

Catholics for Peace and Justice

FEBRUARY 2013 Newsletter



The **CPJ Social Justice Ministry “World Café” event is quickly approaching.** We encourage all who are involved in social justice ministry through direct service, empowerment, advocacy or justice education to attend. The purpose of the event is to share ideas and network to the benefit of us all and God’s mission.

Our favorite saying of late is Steven Johnson’s **“Chance favors the connected mind.”** It has been demonstrated throughout history that the best and brightest ideas don’t come from an individual’s single eureka moment, but from the collision of many thoughts or “hunches” over a period of time. We are looking forward to the revelations that will emerge from the collision of our conversations at the World Cafe that are the result of the vast experience of both novice and expert alike present in the room. [Registration and Information can be found here.](#)

As Lent approaches we find ourselves immersed in a set of familiar issues that have pushed to the forefront of public discussion – immigration, gun violence, mining and the ongoing catalytic events that have drawn attention to our environment and our ecological web of connection to God’s place we call home. Lent is a time of action, but also a spiritual journey. You will find an amazing number of ways to grow in that journey within our community listed below. You are the community and you are amazing.

Blessings on your ministry.

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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 social justice ministry – What’s important? What are you passionate about? How do you and we collectively make a greater impact on our individual and collaborative ministries? Together we will capture ideas, communal 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. [Register Here](#). 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. **Registration deadline is Feb 15!**

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Perceptions of Citizen Advocacy on Capital Hill – aka How to Get Heard on Capitol Hill – Read This First

This report based on an online survey of 260 congressional staff on their opinions and practices related to constituent communications, including social media came to us by way of S. Joseph Flynn, Chairperson for the Milwaukee Archdiocese Justice for Immigrants Campaign. The survey which was conducted between Oct 12 and Dec 13, 2010, provides a good framework for how to get your message heard by your representatives in Congress. The message – Citizens have more power than they realize. [Here is the short version of key findings](#). - [Here is the full 8 pages](#).

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Immigration Reform – Keep the Calls and Letters Going – Easy Links

A reminder that we need our legislators to keep hearing our voices on comprehensive immigration reform. It is particularly important that we turn up the pressure on BOTH our Senators. A personal note to each Senator may have the most impact.

Need more talking points? - Senator Johnson ran on the issue of economic development and helping business. A recent article in the Milwaukee Journal - Seeking workers, Wisconsin dairy farmers call for immigration reform - reported that “A University of Wisconsin Madison study found that more than 40% of the employees on Wisconsin dairy farms were immigrants. Nearly 90% from Mexico. Unlike migrant workers who can obtain a work permit for seasonal agricultural jobs, foreign workers on dairy farms can’t get the H-2A visa because their jobs are year-round rather than temporary.” “The impact of a lack of immigration reform has affected both large and small farms.” Without these workers, farms can not function.

The toll free Capitol Hill Switch Board number is 800.839.5276

[Senator Ron Johnson email](#) Tel, 202.224.5653

[Senator Tammy Baldwin email](#) Tel. 202.224.5323

You can also ask members of Congress to address comprehensive immigration reform at www.justiceforimmigrants.org The Justice for Immigrants Campaign asks that a new comprehensive law include the following:

1. A path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country
2. Preservation of family unity as a corner-stone of our national immigration system
3. Legal paths for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States
4. Restoration of due process protections to our immigration enforcement policies
5. Addresses the root causes (push factors) of migration, such as persecution and economic disparity

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The Current Consensus on Immigration Reform

From Washington Post: [Immigration reform: Five places where Obama and the Senate agree, Jan 29, 2013](#) On Monday President Obama announced his proposal on immigration reform. One day prior, the Gang of Eight senators introduced their “bipartisan framework for comprehensive immigration reform.” So what is the current consensus on comprehensive immigration reform?

