

## Catholics for Peace and Justice

### December 2012 Newsletter

With some trepidation about speaking too soon, it looks like the stars may be aligning for movement on comprehensive immigration reform. Phone calls and emails to your elected legislators right now will be helpful in keeping the momentum going. It is also a good time to begin discussing and planning how you will educate and advocate in your parish or organization as legislation moves forward. More on this issue and access to tools are included here in this month's news. More details on coordinated efforts from the Justice for Immigrants campaign will be forthcoming.

*"You have relentless pressure that consumers put on retailers and that retailers put on their suppliers to deliver lower and lower prices, and that pressure is a key reason why you see factories cutting corners." [Josh Green, chief executive of New York-based Panjiva, which tracks shipments for factories outside the U.S.]*

The recent and exposed fire at the Bangladesh sewing factory once again sheds light on world labor issues, supply chains and American buying habits. For this Christmas consider participating in the "Advent Conspiracy", buying Fair Trade or made in the USA gifts.

What gift would Jesus give?

Wishing you all a blessed Advent and Nativity of our Lord.



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### **Social Justice Ministry World Café: Discovering Our Collective Wisdom – Feb 23**

We invite you to come to the Social Justice Ministry / Human Concerns World Café: “Discovering Our Collective Wisdom Around Questions That Matter”. A World Café is a place where you can connect with others in deeper conversation about your ministry – What’s important? What are you passionate about? How do you and we collectively make a greater impact in our ministries? Together we will capture ideas, collective wisdom, experience, and spiritual energy moving us all toward the possibility of greater impact and growth. Join the discussion Saturday Morning, February 23, 2013, 8 am to 12:15 pm at St. Alphonsus. Registration is now open. Spread the word. [For details see this flyer](#) or go to the [Catholics for Peace and Justice website](#). We are looking forward to the sharing. Hosted by Catholics for Peace and Justice.

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### **Archbishop Gomez Urges Congress/President to Move on Immigration Reform**

In light of the unprecedented bipartisan support for comprehensive immigration reform expressed during the last week, I call upon President Obama and congressional leadership to work together to enact bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform in 2013.

I am heartened by the recent public statements of the leaders of both political parties supporting the consideration of comprehensive immigration reform in the new Congress. I urge the President and Congress to seize the moment and begin the challenging process of fashioning a bipartisan agreement.

For decades, the U.S. Catholic bishops have advocated for a just and humane reform of our nation's immigration system. We have witnessed the family separation, exploitation, and the loss of life caused by the current system. Millions of persons remain in the shadows, without legal protection and marginalized from society. As a moral matter, this suffering must end.

I invite our fellow Catholics and others of good will to make their voices heard in support of this important issue. I encourage our elected officials to work toward the creation of a system which upholds the rule of law, preserves family unity, and protects the human rights and dignity of the person. [English Language Version](#) [Spanish](#)

[Language Version](#)

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### **Evangelicals Give Obama 92 Days To Tackle Immigration Reform**

From ABC News, Nov 13, 2012

[Evangelicals Give Obama 92 Days To Tackle Immigration Reform](#)

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### **Plan for International Migration Week, January 6-12, 2013**

Theme: "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope," marks the 10th anniversary of the joint statement of the United States and Mexican bishops' conferences and reminds us of our responsibility as Catholics to help newcomers integrate in ways that are respectful, culturally sensitive and responsive to social needs, as well as the ongoing need for comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform.

[Time to re-read the pastoral letter:](#)

[USCCB ideas, posters, prayer cards, and materials are now available online:](#)

[More ideas and resources for education can be found on the CPJ website](#)

"So we need to seize the moment. And my expectation is, is that we get a [immigration] bill introduced and we begin the process in Congress very soon after my inauguration. And in fact, some conversations I think are already beginning to take place among senators and congressmen and my staff about what would this look like." *President Obama, Nov 14, 2012*

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### **Vote for Time Person of the Year**

TIME magazine is taking votes for their annual "person of the year". Under consideration is the undocumented immigrant. [You can vote for the undocumented immigrant by clicking here.](#)

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### **Reducing Poverty in Wisconsin**

In September the [Community Advocates Public Policy Institute](#) introduced its [Pathways to Ending Poverty Project](#).

