

Catholics for Peace and Justice

March 2012 Newsletter

We extend a huge thank you to the 150+ people who attended "Summoned to Justice" on February 11. Special thanks to all of you who helped promote the conference. The effort to reach out beyond our membership was successful as there were many new faces in the crowd hungry for information and connections. The work of God is amazing. We invite you to continue the networking by signing on to the Social Justice Connection on our website. More below.

Finally, "Interrupting Cycles of Violence" is the title of this year's Peace Conference taking place on Sunday, March 25. CPJ is once again co-sponsoring the conference hosted by our friends at UUCW and Candlelight Coalition. We are asking for your help in spreading the word for this important event. Details and flyer are below.

Peace and Blessings on your ministry.



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Peace Conference: Interrupting Cycles of Violence – March 25

Peace Conference 2012 "Interrupting Cycles of Violence" on Sunday, March 25th, 2 - 5pm, UUCW 13001 W. North Ave. Brookfield: Do we have a culture of violence? How do we create a culture of peace in our lives and society? Panelists: Ramon Candelaria, Violence Prevention Initiative of Medical College; Tio Hardiman, Director, Ceasefire Illinois, the organization featured in the award winning documentary "The Interrupters;" Patrick Kennelly, Assoc. Director of M. U. Center for Peacemaking; and Barb Notestein, Exec. Director of Safe and Sound. Workshops by panelists follow the panel discussion. Peace activities for children 3 - 9 and child care available during conference - preregister at 262-782-3535 only for children. [Details and more info](#). [Flyer for circulation](#) [Bulletin Insert](#)
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Your Social Justice Connection

One of the most important aspects of the February "Summoned to Justice" conference was the gathering together of people concerned about and seeking to address issues of social justice. Many of the attendee's survey responses expressed the benefit of seeing and feeling that they are not alone in their ministry.

We would like to continue to build on the need for networking within our social justice community. A missing element is the knowledge of groups that are actively out there engaging in ministry. Catholics for Peace and Justice has initiated a Social Justice Ministry Connection on our website. Human Concerns and other social justice organizations are invited and encouraged to list their group, ministries and contact information with the intent of providing all of us the ability to connect with other groups and resources within our Archdiocesan area.

This list will only work with your participation. [Click here to go to the website listing](#) where you can add your group. Group information will be submitted and verified before being added to the web list. The list will continue to be maintained if we find willingness to participate. Feedback is appreciated. info@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org
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Are You Ready for War with Iran?

The discussion around Iranian nuclear armament and what to do about it continues to escalate in the media. [Frank Pauc's recent letter to the Journal Sentinel](#) "Attacking Iran is a Bad Idea" points out why military action against Iran is a very bad idea. It also brings to mind that letters demanding no more war to our representatives in Congress at this point in time is a very good idea.
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The Growing Number of Poor in WI

According to the [WI Council on Children & Families](#), over the last decade, the number of children in WI growing up in low-income neighborhoods has increased by 53 percent – twice the national average rate of growth. The Annie E. Casey Foundation has released a Data Snapshot on High Poverty Communities, highlighting the growth in the number of children growing up in neighborhoods with high levels of poverty (defined by census tracts with poverty rates of 30 percent or more) around the country and in Wisconsin. It is disconcerting that this growth reverses the trends of the 1980's and 1990's in which the number of children growing up in these neighborhoods was on the decline. The lifelong negative impacts on children and ultimately on our economy beg the question about how we can direct our public policy, practices, and investments to reduce the number of children growing up in low-income neighborhoods. [Check out the Casey Data Snapshot](#) and the [WCCF blog posting](#) for more ideas about what we

can do to improve the outcomes for children growing up poor in low-income neighborhoods.

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Perspectives on the Affordable Care Contraceptive Mandate

This week America Magazine published a clear story on the issue of contraceptive services in an article [“Bishops Say No to Accommodation On Contraceptive Services”](#). In addition Dr. Stephen Schneck, Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good Board Member and Director of the Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies at the The Catholic University of America weighed in on the [recent changes to the Affordable Health Care Act’s contraception mandate](#) – praising the effort to come to a compromise. Schneck states, “We should welcome this new language. Whatever we may think about contraception, American Catholics have been paying for it for many decades.”

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Challenges to Immigration Reform from an Evangelical Viewpoint

The Christian Citizen magazine focuses on justice issues, offering suggestions and opportunities for personal witness and action for the Baptist community. This issue of The Christian Citizen focuses on immigration—specifically, on immigrants who are referred to as “undocumented,” “unauthorized,” or “illegal.” They are considered by many to be “other,” as in any voice different from their own. [Download the current issue here.](#)

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Repent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, So We Can Rejoice Together

From Mary Krolkowski and Carol Waskovich

During Lent, God calls us to invest energy into changes that bring us into solidarity with people and groups that our society makes invisible or inconvenient, like the Samaritan woman or the man born blind. Not stretching ourselves toward those outside of our immediate circle contributes to the Brokenness of the World.