First: U.S. borders need to be secure, or as secure as we can make them. According to Suzy Khimm of the Washington Post “much of the work on that has been done as the measures of border security from the 2007 immigration bill have largely been achieved.” “But border security can’t do everything. Even after sinking billions and billions into securing our borders, our “operational control” of the border — defined as our ability to quickly respond to any disturbance — is only in the range of 57 percent. That’s less evidence that we haven’t done enough than it is evidence that you can only do so much without simply having members of the National Guard link arms across all 1,967 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border.” [and what about the Canadian border?]

Second: Employers need to be checking the immigration status of employees.

Third: There needs to be an accessible path to citizenship “not a permanent class of residents who can never be citizens” [Sen. Marc

Rubio R-FL]

Four: There needs to be a sustainable immigration system going forward.

[Read President Obama's Immigration Proposal](#)

[Read Senators bipartisan plan for immigration reform](#)

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The Latest on the WI Mining Bill

From The Cap Times, Jan 30, 2013

"The effort to pass a new mining bill in Wisconsin hit a major public relations hurdle during the last legislative session when it was revealed the out-of-state company interested in sitting an open-pit iron mine in northern Wisconsin had been involved in writing the bill. Now, it looks like Gogebic Taconite (GTAC) has again been given a look at the latest version of the bill and a chance to offer changes, through communications with staffers in the offices of Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, and Rep. Scott Suder, R-Abbotsford." "The suggestions in the emails pertain to many of the more controversial portions of the bill, including changes to sections that deal with protecting wetlands." A vote on the bill is scheduled for Feb. 6 with intention for passage in early March.

"The Republican Legislature limited public testimony on the bill at the single hearing they were willing to have and the ostensible legislative authors have refused to publicly answer questions," said Scot Ross, One Wisconsin Now's executive director. "Yet records show legislators gave special access to the mining company." [Read more:](#)

[Learn More on the work of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters](#)

[Find your Wisconsin State Legislators](#)

[Wisconsin State Senate List](#)

[Wisconsin State Assembly List](#)

[Wisconsin State Legislature Home page](#)

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Common Ground Update – Doing DIGs and Moving Forward in the Suburbs

On Tuesday, January 29, four delegates from Catholics for Peace and Justice attended the Common Ground Winter Delegate's Assembly. At the assembly each member participated in Discover in Groups (DIG) sessions [formerly known as listening sessions] to hear from each other about what is concerning us in our community. DIG sessions are the first step for determining new campaigns.

Meanwhile, over the past 9 months CG organizer Rusty Borkin has performed over 400 1on1's in the suburban area of Milwaukee. As a result of his work CG members have formed a Suburban/Rural caucus of CG organizations. Themes of concern that have risen from the Caucus are Seniors-isolation, transportation, Disabled-transportation, Youth, family stress-heroin, prescription drugs, family dysfunction, Affordable housing, Joblessness/workforce development, and Technical schools/skills of students/connection with jobs.

On February 10, 2013 the Common Ground Suburban/Rural Caucus will meet at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Menomonee Falls to determine next steps toward a suburban rural campaign. Since the majority of the CPJ team lives in the suburbs, we have decided to join up with the Suburban/Rural caucus. We welcome anyone who is interested in contributing their thoughts and ideas to join us on Feb 10 at Good Shepherd from 2 to 4 pm. For more information contact Mary Kleist at marykleist@sbcglobal.net or Debra Schneider at djschneider@wi.rr.com

[Common Ground Newsletter](#)

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Supporting a Reduction in Gun Violence

You can still call your legislators to let them know you support [President Obama's plan to reduce gun violence](#). You can also ask others to make calls to their representatives too. A national coalition of faith based organizations are speaking out against gun violence and encouraging other to do the same. On Monday, Feb 4 join other people of faith calling lawmakers. [Go to Faiths Calling Website](#)

[Links to your representatives](#).

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What Makes a Gun an Assault Weapon?

President Obama has called on Congress to reinstate the 1994 assault-weapons ban, which expired in 2004. Last week a group of congressional Democrats, led by Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Carolyn McCarthy, introduced the [Assault Weapons Ban of 2013](#). So What Makes a Gun an Assault Weapon? [Read here and weigh in with your representatives](#).

