things to do. But the fact is, better shopping alone won't change the world. If we really want to build a better future, we have to move beyond voting with our dollars and come together to demand rules that work.

[Watch the Story of Stuff](#) then [Watch the Story of Change](#) Check out the Movies section on the website for stories about cosmetics, bottled water, and more.

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Food Forest in Washington Park From Milwaukee Neighborhood News

[Mike Zang, a community educator and land steward at the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park](#), is working to establish the center's first permaculture orchard: a self-sustaining garden based on native and pre-existing species, primarily bushes and trees bearing fruit, nuts and berries.

The goal of the orchard is to provide neighborhood residents with a free food source in the park. According to Zang, it will be years before the plants in the orchard produce significant fruit. In the meantime, however, he hopes the project will mobilize volunteers and inspire community members to learn more about their food choices.

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Beyond Polarization Dialogues – Zeidler Center – Aug 1

The Frank Zeidler Center for Public Discussion is hosting a series of “Beyond Polarization Dialogues” and their training is Wednesday August 1, 2012 5:30 to 8:30 pm at 631 North 19th Street in Milwaukee. This is Redeemer Lutheran Church which was Mayor Zeidler and his wife's home congregation. [More information](#) .

Lanterns for Peace – Aug 4

A Commemoration of the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Saturday, August 4, 2012 Pere Marquette Park at Kilbourn Ave. and Old World 3rd St., Milwaukee. 6 pm - Music and Family Activities – Youth Dance Company, Music, Lantern Making, Origami and more. Food and drink available. 7:30 pm - Commemorative Program - Speaker Dr. Jeffery Patterson of National Physicians for Social Responsibility; 8:30 pm - Floating of Lanterns. [More details](#) Sponsored by the Peace Education Project of Peace Action Wisconsin.

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Micah Hands Across The Viaduct Southside Community Rally - Aug 10

Building Relationships, Finding Shared Purpose, Youth Presence: Friday August 10, 2012, 6 - 8 P.M., Ascension Lutheran Church, 1236 S. Layton Blvd. (27th Street, South) Jon Jacobs, Host Pastor, Micah President Rev. Willie Brisco and Master Of Ceremonies Primitivo Torres, Voces de Frontera, YES (Youth Empowered in the Struggle), Running Rebels, Jóvenes de Luz, and Urban Underground., Elected Officials, Police Department Questions: 414.264.0805 sharon@micahempowers.org or pacomatorell2000@yahoo.com

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Micah Hands Across The Viaduct Community Reach-Out, Canvassing – Aug 11

Community Building, Sharing Resources, Getting Out the Vote, Saturday, August 11, 2012, 10 A.M. - 1 P.M., Ascension Lutheran Church, 1236 S. Layton Blvd. (27th Street, South) Questions: 414.264.0805 sharon@micahempowers.org or pacomatorell2000@yahoo.com [FLYER](#)

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SOA Watch and Caravan For Peace with Justice – August 12

“Over 60,000 people have been killed in the violence in Mexico since President Felipe Calderon deployed some 50,000 troops and federal police five years ago to confront the drug cartels. “The gun smuggling circuit between the US government agencies and drug forces was later revealed as an official operation called ["Fast and the Furious"](#). This summer, starting August 12, the "Caravan for Peace with Justice and Dignity", led by victims of Mexico's US-backed drug war, will travel through the United States Southwest, meeting with civil society and ending in Washington, DC, on September 10. [Learn More](#)

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Career TOOLS Conference – Aug 22

Unemployed job seekers are invited to attend this free, all-day Career TOOLS Conference featuring over 40 educational sessions and interactive workshops to help transform their job search. Wednesday, August 22, 2012, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, Cousins Center, 3501 S. Lake Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53235, [On-line Registration is required](#) :
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Eat Local Resource Fair – Aug 25

