

## Catholics for Peace and Justice

### December 2011 Newsletter

November marked the 25th anniversary of “Economic Justice for All”, a document that grew out of the Vatican II committee on the economy. With then Archbishop Rembert Weakland as the chair, the Bishops of the committee wrote:

“This letter is a personal invitation to Catholics to use the resources of our faith, the strength of our economy, and the opportunities of our democracy to shape a society that better protects the dignity and basic rights of our sisters and brothers, both in this land and around the world.”

While some detractors contended that the Church should be relegated to personal morality, the Bishops maintained, while it is proper to hold separation between church and state, there is no proper separation between faith and everyday life.

On **February 11, 2012** Catholics for Peace and Justice will be hosting ***Summoned to Justice: a conference to equip faith communities to answer the call*** - to live the belief that there is no separation between faith and everyday life. Mark your calendars. [Brochure and registration](#) are now available. More below...

Blessings on your Advent journey



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### **Summoned to Justice: CPJ Winter Conference – Feb 11, 2012**

"Summoned to Justice: Equipping Faith Communities to Answer the Call" is the title of the Catholics for Peace and Justice winter conference to be held on Saturday, Feb 11, 2012 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Greendale.

The goal of this conference is to develop and equip leader advocates with spiritual refreshment, new ideas and proven tools to successfully engage your faith community and self in Catholic social teaching. You will learn how faith communities are moving beyond charity to connect, empower and advocate for people in need.

At this conference you will have an opportunity to strengthen your ministry through participating in an archdiocese-wide human concerns/social justice community exchange; walk away with concrete creative tools to engage discussion and inspire your parish; learn ways to educate others on social teaching in light of the 2012 election; and learn how parishes are engaging their community on immigration, environment, poverty, education and jobs. **This conference is an excellent opportunity to network with others and bring friends and colleagues who have not participated in the past.** [Check our website for details on the conference](#), for workshop descriptions, and registration. Adult \$10, Student \$7. Parish/group rate available. [Brochure with Registration](#)  
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### **Standing in Solidarity**

"Our culture is tempted to turn inward, becoming indifferent and sometimes isolationist in the face of international responsibilities. Catholic Social Teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world. This virtue is described by John Paul II as "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all" (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, no. 38).

"Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and

whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law." *Romans 13:8-10*

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### **Next Global Day of Listening – December 21**

Next Global Day of Listening: "Occupy Your Own Heart" December 21 at 9 am. 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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### **New US Nuclear Weapons Plants**

From [Peace and Life Connections](#) November Issue

The federal government is planning three new nuclear plants which could make new weapons for decades to come. Aren't we cutting down on the numbers of nuclear weapons? Yes, but rather than adding to a stockpile we're still replacing old ones with new ones. Old ones lose their reliability – yet "reliability" only matters if they're used. A society with millions of small children deliberately killed one by one is still contemplating weapons that can kill millions in a matter of seconds. The other plants are still being planned, but the one in Kansas City is about half built. [Learn more at the Kansas City Peaceworks website](#)

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### **Homeless Veterans Christmas Dinner Fundraiser**

Food for the Hungry is having a Christmas Dinner fundraiser for the Homeless Veterans Initiative. 150 veterans will get a free turkey dinner and the proceeds from the ticket sales and raffle will go to our food pantry. Date: Dec. 13th , 4-7 pm at The Knights of Columbus Hall 1800 S. 92nd St West Allis.

Make checks payable to: Food for the Hungry, Inc - Memo: Veterans Christmas Dinner. - Mail to: Veterans Christmas Dinner, 405 Lynnwood Lane, Brookfield WI 53005.

Deadline for reservations Dec 3, 2011. Tickets \$12. (\$2 rebate if you bring 4 non-perishable food items) You can also purchase tickets from us:at - Homeless Veterans Initiative - P.O. Box 80699 - Milwaukee WI 53208

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### **Help Block Expansion of E-Verify**

From [Justice for Immigrants Campaign](#)

PROBLEM: Enforcement-only immigration policies are not working. In the past decade, Congress has spent \$117 billion of taxpayer dollars on immigration enforcement initiatives, yet the number of unauthorized immigrants in the country has grown to 11.2 million and the demand for foreign-born, low-skilled labor has continued on pace with the ebbs and flows of the U.S. economy. Approximately 8 million – or 70 percent – of the unauthorized population are in the U.S. labor force and each year another 300,000 to 400,000 enter the country. It is clear that another approach is necessary.