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Wisconsin Budget Project

Interested in tracking the Wisconsin State Budget? Go to www.wisconsinbudgetproject.org Gov. Walker is scheduled to deliver his budget message on Wed, Feb 20.

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The Story of Citizens United and the FEC

Annie Leonard and The Story of Stuff team explains Citizens United v. FEC. Educate yourself on standing against corporate influence in politics that derogate the environment. [A good time to view the film](#).

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Nicaragua Mission Immersion: Discovering Education, Culture and Global Solidarity

Trip - June 16-25, 2013. Application deadline Now February 22nd. This mission immersion experience is specifically designed for educators teaching in a Catholic School or Parish Religious Education Program within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, however, is also open to any adult who is able to apply this experience in a ministry setting (Pastoral Associate, Human Concerns, Adult Formation, etc.) Participants will learn about the country's history and relations with the U.S; experience life in both rural and urban settings; visit a farming cooperative, schools, and health clinics; learn about women's issues and the struggle for human rights; and share faith with Nicaraguans through encounters with small Christian communities. No Spanish skills necessary. Cost: \$2300 all inclusive. Sponsored by World Mission Ministries of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. More details visit: <http://www.archmil.org/offices/world-mission/immersion.htm> or contact Elizabeth at 414-758-2283.

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ChangeLab Solutions

Looking for ideas on how to create change in your community? Check out an organization called ChangeLab Solutions. ChangeLab Solutions provides community-based solutions for America's most common and preventable diseases like cancer, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and asthma. Their solutions promote the common good by making healthier choices easier for everyone. Their real life ideas [we did it here, here is how you can do it too] touch on topics from how to make your community more bike friendly to how to bring healthy food to low-income neighborhoods. www.changelabsolutions.org

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Forgiving the Unforgivable: 'Fambul Tok' and Community Healing – Jan 31

Thursday, January 31, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Marquette University Alumni Memorial Union, room 252. Libby Hoffman co-founded Fambul Tok (Krio for "Family Talk"). This organization emerged in Sierra Leone as a face-to-face community-owned program bringing together perpetrators and victims of the violence in Sierra Leone. It provides citizens with an opportunity to come to terms with what happened during the war, to talk, to heal, and to chart a new path forward. Hoffman will show the epilogue to the documentary "Fambul Tok" and discuss the role of reconciliation, forgiveness, nonviolence, and restorative justice in peacemaking.

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Marquette University Mission Week 2013 – Feb 4-8

Go to the [Marquette Mission Week Website](#) for extensive details on many offerings. Many presentations require advance registration.

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Marquette Soup with Substance – Feb 6

Join us Feb. 6 for Soup with Substance: Mission Week with Father Halligan, who will speak about his decades-long innovative efforts to help struggling families through the Working Boys' Center in Quito, Ecuador. Soup with Substance: Mission Week will be in AMU Ballroom A/B, Noon-1pm, and [registration for the free event is required](#). [More information at MU Mission Week 2013](#)

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Lenten Small Group Series: Habits of the Heart - Seeking a Change of Heart – Feb 16 or 21

An invitation to 'see with our eyes and perceive with our heart'. To see as Jesus sees is to be compassionate and open to new ideas and new experiences in our relationship with God and each other. In Habits of the Heart we will reclaim the original meaning of 'heart,' a word that points to the core of self - that place where intellect, experience and emotion converge - a place where we become more fully human. In this 5 week series, through Scripture, dialogue and example, we will explore 5 habits of the heart that we can use in our Lenten journey to lead us toward being more open with others and toward a closer heartfelt relationship with God. ... This Lent, you're invited to join a Habits of the Heart small group - on either Thursday evenings beginning Feb 21 from 6:30 to 8 pm at St. James Catholic Church Sussex/Menomonee Falls or Saturday mornings from 9 to 10:30 am beginning Feb 16 at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Menomonee Falls. The program is based on Parker Palmers Habits of the Heart as a follow on to "civil dialogue". To participate in this cluster Lenten series, please contact Debra Schneider at djschneider@wi.rr.com / 414.550.2167 or Jane Clare Ishiguro at ishiguroj@archmil.org