Think of those peoples of island nations threatened by the disappearance of their land, their people and culture, and their countless native species, due to climate change.

Think of products that we use whose cost is based on the slave labor that produces it.

Think of people living in rural Wisconsin whose ground water and air is being polluted by runoff from industrial cattle or hog farms.

Think of native peoples in several Wisconsin communities whose main food sources, wild rice and fish, are gravely affected by runoff from mining or paper production

Think how much our unwise choices in consumption of fuel and consumer products may add to suffering of the least of Jesus’ brothers and sisters.

The earth now holds seven billion people. The earth cannot sustain this many people unless we change our ways. Already many simply do not have enough water, food, shelter, clothing or work to sustain meaningful lives. About half of the world’s population live in poverty and at least one fifth are severely undernourished. The rest live out their lives in comparative comfort and health.

If more than 50% of us battle for enough, the rest of us face another problem: over-consumption. Not only do we face obesity, we are depleting the earth’s limited natural resource. As we consume, we leave behind an increasingly polluted planet in our wake. Water and air pollution are two of the four most damaging consequences of over-consumption.

Repent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, so we can Rejoice together in the Rejuvenation of our World.

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Common Ground Update

[View the most recent Common Ground Newsletter](#)

February 21 was a great day for Common Ground. At a press conference at Hanson Dodge 2:30 PM Bob Connolly, Cathy Mahaffey, Bob DeVita and Jim Wesp announced a \$56.4 million dollar loan from the federal government to help us form a nonprofit health insurance company called Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative. In addition Common Ground made the front page of the Journal Sentinel. Check out the articles on the CG website:

www.commongroundwi.org and check out the health care website at: www.commongroundhealthcare.org

Save the Date – Spring Assembly: Sunday, April 29th – mid-afternoon.

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Beginning to Think About Election 2012? – Resources to Get Started

Here at Catholics for Peace and Justice we are beginning to think about how to approach the 2012 election. We need to express what people in general don't want to hear. Politics and Religion do mix! Christians do live in the world. Our choices do affect policies in our society. Our policies do affect the lives of our neighbors. How we act does affect the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the homeless, the hungry and thirsty, the prisoner, the sick, the unborn and more.

Here are some resources for getting started. Your ideas are welcome. Contact us at infor@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org.

[Catholics Voting for the Common Good](#)

[USCCB Faithful Citizenship](#)

[Catholics in Alliance Voter Guide](#)

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Match Day to Help Support Basic Needs – March 8

On March 8, residents of the Greater Milwaukee area have a chance to come together to support organizations that provide food and shelter for individuals and families who face extreme hardship. Match Day, a special online event coordinated by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, aims to leverage community support for 19 nonprofits that serve as a lifeline in the community. Each gift made by a donor on March 8 will be proportionately matched. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Brewers Community Foundation and several donors and area foundations have already pledged more than \$650,000 toward the match pool for that day. Find out more by visiting www.MatchDayMKE.org and mark your calendar for March 8!

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Markets & Meals for Hope: Winter Farmers Market & Breakfast – Mar 4

Sunday March 4th, 9am to 12:30 pm at St. St Sebastian's Church, 5400 W. Washington Blvd, Milwaukee.

BREAKFAST with locally sourced ingredients. MARKET with local products (Free browsing) portion of proceeds supports farmers crisis fund. Markets & Meals for Hope is a joint project of Churches' Center for Land and People (CCLP), a 501(c)(3) non-profit ecumenical organization, and the Harvest of Hope Farm Crisis Fund which supports farmers of the tri-state area of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois. www.cclpmidwest.org. [See the flyer for details](#)

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Prayer/Fasting During Lent: Stop Teaching War and Killing – Wednesdays in March

There will be an hour of Prayer and Fasting each Wednesday 4-5pm in Lent at a location on the Marquette University Campus for Marquette to [Stop Teaching War and Killing by the military departments \(ROTC\) on campus](#).

The first one will be February 29, 2012, 4-5pm in the Lobby of Raynor Memorial Library at 1335 W.

Wisconsin Ave. Prayer Services will be held Wednesday March, 7th, March 14, March 21st and March 28th at locations on the Marquette University campus to be announced. See www.nonviolentcow.org or email:

breakingthesilence@nonviolentcow.org .