Four years ago, the Pathways to Ending Poverty Project set out to uncover what it would take to greatly reduce poverty in Wisconsin. The project zeroed in on four specific policies that would dramatically reduce poverty in Wisconsin:

1. A tax credit for seniors and adults with disabilities;
2. A Transitional Jobs program for unemployed jobseekers;
3. A higher minimum wage for workers; and
4. A reformed Earned Income Tax Credit for low earners.

The Public Policy Institute (PPI) retained the Urban Institute, an independent policy analysis center, to evaluate the proposed new policies using economic modeling. The Urban Institute's ["Reducing Poverty in Wisconsin"](#) report confirms that implementing the four-part policy package developed by PPI would dramatically reduce poverty in Wisconsin by between 58% and 81%.

The Urban Institute analysis concluded that the overall policy package would raise at least 250,000 Wisconsinites out of poverty, driving poverty down to below 3.5 percent ... and as low as 1.5 percent (depending on full versus partial participation in the proposed policy programs).

The remaining work of the Pathways to Ending Poverty Project is to organize advocates and constituents, communicate the policy package and its dramatic impact on reducing poverty to local and national policymakers, and work with them over time to translate the specific policy changes into law. The Pathways to Ending Poverty Project is led by David Riemer, Senior Fellow at the Public Policy Institute, and Conor Williams, Economic Policy Analyst.

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### **Catholic Teaching and the Environment**

"The Catholic community is very fortunate to have the tradition of Catholic social teaching and a pope who highlights environmental stewardship and sustainability to help us see a way forward in educating more Catholics on these

issues. While serious scholarship needs to continue on climate change, it must be made accessible through educational outreach. Catholics should embrace an ethic of eco-stewardship that is consistent with church teaching and Benedict's leadership. This is not some fringe teaching, but a core part of who we are and ought to be as Catholics." [Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change speaking at the symposium, hosted by The Catholic University of America, to discuss the implications of Pope Benedict XVI's biblically based ecological vision for the church. The symposium was sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and C.U.A.'s Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies. [America Magazine, Nov 26, 2012](#) ]  
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### **World Bank Warns Lack of Action on Climate Change**

[The World Bank: Climate Change Report](#) Warns of Dramatically Warmer World This Century November 18, 2012 – Like summer's satellite image of the melting Greenland ice sheet, a new report suggests time may be running out to temper the rising risks of climate change. "[Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided.](#)" (pdf) ([eBook version](#)) warns we're on track for a 4°C [7.2°F] warmer world marked by extreme heat-waves, declining global food stocks, loss of ecosystems and biodiversity, and life-threatening sea level rise.

Moreover, adverse effects of a warming climate are "tilted against many of the world's poorest regions" and likely to undermine development efforts and global development goals, says the study by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Climate Analytics, on behalf of the World Bank. The report, urges "further mitigation action as the best insurance against an uncertain future." "A 4°C warmer world can, and must be, avoided – we need to hold warming below 2°C," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. "Lack of action on climate change threatens to make the world our children inherit a completely different world than we are living in today. Climate change is one of the single biggest challenges facing development, and we need to assume the moral responsibility to take action on behalf of future generations, especially the poorest." The report sites rising sea levels, ocean acidification, heat extremes, lower agricultural yields, risks to human support systems, and destruction of eco-systems. [Read the article.](#)  
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### **Catholic Values and Healthcare Reform – A Message Worth Sharing**

Catholic Health Association of the United States has produced five short videos illustrating how Catholic values and principles are reflected in the health care law and how individuals, families, and businesses have been helped. For several months, they had worked to find and tell these stories. [The videos can be viewed here.](#) Sr. Carol Keehan, DC, President of the Catholic Health Association, encourages the Catholic community to explain what an important and necessary tool this law is to protect life and adhere to the social justice teachings of our Church.

[View this Link to the Affordable Care Act debate that took place at the Greenfield Public Library on October 1, 2012](#)  
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### **CPJ Common Ground and Advocacy Core Team – Come Join Us**

Did you know Catholics for Peace and Justice has a core team for advocacy and Common Ground? The group meets quarterly at the Panera restaurant on Greenfield Ave. just east of Moorland Road in Brookfield [15040 W. Greenfield Ave]. Members are participating in Common Ground and addressing issues that they are most concerned about with the support of the group and Catholics for Peace and Justice. Consider joining us at our next meeting on January 15, at 4:30 pm for some great conversation, support and action. Contact Mary Kleist at [maryakleist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryakleist@sbcglobal.net) for more information.  
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**Common Ground Newsletter** - [The latest news from Common Ground and the Common Ground Newsletter can be found here:](#)  
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### **Ground for Hope-Wisconsin Presentations Online**

Materials from the Ground for Hope-Wisconsin conference [can be viewed on line](#).