The Eat Local Resource Fair is part of the Milwaukee Eat Local Challenge, a grassroots effort to encourage our community to eat local and find ways to build a better food system. The Fair will be held at the Urban Ecology Center on Saturday August 25th from 11am to 3 pm. [Find out more about the Eat Local Resource Fair and the Eat Local Challenge with resources](#) . The Eat Local Challenge is a collaboration of the Urban Ecology Center and Outpost Natural Foods.
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WCC - A Season of Civility Training – Aug 26

The WCC and Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee are hosting four workshops to prepare teams of clergy and lay leaders to engage members their congregations in respectful dialogue. Led by Rev. Winton Boyd and Barbara Hummel, trained facilitators from Parker Palmer's Center for Courage and Renewal. The Milwaukee area training is Sunday, August 26th 2 pm - 8 pm. Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun, 2020 West Brown Deer Rd, River Hills. [Link to detailed information, dates for alternate location \[i.e. Madison and Neenah\]\] and registration](#)
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The Challenge of Peace – Sept 7

Pax Christi USA's Annual Momentum Event in Washington DC at Trinity University. Welcom Bishop Kevin Dowling, co-president of Pax Christi International and Bishop of the Diocese of Rustenburg, South Africa. Keynote speaker Bishop Thomas Gumbleton. \$50 per person. [Flyer and Registration](#).
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Growing Power Urban and Small Farm Conference – Sept 7- 9

Wisconsin State Fair Park, Early Bird Registration July 31. [Full Conference Details](#)
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Spirituality of Nonviolence – Siena Center Retreat – Sept 8

"Spirituality of Nonviolence" - with Fr. Simon Harak, SJ, Director of the Center for Peacemaking at Marquette University - at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Saturday, September 8, 9 am-3:30 pm. [More information](#) .
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Faith, Politics and Civil Dialogue – St. James - Sept 29/Oct 2

A program on Faith, Politics and Civil Dialogue will be held at St. James Catholic Church W220 N6588 Town Line Road, Menomonee Falls, on Sunday, , September 30th at 12 noon to 1:30 pm and again on Tuesday, October 2nd at 6:00 to 7:30 pm. For more information contact Debra Schneider at djschneider@wi.rr.com
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Ground for Hope Interfaith Regional Conference – Oct. 21-22

Planning is well under way for Ground for Hope – Wisconsin, a regional environmental training conference Oct. 21-22 for clergy, seminarians, lay leaders and faith community members of many faiths and denominations. Renowned Native American environmental leader Winona LaDuke will give the keynote talk. There will be a large array of workshops on topics ranging from sacred texts and energy/climate issues facing Wisconsin to environmental justice and sustainable food for faith-based sites. Plus, there will be an optional Muslim iftar fast-breaking meal and optional eco-spirit bus tours to Milwaukee area sites where inspirational environmental and

sustainability efforts are under way. The Interfaith Conference's Interfaith Earth Network and the national GreenFaith organization are planning this event with help from 16 major co-sponsors.

The first day will be at the Islamic Community Center, the second at the Archbishop Cousins Center. Prices and other details are being finalized. Go to www.greenfaith.org for updates. [Program details](#)

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Catholic Charities Social Ministry Conference – Nov 2/3

Save the Date and come to the Parish Social Ministry Regional Training. Strengthen your skills. Put your faith into action – in your family, in your parish, in your work, in your school – Wherever the Lord's Work Needs to Be Done! Conference commences on Friday evening, November 2 and continues on Saturday, November 3 concluding with 4 pm mass. Three tracks plus a focus on issues will be offered including Leadership Development, Outreach/Direct Service, and Advocacy. Issues focus on immigration and poverty. [Please see the Save the Date Flyer](#). More details soon.

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Prayer for Peace

O God, you are the source of life and peace. Praised be your name forever. We know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace. Hear our prayer in this time of war, violence and discord. Your power changes hearts. Muslims, Christians and Jews remember and proudly affirm that they are followers of the one God, children of Abraham, brothers and sisters; enemies begin to speak to one another; those who were estranged join hands in friendship; nations seek the way of peace together. Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these truths by the way we live.

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