



Catholics for Peace and Justice

NOVEMBER 2011 Newsletter

Our newsletter this month is filled with life wisdom from our social justice community as many of you continue to walk with God in so many different ways from El Salvador to Afghanistan to Human Rights.

In particular we draw your attention to 2 local items - as winter approaches the plight of the homeless becomes more acute. Especially if you live in Waukesha County, please pray over how you and your church can act to help re-establish the Hebron House temporary shelter in Waukesha.

Second - we invite you to save the date of Saturday, February 11, 2012 for our winter social justice conference "Summoned to Justice: Equipping Faith Communities to Answer the Call". Look for more information on this conference below with more details and registration coming in November

Blessings on your ministry.



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Summoned to Justice: CPJ Winter Conference – Save the Date – Feb 11, 2012

"Summed to Justice: Equipping Faith Communities to Answer the Call" is the title of the winter conference to be held on Saturday, Feb 11, 2012 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at St. Alphonsus Church in Greendale. This conference is geared toward those seeking to educate themselves and others on social justice issues. Each workshop will equip attendees with tools and ideas for education and advocacy on an issue that they can take back to their parish or organization.

Two workshops will be directed at Human Concerns and social justice groups interested in determining how local groups can share ideas and work more holistically together to achieve greater impact.

More information and registration will be available in November. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Armistice Day Ceremony: Promote Peace – Veterans for Peace – Nov 11

Veterans for Peace will sponsor its third annual Armistice Day observance on Friday, Nov. 11, at 7 pm in the rotunda of Milwaukee City Hall, in an effort to reclaim the day that was intended to promote world peace but has morphed into Veterans Day, which too often seems to celebrate war and militarism. Ruth Conniff, political editor of The Progressive, will be the main speaker at the one-hour program, which will also include remarks by Iraq veteran Zach LaPorte, music by Robin Pluer, poetry by Harvey Taylor, and commemoration of Wisconsin's war dead. The event which is free and open to the public is co-sponsored by Peace Action Wisconsin, Candlelight Coalition, Democratic Party of Milwaukee County, Catholics for Peace and Justice, Global Peace and Justice Task Force of Unitarian Universalist Church West, Marquette University Center for Peacemaking, and Milwaukee Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. [PRESS RELEASE](#) with additional information. [Flyer](#)

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The Church and Human Rights, 2011 – Catholic Social Teaching

The dynamic quality of faith constantly calls the People of God to a careful and effective scrutiny of the —signs of the times. Today among the various signs of the times is the increasing attention focused on human rights throughout the world. This attention stems from the ever more sensitive and profound consciousness of individuals and groups for human rights as the centre of organized social life. It is stimulated by the continued multiplication of violations of human rights, and the consequent voices of protest insistently being raised against these violations. —Human rights are still too often disregarded, if not scoffed at, or else they receive only formal recognition. In many cases legislation does not keep up with real situations. Legislation is necessary, but it is not sufficient for setting up true relationships of justice and equality (OA 23). [The Church and Human Rights, 2011](#)

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Concerned About Homelessness? Waukesha County Folks... Begin Here Now....

Many of us who live in Waukesha County are familiar with the awesome work of Bernie Juno and Hebron House for support of the homeless in this area. For those in Milwaukee County think "Repairers of the Breach". Over the past three years through God's grace Bernie in conjunction with a host of area churches, organizations and others has established a men's winter Overflow Shelter. In previous years, the overflow shelter has been operated out of a combination of government funding and Hebron House reserves. This year, Hebron House has a significant operating deficit due to government cuts. Funding to operate the overflow shelter does not exist. In fact due to lack of funds Sienna House, a part of Hebron House services, has been closed since June.

Here is where you come in. Hebron House needs about 45K to operate the overflow shelter, and another 50K or so to reopen Sienna House shelter. In conjunction with Hebron House, area clergy and SOPHIA have determined a strategy that needs your involvement and the support of your church to be successful. [READ HERE](#). **ALERT YOUR PASTOR/HUMAN CONCERNS GROUP. GET INVOLVED NOW!!!** *Happy is one who cares for the poor; the Lord will save him in a day of adversity. The Lord will keep him and preserve him; he will be blessed in the land (Ps. 41:1-2)*

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The Emperor's New Clothes – On Christian Conscience **From Debra Schneider**

What are you most concerned about? For me it is Christian morality. It is a large topic that spans a wide range of thinking. My grounding point is Scripture most certainly colored by my personal experience, prayer and theological exposure. This week's article in "America" exemplifies my concern. I can't say that I would have been any more or less concerned if I had lived through the Reformation, Inquisition, and 1930's depression or been an adult during the civil rights movement of the 60s. It's all about human dignity. "How we are to God is how we are to one another."