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### **Parish Social Ministry Tool Kit from Catholic Charities**

[Get Going, Ongoing, Going Further.](#)

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### **Pax Christi SOA Report**

[Pictures, Presentations, Prayers on line](#)

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### **Wishing You a Fair Trade Christmas**

If you are on the Crate & Barrel mailing list, you may have been surprised to see two pages of its 63-page Holiday Gift Guide devoted to the selling of Fair Trade Christmas ornaments. Each set of ornaments contains a story; e.g., you learn that when you purchase a group of three alpaca ornaments (like those pictured), you are empowering the village women in the rural Lake Titicaca region of Puno, Peru, to earn a sustainable income. This income provides their families with basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, and access to healthcare and education. In other words, when you give a Fair Trade gift, you are passing on an idea (and a good story) as well as giving a gift. You are making concrete your commitment to the invisible and working poor in our world. You are showing these workers and the people who receive your Fair Trade gift that poor people matter—something Jesus made quite a fuss about. You are also making concrete your commitment to sustainable and transparent production practices. Fair Trade cocoa and coffee farmers, for example, are committed to preserving the environment by avoiding harmful agrochemicals and by maintaining the biodiversity of their small farms. You don't have to place an order with Crate & Barrel to buy a Fair Trade gift. Milwaukee is an official Fair Trade city, in fact, the first one in the U.S., so you can purchase Fair Trade products locally. Check out your options in the Southeast Wisconsin Fair Trade Directory at [fairtrademilwaukee.org/directory/](http://fairtrademilwaukee.org/directory/) or shop at Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store at 5401 W. Vliet Street. You'll help keep a local business operating, you'll help keep hope and our planet alive—and you won't have to camp out in front of the store to get a good deal. A Fair Trade deal is a good deal.

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### **Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery – Dec 2**

2012 Global Awareness for Solidarity-SE Wisconsin presents Human Trafficking: Modern-Day Slavery – Not for Sale with Theresa Flores LSW, MSeD, Human Trafficking Survivor, on Sunday, December 2, 2012. Program 1 to 3 pm with Reception to follow. Cardinal Stritch University, Kendall Hall, 6801 N. Yates Road, Milwaukee. Human Trafficking is a current justice issue that needs our attention and action. [Program flyer](#).

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### **Fair Trade Fair – Dec 3**

Do your holiday shopping at the Fair Trade Fair, Monday, December 3, 10am to 2pm in the AMU Ballrooms, Marquette University. Sponsored by J.U.S.T.I.C.E. student group. [Flyer](#)

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### **Migration Policy and Advocacy in 2013 and Beyond – Dec 3-5**

MRS/CLINIC National Conference – Atlanta, GA - Migration Policy and Advocacy in 2013 and Beyond: New Challenges and New Opportunities. Purpose: The conference will examine migration from both federal and state/local perspectives and will discuss methods for advancing the migration policy agenda of the Church in 2013 and beyond. Presented by Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. and US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

[Check here for more information](#)

### **Marquette Soup with Substance – Dec 5**

Soup with Substance, a noon-time presentation and discussion on issues related to peacemaking and social justice

over a simple meal of soup and bread every Wednesday in AMU 157. [Click her for program details and updates.](#)

Restorative Justice: Wednesday, December 5, 12:00-1:00 p.m., AMU 157

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### **ICE Vigil – Dec 6**

When: Thursday December 6th 12:00 pm

Where: across from the ICE office 310 East Knapp Street, Milwaukee, WI. Sponsored by New Sanctuary Movement.

Call Kathleen Shea 414-643-1620 x208 for more information.

