



Catholics for Peace and Justice

January 2012 Newsletter

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the New Year, one word comes to mind "Gratitude". Ideally the journey through Advent and experience of Christmas should bring us to a renewed vision of life. My journey has brought me to a greater sense of Gratitude. Yes, I am grateful for the gift and care of family and friends, but I am also grateful that I am connected with all of you – the community of faithful, thoughtful, vigilant peacemakers that continuously challenge me and each other to walk The Way of the Christ.

Blessings on your New Year

One important note - due to the devastating fire on Christmas Eve at St. Alphonsus, we are currently working to secure a new location for our conference "Summoned to Justice". We expect to have a location confirmed very soon and will send a follow up notice as soon as possible.

Debra

We say, "I can't imagine." But God says, "That's what I imagine, a whole world not only created but also living in my image." *Henri Nouwen*



Table of Contents

To view documents in this newsletter [Download Adobe Reader](#)

General

["Summoned to Justice" Conference – Feb 11, 2012 – NOTE Venue Change
Dignity, Common Good and Immigration](#)

Actions and Issues

[Next Global Day of Listening – December 31 – Jan 1, 2012](#)

[Iraq's Moral Legacy](#)

[Wisconsin Bishops Release Pastoral Letter on Immigration Migration Week Jan 7/8-14](#)
[Common Ground Update](#)
[Occupy Catholics – A New Movement](#)
[Catholic Coalition on Climate Change](#)
[Lighten Up – An Awesome Use of Water Bottles for the Poor](#)

Events and Education

[Century of Challenges with Nicole Foss – Jan 4](#)
[Forum: Rescuing Regina/Rescuing the US Immigration System – Jan 7](#)
[Hostility or Hospitality: How We Treat the Stranger Changes Us - Jan 22](#)
[Mindfulness Meditation Course – Jan 17 – Feb 7](#)
[Film: "Crossing the Line: Defending Wisconsin's Environmental Commons" – Feb 3](#)
[Social Concerns Forum: "The Human Face of the Future: Imagining a Just Society" – Feb 4](#)
[Our Call to Mission: International Twinning in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee – Feb 18](#)
[Lenten Experience with Catholic Relief Services – Feb 29](#)
[Winter Farmer's Markets](#)

Reflection and Prayer

[Reflection – Excerpts from Pope Benedict's World Day of Peace Message](#)
[Prayer](#)

“Summoned to Justice” Conference – Feb 11, 2012 – NOTE Venue Change

“Summed to Justice: Equipping Faith Communities to Answer the Call” is a half day conference to develop and equip leader advocates with spiritual refreshment, new ideas and proven tools to successfully engage your faith community in the social teaching of our Catholic faith. You will connect with other local faith communities to learn how they are moving beyond charity to create change through connecting with, empowering and advocating for people in need.

Date: Saturday, Feb 11, 2012 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Location: Soon to be re-announced [\[due to the fire at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church\]](#)

Prayer Leader: Fr. Joe Juknialis – On Living Compassion

Unique session: Members of Human Concerns groups will have an opportunity to come together to build connections, share successes, concerns and how we might move forward to work together as a stronger whole

Workshops:

- Human Concerns Connection
- Faithful Citizenship/Election Issues 2012
- Disrupting the Cycle of Poverty
- Environmental Justice
- Addressing Immigration
- Tools to Engage Discussion in Your Parish
- Advocating for the Common Good through Common Ground

This conference is an excellent opportunity to gain new insight and ideas for building parish involvement. All are invited. [Brochure with Registration](#) [Check our website for details on the](#)

[conference](#) including registration and workshop descriptions. **Conference fee:** Adult \$10, Student \$7. A parish/group rate is available. **Sponsored by Catholics for Peace and Justice.**
www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org
[\[back to top\]](#)

Dignity, Common Good and Immigration

"As Catholics, we uphold the sanctity and dignity of every human life, from conception to natural death. We affirm that every human being is created in God's image through His boundless love. Just as we work to protect the innocent unborn, 40 million of whom have already lost their lives, so we cannot turn our backs on the 12 million immigrants in our midst who long to live freely and fully."

'Our Catechism addresses directly the duty of wealthy nations like ours to welcome foreigners who are searching for a better life and to respect their natural right to emigrate. At the same time, it recognizes the right of governments to regulate immigration for the sake of the common good.'" "Our Catholic faith can and must transcend political and cultural turmoil." [*Traveling Together in Hope, 2011, Wisconsin Catholic Bishops*]
[\[back to top\]](#)

Next Global Day of Listening – December 31 – Jan 1, 2012

Next Global Day of Listening: December 31, 2011 – January 1, 2012 beginning at [9 pm U.S. Central time [7:30 am Afghanistan time] and continue for 6+ hours. 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.
[\[back to top\]](#)