The "America" editors who wrote "Conscience in the Mud" rightfully suggest that it is time for our country to wake up and examine its moral conscience. To start we need to examine the disconnect between how we seek peace, wage war, treat captives and tout ourselves as upholders of human rights. Are we acting like the Emperor with New Clothes? If we keep telling ourselves we are morally up right then it is so? At what point will we wake up to embarrassment? More likely we are setting the moral ground for the rest of the world. [Read the article here.](#)

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Pax Christi Reflection: Occupy Wall Street – Something Happening Here **By Tom Cordaro, Pax Christi Ambassador of Peace**

"I think that more than a list of demands the OWS movement is creating an alternative narrative that is changing the political discourse and national conversation about what is wrong in our country and what we need to do to fix it. By staying free from cooptation by the Democratic Party and a whole host of progressive special interests it has created a space for something different to take shape."

"We on the left often make the mistake of thinking that the struggle for social justice is primarily about the next election and/or some grand legislative agenda. We often operate from the false assumption that offering rational arguments and putting forth reasoned analysis alone is all that is needed to create social & political change. Those on the right, like Karl Rove and Rush Limbaugh, have always understood that people are not moved to action by white papers, legislative agendas, rational argument or reasoned analysis. People are moved by a compelling narrative." [Read the article](#)

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"Time to Give Thanks" and Help Others Do the Same

Excerpt from Ken Hackett; [Catholic Relief Services November 2011 Letter](#)

"It is easy to forget the harvest at the Thanksgiving table, not only because, despite our economic problems, we still have such abundance in this country, but because most of us are so removed from the actual production of food. We go to the grocery store and find a vast array of food that is completely disconnected from the season. The wheat in the bread we eat.... Who knows when or where it was harvested?"

Our "experience is so different from most of the rest of world, including in most of the countries where Catholic Relief Services works. Consider that, in Ethiopia, more than 80 percent of its 90 million people work in agriculture.

Almost all are subsistence farmers. They eat what they grow. And if they don't grow anything, they have nothing to eat."

"Sometimes when drought strikes—like the one currently gripping East Africa, including much of Ethiopia—you hear people wondering why so many live in such an inhospitable place. Why don't they just move to where it rains?"

"The fact is that droughts strike most everywhere. We have one going on right now in Texas. Many others have plagued our country in recent years. But we don't feel their effects because we still find plenty to eat at the supermarket. With all the shipping and canning and freezing, our food system has plenty of ways to work around a shortage caused by a drought. So when we give thanks this harvest season, let's be thankful for a food system that provides such abundance and resilience." [Find out how you can work with Catholic Relief Service to bring about cultural development and advocate for change](#)
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Be a Super Citizen – Lobby the Super Committee with Network

Remember that Super Committee we reported on back in August? The bipartisan group of senators and representatives assigned to address our nation's budget deficit with a specific plan to eliminate \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years. With the plan due by November 23, now is your final chance to be heard. Join Network in lobbying the Super Committee to maintain safety nets and increase revenue to close the wealth gap. And decrease the deficit. [Learn more and join the campaign.](#)
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Next Global Day of Listening – November 21

Next Global Day of Listening November 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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WCC Replacing Just War with Just Peace

[The World Council of Churches has published a document](#) of their decision "to challenge any theological or other justifications of the use of military power and to consider reliance on the concept of a 'just war' and its customary use to be obsolete." It's to be replaced with Just Peace: "In the Way of Just Peace the justifications of armed conflict and war become increasingly implausible and unacceptable . . . to condemn war is not enough; we must do everything in our power to promote justice and peaceful cooperation among peoples and nations."
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A Bargain Hunter's Road to Human Rights and Recovery

By Liz Dixon

Hello, my name is Liz Dixon. I'm a recovering bargain shopper. I've been in recovery for more than five years now, but every day is filled with temptations. After all, the average American, of which I consider myself one, is exposed to 3,000 advertisements per day—and most of those are ads for products that are bargains. It's hard to resist!

My recovery began during the Advent season of 2005 when Bill Lang came to a parish council meeting at Blessed Trinity. His purpose was to persuade us Councilors to join him in a protest effort at a south side Kohls store. He admitted that the protest probably wouldn't change anything--still he felt it was the moral duty of consumers to push for higher wages for Mexican sweatshop workers... [Shopaholics and Bargain Seekers Read On.](#)
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Let's Just Build More Walls