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### **Interfaith Conference Annual Luncheon - Dec 6**

We have an exciting speaker for the Interfaith Conference's annual luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Italian Community Center. He is Richard Cohen, president of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Known internationally for tracking and exposing hate groups, the SPLC is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, teaching tolerance and seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society. This will be an exceptional luncheon, one where we will honor the Sikh Community for their exemplary response to violence and give our annual awards to some great local recipients: For more information: go to [www.interfaithconference.org](http://www.interfaithconference.org) or call (414) 276-9050

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### **Our Lady of Guadalupe – Dec 7**

Sponsored by New Sanctuary Movement - On December 12th the Mexican people celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. We will celebrate it on December 7th (tentatively). Our Lady of Guadalupe is the same as the Virgin Mary. The only difference is that Our Lady of Guadalupe dressed as the indigenous people when she revealed herself to them. We will read the story in the form of a play, sing songs, and eat Mexican food and this is all free of charge!

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### **“Write for Rights Global Write-A-Thon” – Dec 9**

HELP CREATE PEACE - MULTI-GENERATIONAL ACTIVITY - Come to a Potluck and Join in the Amnesty International “Write for Rights Global Write-A-Thon” Sunday, Dec. 9th, 5:30 - 7:30pm, Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Ave, Brookfield. Enjoy good food and fellowship while engaging in a very positive project to support global peace and human rights.. Every December, Amnesty International organizes an intense letter writing campaign on behalf of 10 - 12 human rights activists or groups from around the world who are imprisoned or under threat for their actions. Each year UUCW contributes about 125 letters to the hundreds of thousands generated during the week long Write for Rights. These letters alert the governments holding or abusing these activists that the world is watching. After the Write-a-Thon Amnesty is able to report that a number of these prisoners of conscience are released and others have their conditions are improved. These letters really do make a difference in the lives of the brave people who are speaking out and standing up for human dignity and justice in their communities. Bring a dish to share, about 10 non-denominational greeting cards or plain writing paper and envelopes, a pen, and friends. Donations to cover the cost of postage suggested. Open to the public. Upper elementary, middle school, and high school students are encouraged to attend. [Announcement Flyer](#)

Read the stories of all of this year's activists and how you can help them at

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/writeathon/cases.php> . If you can't attend the event, you can write letters on your own.

Sponsored by UUCW's Global Justice and Peace Task Force. Questions? Contact Ann Heidkamp, 414-771-8099

or [heidkama@wi.rr.com](mailto:heidkama@wi.rr.com)

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### **Human Rights Day ‘Write-a-thon’ and Reflection – Dec 10**

All Are Welcome! - Monday, December 10 from Noon – 5 pm (Reflection 4 pm – 4:30 pm) School Sisters of Notre Dame, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove

In commemoration of International Human Rights Day, the School Sisters of Notre Dame are again sponsoring a human rights day ‘write-a-thon’ from noon until 5 pm on Monday, December 10. All are welcome to enjoy some Fair

Trade coffee and cookies and take action by signing/writing letters on behalf of individuals and groups who are at risk of human rights abuses. Participants are also encouraged 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. From 4 – 4:30 pm all are invited to join us for a quiet, moving reflection featuring prayer and poetry, symbols and song. [More information](#), [Event Flyer](#).

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### **La Posada – Dec 15**

In English la posada means inn, lodging or hospitality. La posada is a re-enactment of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. A few participants will take on the role of Mary, Joseph, residents and innkeepers. Mary and Joseph go to a few houses asking for a place to stay. The residents do not allow Mary and Joseph to enter their homes. Finally, an innkeeper welcomes Mary and Joseph into their home. The celebration includes singing, tamales, piñatas, and culture. The event will take place at 6:00 PM on either December 15th at Ascension Lutheran Church located at 27th St. and Scott. We will walk from Ascension Lutheran Church to Nativity School. Contact Kathleen at [nsm.mke@gmail.com](mailto:nsm.mke@gmail.com) for more info. [Flyer](#),

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### **An International Winter Solstice: Honoring the Darkness; Finding Joy in the Light – Dec 20**

December 20; 7:00-8:30 PM; Notre Dame of Elm Grove All Purpose Room; 13105 Watertown Plank Road; Elm Grove, WI 53122. All are welcome; come and honor the birthing of the Light in the midst of deepest darkness. Ethnic songs, poems and stories are welcome. Please register @ 262-787-1011 or email [sunseeddirector@ssnd-milw.org](mailto:sunseeddirector@ssnd-milw.org) Space is limited. Donations are appreciated. [Flyer](#)