Iraq's Moral Legacy

By Raymond A. Schroth as posted on America Magazine

"Those with long memories remember that the first George Bush Gulf War ended as we slaughtered the helpless remnants of the Iraqi army fleeing from Kuwait, bombing their defenseless convoy. The Bush Junior phase of the war ended symbolically when American troops staged the yanking down of Saddam's statue in a Baghdad square, and again when Bush landed on an aircraft carrier to declare victory, and again when Saddam was hanged. Today it is over again because all the American troops are coming home—except for those who are remaining and those who will be sent back when the terms have been negotiated." [Read more about "Iraq's Moral Legacy"](#).
[\[back to top\]](#)

Wisconsin Bishops Release Pastoral Letter on Immigration

On December 12, 2011 the Wisconsin Catholic Bishops released their joint letter "Traveling together in Hope". In this letter the Catholic Bishops ask Catholics and others to reach out to immigrants and to back fair and just comprehensive immigration reform. The Bishops "recognize that Catholics, all in good conscience, hold differing views about U.S. immigration policy", while at the same time are dissatisfied with the status quo.

[Traveling Together in Hope - WI Bishops' Letter in ENGLISH](#)

[Traveling Together in Hope – WI Bishops' Letter in SPANISH](#)

[Traveling Together in Hope – Q and A in ENGLISH](#)

[Traveling Together in Hope – Q and A in SPANISH](#)
[U.S. Hispanic Bishops' Letter to Immigrants](#)

Please ask your parish staff to include part or all of the letter in your parish bulletin or newsletter. A good weekend would be January 7/8, 2012, the Epiphany and beginning of Migration Week.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Migration Week Jan 7/8-14

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:

[National Migration Week Resources](#)

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

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

[More ideas and resources on our website](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Common Ground Update

[Access the January Common Ground Newsletter Here](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Occupy Catholics – A New Movement

[Occupy Catholics](#) is a website hosting an emerging conversation with the intent to organize a Catholic role in the Occupy movement. The site, which is in its early stages, has a series of article clippings designed to “strike up chatter” toward Catholics taking part in organizing mobilizing and occupying.

The site hosts an article clipping from a letter written by Archbishop Timothy Dolan President of the US Congress of Catholic Bishops urging bishops and other Catholic clergy nationwide to bring the issue of poverty into their homilies. He wrote “Widespread unemployment, underemployment and pervasive poverty are diminishing human lives, undermining human dignity, and hurting children and families,” continuing.... “I hope we can use our opportunities as pastors, teachers, and leaders to focus public attention and priority on the scandal of so much poverty and so many without work in our society.”

Archbishop Dolan added, “Sixteen million of our children (almost one out of four) are growing up poor.”

[The entire letter can be found here.](#)

What is your opinion? Should there be an Occupy Catholic movement? What would it look like? [Share your thoughts here.](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and Catholic Climate Covenant

Who is under your carbon footprint? The [Catholic Coalition on Climate Change](#) includes a dozen national Catholic organizations including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The coalition established the

Catholic Climate Covenant: "[The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor](#)" to encourage greater personal and shared engagement by the Catholic community to respond to the impacts of climate change. The Covenant seeks to show respect for God's creation by focusing on the link between creation and poverty embodied in the life and ministry of St. Francis and the words of the Psalmist: "The earth is the Lord's and all it holds." (Ps 24:1) This initiative offers Catholics a concrete way to live out our faith by caring for God's creation and the "least of these" in response to the challenges of global climate change. Pope Benedict XVI is leading these efforts: "Our earth speaks to us, and we must listen if we want to survive."

[\[back to top\]](#)

Lighten Up – An Awesome Use of Water Bottles for the Poor

[Click here to view this 3 minute film clip.](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Century of Challenges with Nicole Foss – Jan 4

Post Growth economist Nicole Foss will be returning to Milwaukee once again to present the challenges that lay ahead for the 21st century. This is a very rare opportunity to gain "received wisdom" to live within a century of scarcity and disruptions. The 20th century was one of exponential expansion of energy, debt and natural resource extraction. The 21st will bring the exact opposite. Without an up front understanding of this "new normal" society is at great risk of catabolism. These are difficult subjects to tackle but without this "emotional inoculation" people will not be prepared to live ethical fulfilling lives during perceived scarcity. Join us at 1st Unitarian Society Jan 4th doors open 6 PM. Lecture 6:30-8 PM Q&A 8-9 PM

[\[back to top\]](#)

Hostility or Hospitality: How We Treat the Stranger Changes Us - Jan 22

"Hostility or Hospitality: How We Treat the Stranger Changes Us" with presenter Sr. Josephe Marie Flynn - Sunday, January 22nd, Good Shepherd Parish, N88 W17658 Christman Rd, Menomonee Falls Daniels Hall at 9:45-10:45 am - Sunday Morning Liturgies: 8:30 am and 11:00 am

[\[back to top\]](#)