From Carl Malischke

Carl Malischke recently wrote a letter to the editor of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel to which he received no answer. As Carl says "My letter will never appear in the MJS due to their restriction of 200 words." None the less, Carl's letter which is well written and appears on his blog site, <http://reformimmigration2010.blogspot.com>. is concise and worth reading. Carl also [sends us pictures](#) following the October floods in El Salvador that were

brought on by intense rainfall, wreaking havoc across the region. Thirty four people were reported dead with over 55,000 living in 638 shelters.. Carl and his wife Maureen Crowley are currently in El Salvador teaching English at the Social Justice Language School of the Centro de Intercambio y Solidaridad (CIS) www.cis-elsalvador.org More on their experience in El Salvador can be found at <http://cjardilla.blogspot.com/>

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New Sanctuary Movement Prayer Vigil and Vigil at ICE – Nov1 & 3

The next Monthly Interfaith Prayer Vigil will be held Tuesday November 1st at Ascension Lutheran Church Located at 1236 S. Layton Blvd. Milwaukee, WI at 6:30 pm. Our topic will be Thanksgiving and Immigrants. We will have Cider and other refreshments to share afterward! Also, please consider attending our Thursday (11/3/11) ICE vigil held in front of the Immigration Customs Enforcement Building located at 310 E. Knapp St. Milwaukee WI at 12 noon. Questions? Contact Nancy Flores, New Sanctuary Movement Coordinator at 414-643-1620 x208

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Common Ground Update

In this month's [Common Ground newsletter](#) learn about Milwaukee Rising, Education, the Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative, and Friends of Common Ground. Read a reprisal on the October 4 Delegates Assembly and shed light on CG New Members.

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Positive International Decisions Concerning Life

[From Peace and Life Connections](#)

The [Court of Justice of the European Union has ruled](#): “a process which involves removal of a stem cell from a human embryo at the blastocyst stage, entailing the destruction of that embryo, cannot be patented.” This doesn't keep scientists from killing the embryos, but without a patent much of the profit motive is removed. Who brought the suit? Not a pro-life group, but an environmental group – Greenpeace of Germany. They object to turning any life into harvestable and profit-making commodities.

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Mormon Demystified – On Being with Krista Tippett

It has begun. The Republican debates continue, the election of 2012 is ramping up and the nearly impossible task of deciphering the sound bites and truth of election rhetoric has begun. Why not begin the season with learning the truth about Mormonism? [Mormon Demystified. On Being with Krista Tippett with guest Joanna Brooks.](#) .

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Folk Singer/songwriter Peter Mayer at Stritch – Nov 4

Folk singer/songwriter Peter Mayer will perform at Cardinal Stritch University at 7 p.m. Nov. 4 in the Nancy Kendall Theater. He is the composer of Holy Now and is a great performer. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for students. For information or to purchase tickets, call (414) 410-4171.

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"Profiting from the Prophets" – Nov 6

Dr. Pat Russell of Sacred Heart School of Theology will give a talk on the biblical prophets, who call us to listen to the voice of God in our day and age. The talk will be at Good Shepherd Parish, N88 W17658 Christman Rd in the Falls on Sunday, November 6 from 9:45 to 10:45 am in the church hall.

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Harvestfest: The Practical Implications of Biblical Justice Elmbrook – Nov 6-10

Join us for Harvestfest 2011 as we will explore the practical implications of biblical justice and the command to take the Gospel into the whole world. This year we will be joined by a number of our missionaries as well as 15 International Center guests — global church leaders from around the world—and together we will seek to engage more fully in the mission God has for his people in this broken and unjust world. [More Information and schedule.](#)

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Care of Creation: The Ecological Challenge for Global Mission – Nov 9

World Mission Ministries and the Global Mission Network of Southeastern Wisconsin would like to invite to you come and Explore New Frontiers in Mission in the 21st Century! Please join us for a presentation and dialogue with Margaret Swedish, author and founder of Spirituality and Ecological Hope, in Wednesday, November 9th, 7-9pm at

the Cousin's Center 3501 S. Lake Drive We welcome Margaret Swedish.

Tools for educators, additional learning resources, and table displays from local organizations working to promote care of creation will be part of the evening. The event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP at 414-758-2280 or by emailing wmo@archmil.org. [Flyer with more information](#).

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Voices of the Poor Social Resource Fair – Nov 13

The Archdiocese Voice of the Poor committee, the advocacy arm of the St Vincent de Paul Society, in conjunction with Blessed Savior, will be hosting [a Social Ministry Resource Fair November 13th between 8:30am and 12:30pm](#).

Over 15 social organizations will be on hand to answer questions and share information as to how we can better serve our brothers and sisters in need. Representatives from SSI/SSD will be chairing a 20-30 minute breakout session for a more in-depth look at their program and answer any questions. The fair will be held at Blessed Savior, 8607 W Villard Ave. Milwaukee, November 13 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Refreshments will be served. Come and learn how we can better serve those in need. [More Information](#)

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One Woman Show on a Modern Day Prophet – Nov 13

"Haunted by God: the Life of Dorothy Day", a moving dramatic portrait of one of the most influential American Catholics of the 20th century, will be performed by Lisa Wagner, founder and director of Still Point Theatre Collective - at Good Shepherd Parish, N88 W17658 Christman Rd in the Falls on Sunday, November 13 from 9:45 to 10:45 am in the church hall.