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### **Social Justice Ministry World Café: Discovering Our Collective Wisdom – Feb 23**

Registration is now open for the Social Justice Ministry / Human Concerns World Café: “Discovering Our Collective Wisdom Around Questions That Matter” Saturday Morning, February 23, 2013, Time: 8 am to 12:15 pm; Location: St. Alphonsus Community Center, 6060 W. Loomis Rd. Greendale; Cost: Free. Together we will: Meet and network with others interested in Catholic Social Ministry, Discover what others are doing to engage their parish members, Share our experience and success with others, Uncover the possibility of working together for the greater good, Walk away with concrete ideas for growing our ministry. Who should attend? Social Justice Ministry members, Human Concerns Committee members, parish staff, and those who are involved in social justice ministry in the Milwaukee Archdiocesan area that would like to connect with others in this ministry. Sponsored by Catholics for Peace and Justice [www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org](http://www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org) . [Flyer with more details](#). [Register Here](#). For more information contact Thelma Walker: 414.651.8915 [DWATWA7224@cs.com](mailto:DWATWA7224@cs.com) or Deb Schneider: 414.550.2167

[djschneider@wi.rr.com](mailto:djschneider@wi.rr.com)

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### **Catholics at the Capitol – April 10, 2013**

Save the Date! Join us for a day of Catholic fellowship, education and advocacy. Wednesday, April 10, 2013 Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Madison WI. Keynote speaker: Most Rev Peter Christensen, Bishop of Superior, Registration begins January 2013. Updates will be available at [www.wisconsincatholic.org](http://www.wisconsincatholic.org)

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### **Sr. Simone Campbell Reflection at CTA 2012 National Conference**

[Sister Simone Campbell offers a reflection on the readings at the closing liturgy of the Call To Action 2012](#)

Conference in Louisville, KY. The first reading was 1st Kings [17:10-16](#); the second reading was Hebrews [9:24-28](#); and the Gospel was Mark [12:38-44](#).

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### **Advent Conspiracy**

From [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org)

We all want our Christmas to be a lot of things. Full of joy. Memories. Happiness. Above all, we want it to be about

Jesus. What we don't want is stress. Or debt. Or feeling like we "missed the moment". Advent Conspiracy is a movement designed to help us all slow down and experience a Christmas worth remembering. But doing this means doing things a little differently. A little creatively. It means turning Christmas upside down.

### **[WORSHIP FULLY]**

Christmas marks the moment where God's promise was fulfilled and love took form, tiny fingers and all. It is a moment that deserves our full attention and praise. We put Worship Fully as AC's first tenet because we believe the level of our involvement at Christmas is based entirely on how much we are celebrating Christ's birth. He deserves celebration; one that is creative, loud and directs every heart His way.

### **[SPEND LESS]**

Quick question for you: What was the one gift you remember getting for Christmas last year? Next question: What about the fourth gift? Do you remember that one? Truth is many of us don't because it wasn't something we necessarily wanted or needed. Spending Less isn't a call to stop giving gifts; it's a call to stop spending money on gifts we won't remember in less than a year. America spends around \$450 billion dollars during the Christmas season, and much of that goes right onto a credit card. By spending wisely on gifts we free ourselves from the anxiety associated with debt so we can take in the season with a full heart.

### **[GIVE MORE]**

We know what you're thinking. "Wait, didn't they just say I should spend less, and yet here they are telling me to give more? What gives?" The most powerful, memorable gift you can give to someone else is yourself. And nobody modeled this more than Jesus. So what does this look like for you? Tickets to a ball game or the theater? A movie night? The main point is simple: When it comes to spending time with those you love, it's all about quality, not quantity.

### **[LOVE ALL]**

It all boils down to love. Love from a savior. Love to a neighbor in need. By spending just a little less on gifts we free up our resources to love as Jesus loves by giving to those who really need help. This is the conspiracy three churches began a few years ago, and has since grown to an international movement where thousands of churches have raised millions of dollars to love others in life-changing ways.

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## **Our Faith Calls us to Peace From Education for Justice**

**Scripture Reading: Micah 4:1-4**

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and the Lord will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And the Lord shall judge among many people and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But every person shall sit under their vine and under their fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken it.

## **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace. Make all men and woman witnesses of truth, justice and love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all. [Pope John XXIII ]