Forum: Rescuing Regina/Rescuing the US Immigration System – Jan 7

The "Rescuing Regina/Rescuing the Broken U.S. Immigration System" forum will feature speakers S. Josephe Marie Flynn, author of Rescuing Regina; Immigration Attorney Joseph Rivas and S. Barbara Pfarr SSND, Director of the WISDOM Immigration Initiative. Location: Ascension Lutheran Church, 1415 Dopp Street in Waukesha on Saturday, January 7th, 2012. Registration/refreshments/resource tables 9:00-9:30 am and the program will be from 9:30-11:30 am with an opportunity for Q & A. The event is free and all are welcome to attend. A suggested free will donation of \$5 will be gratefully accepted. [Flyer](#). Sponsored by Plowshare Center and SOPHIA.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Mindfulness Meditation Course – Jan 17 – Feb 7

Since meditation benefits the mind, body and soul—creating more happiness, peace and the ability to make healthy choices, a free Mindfulness Meditation Course will be offered on four Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30, beginning on January 17th. Bob Weiss, who will be the facilitator, has been ordained in the Order of Interbeing by Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist Zen Master, peace activist and international presenter. The course will be held at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove. Chairs and cushions will be provided to suit individual preference. Pre-registration is not necessary. Questions? Contact Bob Weiss at 262-754-9647. [Flyer](#) Sponsored by Sunseed Eco-Education Ministries.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Film: "Crossing the Line: Defending Wisconsin's Environmental Commons" – Feb 3

Plowshare is honored to have the opportunity to host a screening of "Crossing the Line: Defending Wisconsin's Environmental Commons", a documentary produced by Midwest Environmental Advocates. Crossing the Line is a short film which celebrates the stories of five individuals, families and communities who, with the help of Midwest Environmental Advocates, stood up for their rights to clean air, land and water and won. Jodi Habush Sinykin, Senior Staff Attorney of Midwest Environmental Advocates will introduce the film and then facilitate a discussion afterwards. The film will be shown on Friday, February 3rd, at 7:00 pm in the Carroll University Student Center Ballroom. [More Information](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Social Concerns Forum: "The Human Face of the Future: Imagining a Just Society" – Feb 4

Saturday, February 4th, 9:00 am-noon: "The Human Face of the Future: Imagining a Just Society". Speakers: Justice Janine Geske (ret.) Distinguished Professor of Law at the Marquette University Law School; Founder and Director of the Restorative Justice Initiative will speak on "Restorative Justice; Remembering We Are All Part Of The Same Human Family"; Betty Groenewold, President of SOPHIA on "Imagine: Life Sustaining, Affordable Housing For All"; and John Whitcomb, M.D., Board Certified in Holistic and Integrative Medicine on "How To Reform Health Care So Everyone Is Motivated To Be Well And Stay Well: Aligning Incentives" [More information](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Our Call to Mission: International Twinning in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee – Feb 18

World Mission Ministries and the Global Mission Network would like to invite you to join us for a morning of learning, sharing and reflection as we focus on a growing trend in mission today: international twinning relationships. Whether your parish has a long-standing relationship, is just building your new friendship, or is starting to consider developing a new partnership, the gathering will be beneficial to all! We welcome Dr. Mike Gable, Director of the Mission Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, as our facilitator and keynote speaker. He has extensive experience helping parishes to build long-term twinning relationships based on global solidarity and mutuality. He speaks nationally on this topic and focuses not only on developing the relationship but sustaining it through the years. Our day will also include break-out sessions and the opportunity to share your own experiences and best practices with each other, ultimately focused on deepening one's own mission spirituality and that of our archdiocese through these diverse twinning experiences. [Flyer with details.](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Lenten Experience with Catholic Relief Services – Feb 29

Open invitation to a Lenten Experience with Catholic Relief Services at the Cousins Center, 7:00 pm, Wednesday, February 29, 2012. Starting with a prayer service and Stations of the Cross, we will host an educational session on international agricultural and food security issues. More information available in early January. Contact [Kathy Shine](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Winter Farmer's Markets

[Check Here for Locations, Dates, Times](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Reflection – Excerpt from Pope Benedict's World Day of Peace Message

["Educating Young People in Justice and Peace"](#)

"Peace is not merely a gift to be received: it is also a task to be undertaken. In order to be true peacemakers, we must educate ourselves in compassion, solidarity, working together, fraternity, in being active within the community and concerned to raise awareness about national and international issues and

the importance of seeking adequate mechanisms for the redistribution of wealth, the promotion of growth, cooperation for development and conflict resolution. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”, as Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:9).”

“Peace for all is the fruit of justice for all, and no one can shirk this essential task of promoting justice, according to one’s particular areas of competence and responsibility. To the young, who have such a strong attachment to ideals, I extend a particular invitation to be patient and persevering in seeking justice and peace, in cultivating the taste for what is just and true, even when it involves sacrifice and swimming against the tide.”

[\[back to top\]](#)

Prayer

Lord, help us in this New Year
to exercise the right use of freedom as individuals and as a nation
to respect others as we respect ourselves
to generate a sense of mutual trust and constructive dialogue
to practice forgiveness and true charity
to show compassion to the weak with willingness to sacrifice
to live in loving relationship with others
And to find our true freedom in the indwelling of your Spirit.
Amen

Adapted from Pope Benedict's 2012 World Day of Peace Message

[\[back to top\]](#)