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Interfaith Conference: Tuesdays in March - Standing Up for Democracy

Standing up for Democracy from the Middle East to the Capitol Rotunda - March 6, 13, 20 and 27. This series will examine the acts of democracy across the world this past year from Egypt to Wisconsin and look at its causation, struggle and tyranny being overthrown (the global economy, world financial totalitarian and corrupt regimes). People

will gain understanding and leave empowered to continue to strive for and create the democracy of justice and equity desired locally and throughout the world. [The list of topics and Presenters can be found here](#). All sessions will take place at Noon – 1:30 at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee. Fee: \$50 – series of four or \$15 per session. A light vegetarian lunch will be provided

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Marquette Soup with Substance – Wednesdays

The Center for Peacemaking, Campus Ministry and Multicultural Affairs partner to host Marquette's Soup with Substance program. The program invites members of the Marquette and larger Milwaukee community to listen to a local or national figure known for his/her academic or practical work in nonviolence while enjoying free soup and bread during the lunch hour 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Location Alumni Memorial Union AMU157 unless otherwise noted.

[Website and complete list of topics](#).

Topics in March and April

The Impact of Voter ID Wisconsin – March 21

Bringing World Youth Day to Marquette University – March 28

Mind the Gap – The Effects of Wealth Disparity in America – April 4

Youth Empowered in the Struggle (Y.E.S.) – Immigration – April 11

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Film Screening: “Pink Smoke Over the Vatican” – Mar 22

Catholics for Woman Priest and the WomanSpirit committee of the [First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee](#) are sponsoring the Milwaukee premier of ["Pink Smoke Over the Vatican"](#), a documentary about the ordination of women in the Catholic Church. It will be shown at 7pm, Thursday, March 22nd at Milwaukee's Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1342 North Astor Street, [Janice Sevre-Duszynska](#) a Milwaukee native and woman priest featured in the film will be available to hear comments and answer questions. The award winning documentary is 58 minutes and comments and questions will follow. For more information contact

CatholicsforWomanPriest@nonviolentcow.org

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Film Screening "The Interrupters" – March 23

"The Interrupters" Friday, March 23rd, 7 - 9pm, UUCW 13001 W. North Ave. Brookfield: This award winning documentary "tells the moving and surprising story of three "violence interrupters" in Chicago who with bravado, humility and even humor try to protect their communities from the violence they once employed." This film is the inspiration for the 2012 Peace Conference "Interrupting Cycles of Violence" on March 25th. One of the three "interrupters" featured in the film, Tio Hardiman, will be a presenter at the conference. So if you haven't seen the film already, take advantage of this opportunity and then come to the Peace Conference on 3/25.

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Presentation by Cindy and Craig Corrie – March 23

Human rights activist Rachel Corrie, was killed by an Israeli military Caterpillar on March 16, 2003, while trying to prevent the demolition of a Palestinian family's home. Since that time, her parents Cindy and Craig Corrie have dedicated themselves to the pursuit of justice and peace in the Middle East. Please join us as they tell of their attempts to seek accountability for Rachel's death and of their work in challenging US foreign policy in Israel/Palestine. Friday, March 23, 2012, 7 pm to 8:30 pm at UWM Student Union Sponsored by: Friends of Palestine (WI), American Muslims for Palestine, SDS . Your posting this information in a public place near you will be appreciated. Thank You. [FLYER](#)

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Earth Day Celebration in Elm Grove – April 20

The School Sisters of Notre Dame invites the public to join them for an Earth Day celebration on Friday, April 20 from 3 pm – 8 pm at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Road. Our celebration will feature a variety of fun and informative activities, demonstrations, displays, and presentations – all focused on creative ways to care for our planet and each other by living more thoughtfully and sustainably. For more information contact Tim Dewane

at 262-787-1023.

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Immigration Service Experience in Milwaukee – April 27-29

The Sisters of Charity, BVM invite you to join them, along with associates, friends and college students, for a weekend service experience in Milwaukee, Wis., April 27–29, 2012. The experience will focus on meeting and working with immigrants to the U.S. and learning more about the challenges they face. Volunteers will connect with outreach workers at Voces de la Frontera, an immigrant rights group based in Milwaukee. This annual “in country” volunteer experience is sponsored by the BVM Initial Membership and Associate offices. [Click here to view details and registration information](#). Registration Deadline: April 2, 2012. Contact: Kathy Carr, BVM, kcarr@bvmcong.org 563.588.2351 ext. 5133

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Winter Farmer’s Markets

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

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Reflection

The ability to stand back and calmly observe our inner dramas, without rushing to judgment, is foundational for spiritual seeing. It is the primary form of “dying to the self” that Jesus lived personally and the Buddha taught experientially. The growing consensus is that, whatever you call it, such calm, egoless seeing is invariably characteristic of people at the highest levels of doing and loving in all cultures and religions. They are the ones we call sages or wise women or holy men. They see like the mystics see.

From *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics* by Richard Rohr

Prayer

God, make my mind the mind of Christ.

(Philippians 2:5)

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