Yet, some in Congress are now calling for the mandatory expansion of E-Verify – a largely voluntary program which allows employers to electronically verify workers' employment eligibility with Government databases. The problem is that unless E-Verify's expansion is undertaken in the context of comprehensive immigration reform, it will hurt U.S. workers and our already weakened economy. Unless Congress legalizes unauthorized immigrants, mandatory E-Verify will begin with a handicap of 8 million unauthorized workers who will be driven further into the underground economy, hurting both the U.S. economy and workers by decreasing federal tax revenue by more than \$17.3 billion over ten years, creating an unequal workplace, and lowering labor standards for all workers.

And, because of well-documented flaws in the Government databases upon which it relies, E-Verify does not detect over half of the undocumented workers entered in the system, yet results in false positives for hundreds of thousands of American workers. Find out more at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

### **Take Action Now: Contact Senator Ron Johnson**

Washington Office (202) 224-5323

Milwaukee Office (414) 276-7282 - 517 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 408, Milwaukee

[email Ron Johnson](#)

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### **Wisconsin Bishops Releasing Pastoral Letter on Immigration**

The Wisconsin bishops [Yes, all 5 bishops, state wide] are releasing a pastoral letter on immigration on December 12, the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. The letter will include a question and answer section that addresses many concerns regarding Catholic teaching and immigration. Please ask your parish staff to include the letter in your parish bulletin or newsletter. A good weekend would be January 7/8, 2012, the Epiphany and beginning of Migration Week.

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### **Bishops ask for Immigration Message to Be Included in Epiphany Homilies**

The theme for National Migration Week, January 8-14, 2012 is "On the Road to Emmaus". Just as on the road to Emmaus, Christ's disciples met him in the guise of a stranger, this year's theme helps remind us that Christ makes himself present to each of us in the lonesome traveler, the newcomer, and the migrant. We are called to open our hearts and provide hospitality to those in need.

Archbishop ListECKI and the Archdiocesan Council of Priests approved a resolution asking preachers to incorporate into their Epiphany [January 7/8, 2012] homily the American bishops' support for immigration reform in the United States.

You can encourage your pastor, staff and human concerns group to use the following resources that were provided to them via email:

[Bulletin articles](#) [designated by advent week, can be used on alternate weeks]

[National Migration Week Resources](#)

[Educational resources recommended by the Justice for Immigrants Committee](#)

[Information regarding the Catholic Justice for Immigrants campaign](#)

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### **Parish Ideas for Migration Week – January 7/8, 2012 and Beyond**

Are you looking for ideas for how to bring attention to the issue of migration and immigration reform at your parish?

Below is a list of some ideas you can use or offer to your staff or human concerns group to create awareness and educate on migration and the need for comprehensive immigration reform. Do you have ideas that we can shared with others? Tell us about them here.

1. Educate your parish pastor and staff on the issues and need for immigration reform – consider [bringing in a speaker](#) to address staff and human concerns members of your cluster.
2. Ask your pastor to incorporate support for immigration reform into their migration week homily
3. Post [information about Migration week](#) on the front cover or other prominent place of your parish bulletin
4. Include the bishop's letter in your bulletin or newsletter [letter available 12/12/11]
5. Include [bulletin articles](#) throughout advent, the month of January and beyond
6. Ask for a prayer for migrants to be included in weekend [petitions](#)
7. Post copies of the [USCCB National Migration Week poster](#) throughout the church building
8. Hand out copies of the [St. Josephine Bakhita prayer card or Welcoming Christ in the Migrant pamphlet](#)
9. Advertise a parish wide book reading of "[Rescuing Regina](#)" then host a discussion session
10. Host a speaker from the [Justice for Immigrants Speaker's Bureau](#)

11. Offer a film screening and discussion on immigration and/or trafficking [from this list](#)
12. Ask parishioners to bring a food item from and marked with their country of origin to Fellowship Sunday
13. Post an over-sized map of the world in a prominent place and ask families or youth to place a pin on their ancestral country of origin with their family name or picture
14. Bring attention to and draw connections to how your parish is currently standing in solidarity with the poor and displaced
15. Hand out copies of the [Little Book of Immigration Myths](#)
16. Ask parish members to contact their legislative representatives asking them to work for comprehensive immigration reform

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### **New Sanctuary Monthly Interfaith Prayer Vigil – Dec 6**

**Date: Tuesday Dec. 6 Time: 6:30p.m. Place: Ascension Lutheran Church**

Why you should come: There will be the recognition ceremony of our church liaisons and the whole prayer service will be dedicated to our Lady of Guadalupe in an effort to keep the rich Mexican Tradition alive with songs and prayer asking her to intercede for our immigrant brothers and sisters in process of deportation and of course there are refreshments to follow.