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Forward On Climate Rally in Washington DC – Feb 17

On Sunday, February 17, thousands of Americans will head to Washington, D.C. to make Forward on Climate the largest climate rally in history. Join this historic event to make your voice heard and help the president start his second term with strong climate action. Crippling drought. Devastating wildfires. Superstorm Sandy. Climate has come home -- and the American people get it. What: The largest climate rally in U.S. history. Where: The National Mall in Washington, D.C. including a march to the White House When: February 17, 2013, Noon - 4:00 p.m. (please arrive by 11:30 a.m.)

Website <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageServer?pagename=forwardonclimate> Sponsored by Sierra Club, 350.org and more.

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Green Living: Creating an Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle – Feb 20

Dates: February 20, 27, March 6, 20; 7:00-8:30 PM. Meeting Place: Urban Ecology Center; Washington Park based on the book: Green Living Handbook: A 6 Step Program to Create an Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle by David Gershon. This series of four gatherings is based on the book, Low Carbon Diet by David Gershon who makes even the discipline of reducing our emissions seem like fun. With clear instructions, and handy charts, the founder of Empowerment Institute outlines highly practical and effective choices we can implement in our homes and business environments. Registration is recommended: contact: Suzanne Moynihan, SSND, organizer; email sunseeddirector@ssnd-milw.org or call 262-787-1011. [FLYER](#)
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"Islam" Means Peace: Understanding the Muslim Principle of Nonviolence Today - Feb 21

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Student Union 191, 2200 E Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee, WI. Thursday, February 21 / 7:00 pm. Author Amitabh Pal presents his latest book, "Islam" Means Peace, a decisive account of the role of nonviolence in Islam and Muslim societies, both historically and in current times. It chronicles an often-obscured but longstanding pacifist tradition. Pal is managing editor of The Progressive magazine and co-editor of The Progressive Media Project, an op-ed service in Madison, WI. Sponsored by Peace Action Wisconsin, Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, Islamic Society of Milwaukee, Progressive Students of Milwaukee, Friends of Palestine, Marquette University Center for Peacemaking and more.
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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 social justice ministry – What's important? What are you passionate about? How do you and we collectively make a greater impact our individual and collaborative ministries? Together we will capture ideas, communal 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. Spread the word. [Flyer with more details](#) including "What is a World Café?" [Register Here](#). For more information contact Thelma Walker: 414.651.8915 DWATWA7224@cs.com or Deb Schneider: 414.550.2167 djschneider@wi.rr.com . We are looking forward to the sharing. Hosted by Catholics for Peace and Justice www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org
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Reconciliation: Framework for Peace – Feb 27

Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Marquette University Alumni Memorial Union, room 163. Presenter: Dr. Khalil Dokhanchi. The term reconciliation is used in both Afghanistan and Palestine and neither of the situations really qualifies as reconciliation. What is reconciliation and how does it relate to peace building? This presentation argues that it is better to separate these two concepts and begin with peace building. Peace building is an attempt to promote positive peace--moving beyond bringing groups back together and to promote the necessary changes that bring about lasting peace. Theoretically, positive peace can be achieved through a number of methods including reconciliation.
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Archbishop Romero Workshop- Mar 9

Saturday, March 9, 8 am to 3 pm at St. Mary Hales Corners Parish. In El Salvador in the late 1970's, Archbishop Óscar Romero was a voice of the poor and the disappeared. In this workshop, we will learn about his internal and external struggles to be a true pastor and to accompany the Salvadoran people in the struggle for justice. We will reflect on the meaning his life can have for us, and how his journey can inspire and challenge us today. The day will include: Screening of the new film, Monseñor, The Last Journey of Óscar Romero, which features rare footage of Romero and interviews with those who were directly impacted by his life and work. Presentations about Romero and his legacy by leading Romero scholar Rev. Robert Pelton, CSC; Professor Margaret Pfeil, and Sociologist Víctor Maquque. (Click here for speaker bios) Group discussion and reflection, Lunch. Cost \$10. Event [Registration and Program Details](#) Sponsored by Office for World Mission of the Milwaukee Archdiocese with the support of Catholics for Peace and Justice and others. [FLYER](#) [ROMERO STUDY GUIDE](#)
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WISDOM's Madison Action Day - People of Faith United for Justice – Mar 14