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MU Center for Peacemaking Rynne Research Presentations – Nov 15

Faculty Research on Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue and Family Court Mediation **November 15, 2011, 5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M., AMU 227** ****Professor Dawne Moon will discuss her research on people's experiences of Jewish-Palestinian dialogue.** Projects known as dialogue build on the common ground between members of historically adversarial groups to help overcome vicious cycles of retaliation. ****Professor Alexandra Crampton will discuss promising and perplexing results from ongoing study of the Milwaukee County Family Court mediation program.** The mediation program in this study focuses on resolving parental conflict over child custody and placement decisions.

****This research is part of the Rynne Research Fellowships funded through the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking.** [For additional information](#) or contact the Center at peacemaking@marquette.edu or 414-288-8444.

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Film Crossing the Line – Nov 15

"Crossing the Line," a documentary film that chronicles the stories of five Wisconsin people who stood up for their rights to a clean and healthy environment and won, will be presented in a free screening at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011 at the Times Cinema, 5906 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee**. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. There is a brief Q&A after the screening. The screening is being sponsored/presented by the Washington Heights Green Committee, the Washington Heights Rainbow Association, Midwest Environmental Advocates and Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store.

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Rescuing Regina Presentation and Book Signing – Nov 16

Three Waukesha Catholic parishes will host Sister Joseph Marie Flynn SSND, the Milwaukee author of Rescuing Regina: The Battle to Save a Friend from Deportation and Death, on **Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30 PM at St. Mary Catholic Church**, at the corner of Hartwell and Newhall Aves. In Rescuing Regina, author Josephe Marie Flynn tells Regina's powerful story—and how her husband, a pit-bull lawyer, a group of volunteers, and a feisty nun set aside political differences to galvanize a movement to save her. Revealing what she uncovered about US immigration policies and the dangers faced by those escaping war crimes, Flynn exposes an America most never see. The program is free and open to the public. For more, visit www.rescuingregina.com or contact Jim Gill at St. Mary's 262-547-6555 x306 or jjgill@stmarywk.org.

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SOA/WHINSEC Vigil - Nov 17-20

On June 20th, former Guatemalan Army Chief of Staff, General Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes was indicted on charges on genocide, crimes against humanity and forced disappearance. General Lopez Fuentes was trained at

the US Army School of the Americas, now known as the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). While the General's arrest is important towards justice, the institution that provided his training, the SOA/WHINSEC continues to train and graduate Latin American Military personnel to follow in the General's footsteps. The General's arrest reminds us for peace to truly come to Latin America the SOA/WHINSEC must be "shut down"!

Join compassionate peacemakers traveling from Milwaukee to Ft Benning on the weekend of November 17 – 20th by bus or by plane. Through action, presence, and prayer we will work for the closure of the SOA. If you cannot join the delegation this year, we hope that you will join the **Milwaukee vigil at St Benedict the Moor from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 20th**. Specific questions: Plane questions: Dianne 1-262-695 9000 Bus questions: Joe 414- 332-2646 or 414-803-0755 General Membership Joyce 414-933-6157

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Our Lady of Lourdes' Annual Fair Trade and Social Justice Market – Nov 19/20

Come to the 4rth annual Fair Trade and Social Justice Market on Saturday, November 19, 4 to 7 pm and Sunday, November 20, 9 am to 1 pm. Location: Our Lady of Lourdes 3722 S. 58th Street, Milwaukee. Admission: canned goods for the OLOL food pantry. [Flyer – Please distribute widely](#). Great opportunity for holiday shopping!!!

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Port Washington Winter Farmers Market – Nov 5, 2011 – May 26, 2012

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. [Schedule of programs and music](#).

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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](#). 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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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

262-787-1011

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Reflection

["Somos Republicans"](#) have asked pro-life groups for support on opposing dehumanizing language in their press release of October 19: "It comes with great sorrow to see supposed pro-life Republicans . . . use defamatory terms like 'anchor baby.' Since when do Republicans claiming to be pro-life use a demeaning and derogatory term in connection with a baby? For Conservatives to associate such demeaning terms in connection with precious life is absolutely unconscionable" What other terms do we use in our culture that defame and dehumanize our sisters and brothers?

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Prayer

Almighty God, I ask you for energy today: to do the right thing, to love my neighbors as myself, and to be a witness to you and your reign. Amen.

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