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### **ICE Vigil – Dec 8**

**Date: Thursday Dec. 8, Time:12 Noon, Place: across the street from 310 E. Knapp St.**

Why you should come: To stand in solidarity with our immigrant families who will not be together this holiday season due to an unjust immigration system. We will remind the ICE office that although they look forward to a happy holiday not everyone will be as joyous. We will pray that these immigrant families know that they are not alone in the struggle.

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### **Transitioning to a new world energy paradigm**

**From Mary Krolkowski**

I attended an interesting 4-session series in October at Four Corners of the World Fair Trade store, led by Sr. Suzanne Moynihan, SSND. The subject under discussion was the impact of dwindling petroleum resources on human life.

The thesis was that humanity has already used up the world's supply of easily accessible oil. Great oil fields were first exploited in the United States starting in 1859, with production and use quickly rising during and after World War II. US oil production peaked in the late 1970s. Our country is now dependent on the oil deposits in the Middle East, which started large scale production much later than US oil fields. However the easy yield oil of the great Middle East deposits is waning, and more energy input is now required to pump out remaining oil. The trajectory is toward ever-increasing expense for extraction of dwindling oil over time.

Capitalism assumes continued economic growth to sustain our current lifestyle. Economic growth is based on ever-increasing consumption of energy. As supplies of petroleum become more scarce and expensive, our economic system will falter. Perhaps we are already experiencing this.

The final session was a panel discussion with representatives of Transition Milwaukee. Transition Milwaukee is a group of volunteers trying to develop responses to dwindling energy supplies. They are experimenting now with possible strategies that may be necessary to sustain human life in the not-too-distant future when oil products will be too expensive to be used on an everyday basis. [Read the Rest of the Article Including Information on Transition](#)

[Milwaukee](#)

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### **Fair Trade Directory - Updated and On Line**

The interest in Fair Trade has grown far beyond the lead products of coffee, chocolate and tea during the past several years. Consumers are advocating for a just economic system in which farmers and artisans, the producers of the goods we purchase, are paid a living wage.

Fair Trade is a system in which a fair price is paid at each link in the distribution chain. This Directory has been developed so that you will have less difficulty in finding businesses which carry Fair Trade products." You will note that there are many cafes and restaurants in Southeastern Wisconsin which serve Fair Trade coffee. But there are also many other shops featuring Fair Trade foods, gifts and even sweatshop free clothing.

[Southeastern Wisconsin Fair Trade Directory – Updated 10/15/2011](#)

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### **Common Ground Milwaukee Rising Home Tour – Dec 3 & 10**

Curious to know what our Milwaukee Rising team has been up to? Now is your opportunity to take a bus tour and see some of the homes we have rehabbed, are in the process of rehabbing and newly acquired properties ready for rehab. As you visit five houses, you will be taken through the process a prospective home buyer would need to go through in order to buy a Milwaukee Rising house.

[Please see the attached flier for more details.](#)

Bus tour dates are: Saturday December 3 or 10 - your pick! Tour begins at 10:30am SHARP at 2402 N 46th Street [RSVP to Kathleen Scott](#) if you are interested in attending. Let Kathleen know you are attending through Catholics for Peace and Justice.

[Common Ground Interview on WUWM Lake Effect 12/1/12](#)

[Common Ground Article in Marquette University Tribune](#)

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### **Hunger Task Force Food Share Training - Dec 2 & 10**

Hunger Task Force will be holding numerous meetings and we want you to mark your calendars now so you can join us! We expect the FoodShare (food stamp) program to be the subject of scrutiny by state officials over the next few months. FoodShare is the first and best line of defense against hunger and Hunger Task Force is the leading statewide voice on FoodShare issues. To prepare for 2012 advocacy work, we are organizing training sessions to get Voices members educated on the issues and ready to advocate. Please attend one of the following training sessions.

Friday, December 2 - 11 a.m. - noon at United Way of Greater Milwaukee, 225 W. Vine St.

Saturday, December 10 - 10-11 a.m. at Hunger Task Force, 201 S. Hawley Ct.

\*\*\* Please visit the Hunger Task Force website at [www.hungertaskforce.org/take-action/voices-against-hunger/upcoming-voices-meetings](http://www.hungertaskforce.org/take-action/voices-against-hunger/upcoming-voices-meetings) for details. RSVPs are appreciated, but not required. Please contact Mary Ryan, Organizer, to RSVP or learn more at [mary@hungertaskforce.org](mailto:mary@hungertaskforce.org) or (414) 238-6471.