Thursday, March 14, 2013, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison. People of Faith United for Justice is a day-long gathering to learn, discuss, pray and advocate together for social justice issues of importance to all people of Wisconsin. As a new legislature starts work on the next state budget, our representatives need to hear our values, priorities, and concerns. Together, we can ensure that our commitment to compassion and justice is reflected in that budget. Plenary session with Rev. Bryon Massingale, Professor of Theology at MU. The focus for this action day is our 11x15 Campaign to reduce Wisconsin's prison population to 11,000 by 2015 by making state funding available to local municipalities so they can provide treatment alternatives for non-violent offenders with underlying mental health and substance abuse issues. [FLYER](#) [REGISTRATION](#)
[Further information on 11X15 CAMPAIGN:](#)
[11x15 Health Impact Assessment Summary, Dec 2012](#) - [11x15 Brochure, Jan 2013](#) - [11x15 FAQ's](#)
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Awakening the Dreamer Facilitator Training – March 22-24

March 17-19: Lake Lucerne Retreat Center, Neshkoro and March 22-24: Menasha/Appleton

The Awakening the Dreamer Symposium inspires and educates participants around the world to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and spiritually fulfilling world. The understanding that we are, every one of us, connected to each other. Each of us wants to live a fulfilling life and to have a positive impact on our families and communities. In addition to grounding participants in the material of the ATD Symposium, this facilitator training is also useful for anyone wishing to renew and refresh their commitment to a more sustainable world thru the lens of community, spirit, the environment and social justice. The weekend is rich with fun, supportive, thought-provoking, community building exercises. The flow of the facilitator training is designed to continually enable you to discover how YOU can be more effective in bringing into action your vision of a sustainable world. [LEARN MORE](#)
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Transformation in a Time of Uncertainty – March 23

Come and join us for a one-day program, Saturday, March 23, 2013 • 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Troubadour Room, St. Francis Convent, 3221 S. Lake Dr. • St. Francis, Wisconsin 53235. Explore the time we are living in through a process that taps into your faith and spirituality. The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi will host the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue program, "Transformation in a Time of Uncertainty" Nancy Sylvester, IHM, President and Founder of the Institute will be the presenter. The fee for the program is \$50, and includes lunch. [Registration Form](#). For further information email titumilw@gmail.com .
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Catholics at the Capitol – April 10, 2013

The registration is now available for "Catholics at the Capitol: Reclaiming the Common Good in the Year of Faith 2013" to be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. The keynote speaker will be the Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen. Registration is \$37 per person and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Secondary or full-time post-secondary students can register for \$12. The registration deadline is April 1, 2013. Registration materials are available on our website: www.wisconsinatholic.org. [Registration Flyer](#)
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Reflection and Prayer

"Fear Not", S. Simone Campbell's Comments on the 113th Congress

[From Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good](#)

At a meeting with Vice President Biden 10 days ago, about ending gun violence in our nation, I realized that fear is at the heart of many of our concerns. [Read on](#)
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Catholic Charities USA Prayer

God of justice, ancient and new, from the beauty of sacred creation, through the covenant to the cross, the movement of your Spirit brought order out of chaos, voiced liberation for your people through the prophets, and gave life through the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ. The movement of your Spirit brought forth a body of faithful people, shaped by the story of your great love and commissioned for the service of justice and peace. We ask you to send this same Spirit upon us. Form and fashion us to be the movement of your Spirit bringing love to a weary and worn world. Deepen our commitment to serve those most in need with the gifts and passion of staff, volunteers and benefactors. Bless and bring all of us to the fullness of your love that celebrates the life and dignity of all your people. Amen.