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### **Building Bridges of Peace – Dec 3**

Saturday, December 3, 2011, 10:00-11:30am, followed by hospitality, Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Convent, Troubadour Room, 3221 S. Lake Drive, Milwaukee, WI

Guest Speaker: Jerene Mortenson, educator, missionary, peace-builder, and mother, has worked tirelessly alongside her son, Greg Mortenson (author of Three Cups of Tea and Stones into Schools), to help provide access to education for children in the most remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Come learn about their incredible story and foundational belief that education can transform society and truly help build bridges of peace. [FLYER](#) [Event information](#)

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### **Amnesty International Global Write-A-Thon Potluck UUCW – Dec 3**

Join in the Amnesty International Global Write-A-Thon Potluck, Sunday, Dec. 4th, 5:30 - 7:30pm Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Ave

Enjoy fellowship at a potluck and write letters of support to prisoners of conscience identified by Amnesty International. In doing so you'll be inspired by the stories of these individuals who have sacrificed so much in their quest to make their communities more just and peaceful. This annual writing campaign produces tens of thousands of letters and results in the release or improved conditions for a number of the prisoners each year. Make it a family event or bring your friends and neighbors. Bring a dish to pass, 10 non-denominational greeting cards and a pen.

You can go to <http://www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon/cases.php> for stories of this year's activists. Questions? Contact Ann Heidkamp [heidkama@wi.rr.com](mailto:heidkama@wi.rr.com) or 414-771-8099. Open to the public.

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### **An Evening to Promote Racial Justice – Dec 7**

An Evening to Promote Racial Justice Wednesday, December 7, 2011 Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Eliminating Racism, Empowering Women YWCA of Greater Milwaukee. [More information](#)

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### **2011 Interfaith Conference Annual Luncheon – Dec 8**

The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee annual luncheon will be held on Thursday, Dec 8, from 12 to 2 pm in the Italian Community Center. The main speaker will be the Rev. Jon Magnuson, ELCA, a highly respected environmentalist from northern Michigan who is director of the Cedar Tree Institute, co-founder of the interfaith EarthKeeper Initiative, and the ELCA Lutheran campus pastor at Northern Michigan University. He will talk on MENDING THE CREATION Challenges and Tactics for Faith Communities in the Crisis-Driven Environmental Awakening. Down-to-Earth insights from a maple syrup maker, writer and community organizer with 30 years experience working with interfaith communities, environmental organizations and Native American tribes. [Event Details and Registration](#)

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### **Human Rights Day 'Write-a-Thon' and Reflection SSND/Elm Grove – Dec 10**

Friday, December 9 from 9 am – 5 pm - Join the School Sisters of Notre Dame for a human rights day 'write-a-thon' on Friday, December 9 at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Road in Elm Grove anytime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Participants can enjoy some Fair Trade coffee and cookies while writing/signing letters on behalf of individuals and groups at risk of human rights abuses. Last year our write-a-thon generated over 900 letters!

Several people we have written letters for in the past have been released or received the protection they needed - your letters really do make a difference! Click here for an event flyer.

In addition to participating in the write-a-thon, all are invited to take some time to reflect on individuals and groups they believe stand up for human dignity and to light a candle (i.e. write their name on a paper candle) in recognition of the hope their light provides us this Advent season. These lights of hope will be remembered in our quiet, inspiring reflection on human dignity and the season, Called to Give Witness to Unity in a Divided World, featuring prayer and poetry, symbols and song. This half-hour reflection will begin at 4 pm. [For more information click here](#) or contact Tim Dewane at [justiceandpeace@ssnd-milw.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@ssnd-milw.org) 262-787-1023.

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### **Environmental Justice a Human Rights Issue - Dec. 11**

An Interfaith environmental justice educational event entitled "Environmental Justice: A Human Rights Issue," will take place on Sunday, December 11, 2011 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, 4707 S. 13th St. (13th and Layton), Milwaukee. Admission is free, but an RSVP before or by Friday, Dec. 2, 2011 would be appreciated. [Please click HERE to RSVP](#) and for more details. The event will include: a presentation by Kimberlee Wright, executive director of Midwest Environmental Advocates; a Jewish-Christian-Muslim interfaith panel; a Cleaner Valley Coalition panel; exhibits and networking. Sponsored by Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin, the Eco-Justice Center, Midwest Environmental Advocates, the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light, the Interfaith Earth Network of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee.

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### **NSM/Voces de la Frontera/Holy Angels Posada – Dec 17**

**Date: Saturday Dec. 17, Time: Starting at 5 p.m., Place: Voces de la Frontera 1027 S. 5th st. Milwaukee WI**

Why you should come: To celebrate the rich tradition of Posadas and relive Mary and Joseph seeking shelter or sanctuary for the birth of baby Jesus. We will march seeking for "Posada or shelter" for just a couple of blocks as we sing and then go inside and enjoy warm drinks, tamales and listen to some readings and the children will be able to break a Piñata! Free.

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### **Celebrate the Winter Solstice – Dec 22**

A time of reflection...A time of good cheer...Celebrate the Winter Solstice at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Road; Elm Grove, All Purpose Room, December 22nd, 6:30-7:30 PM. Please RSVP to [sunseeddirector@ssnd-milw.org](mailto:sunseeddirector@ssnd-milw.org)

262-787-1011

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### **Winter Farmer's Markets - Eat Local - Support Local Business**

#### **Milwaukee County Winter Farmers' Market**

Tommy G Thompson Building, Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 South 84th Street

November 5, 2011 – April 14, 2012, Saturdays 8 am – 12 pm, (No market on Nov 26, Dec 24 or Dec 31) Contact: Deb Deacon, 262-893-5978, [deb@mcwfm.org](mailto:deb@mcwfm.org), [www.mcwfm.org](http://www.mcwfm.org)

#### **Westown Winter Farmers' Market**

Shops of Grand Avenue, 275 W. Wisconsin Ave,

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, November - February, Contact: Marissa Miller, 414-276-6696, [events@westown.org](mailto:events@westown.org), [www.westown.org](http://www.westown.org)

#### **Oconomowoc Winter Farmer's Market**

Place: Oconomowoc Landscape Supply and Garden Center in their Greenhouse (N68 W37850 County Trunk K, Oconomowoc WI 53066)

Date: Second and fourth Sunday of the month November (13th) - April (1st), Time: 9:30 am - 1:30 pm Market includes seasonal programs, chef demonstrations, ask the expert and education. More info contact Lisa Geason-Bauer, [lisa@evolutionmarketing.biz](mailto:lisa@evolutionmarketing.biz) (414) 915-3931

#### **Port Washington Winter Farmer's Market**

A winter farmers market, which includes music and weekly programs on sustainable living begins November 5 at the First Congregational Church 131 N. Webster Street, Port Washington, WI Market runs from 9 am to 1 pm. programs and music.

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### **Reflection**

#### **Excerpt from Dorothy Day's "Letter to an Agnostic", August 4, 1934**

I know the feeling of uneasiness, of weariness, the feeling of strain put upon the soul from driving it, instead of abandoning it to God.

And how any one can persist in the search for God without the assistance of the Church and the advice of her confessors, with the experience of generations behind them, I do not know.

The thing you do not understand is the elemental fact that our beginning and our last end is God. Once that fact is accepted, half the struggle is won. If we wish to go on struggling, not to be content with the minimum of virtue, of duty done, of "just getting by," then we should account it a great honor that God has given us these desires, to serve Him and to use ourselves completely in His service.

You do not see this, you do not believe it. Every now and then, when you think of religion in your busy life, you end by turning from it with aversion. You are very young, scarcely twenty-one, and you have not yet really felt the need,

the yearning toward God. You have not been in such agony and misery that you turned to One whom you knew not and said: "God help me!" Or if you did, you were ashamed of doing it afterward, feeling it to be cowardice to turn in misery to a God in whom you did not believe.

I felt this despair when I lay in jail for fifteen days (after demonstrating for the rights of political prisoners), contemplating the fundamental misery of human existence, a misery which would remain even if social justice were achieved and a state of Utopia prevailed. For you cannot pace the floor of a barred cell, or lie on your back on a hard cot watching a gleam of sunlight travel slowly, oh, so slowly, across the room, without coming to the realization that until the heart and soul of man is changed, there is no hope of happiness for him.

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### **Prayer**

Lord, you came to us as a vulnerable child born in a harsh setting in a brutal world, and you brought us your peace. Thank you for this season of remembrance—a time for us to share your gifts of love.

Father, thank you for family, for the rich blessings of friendship and for the fellowship of your Church.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us pray for all the vulnerable children of God so that, through our compassion and solidarity with them, they may know his love.

*Source: Catholic Relief Services*

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