

Catholics for Peace and Justice

NOVEMBER 2012 Newsletter



Our message this month can be summarized in one word – Vote – and insure you bring your friends to do the same. It's ironic that even though people often feel disenfranchised from the system, the only way to change the system is to participate.

There are many excellent events listed below. A few notes: If you have not yet pre-registered for the Catholic Charities social justice conference: "Living the Jesus Story", this Friday evening and Saturday, you can still attend by registering at the door. If you'd like to attend SOAW, act now. A few slots are still available. Info is below.

And finally, on Saturday morning, Feb 23, 2013, Catholics for Peace and Justice will be hosting a "World Café" discussion and networking for social justice ministry and human concerns groups in the Milwaukee Archdiocese area. Save the date. Details and registration are below.

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Common Good Platform

As elections to fruition next week, we offer a reminder of the important work done together by faithful WI Catholics in connection with Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good. The platform begins “We, Catholics of Wisconsin who have inherited a moral obligation to our state and to our nation, come together as faithful citizens guided by the Gospel, commands to love our neighbors, protect the most vulnerable and hold the powerful accountable. We joined together over the past year to discuss the reality we see across Wisconsin, and asked ourselves what we believed our government’s obligation is to its citizens. [Read the platform.](#) NETWORK has also produced a chart that shows positions of Governor Romney and President Obama on various issues. *Once profit becomes the exclusive goal, if it is produced by improper means and without the common good as its ultimate end, it risks destroying wealth and creating poverty.* —*Caritas in Veritate, Pope Benedict XVI*

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On All Our Shoulders: A Catholic Call to Protect the Endangered Common Good

A group of 100 Catholic theologians from universities around the nation have developed a highly important statement on threats to The Common Good. “A Threat to the Church’s Teachings: Congressman Paul Ryan’s candidacy for Vice President brings the threat of this social philosophy home to the Church. We do not question Paul Ryan’s faith. We are concerned however, that defenders of Ryan have gone beyond highlighting the aspects of Catholic moral teaching with which his political positions are laudably consistent, to argue that his Ayn Rand “inspired” individualist and anti-government vision and the policies they inform are themselves legitimately Catholic. They are not.”

We do not write to oppose Ryan’s candidacy or to argue there are not legitimate reasons for Catholics to vote for him. Our concern is that Ryan and his Catholic supporters, must be informed—as prochoice candidates and Catholics who vote for them are perennially and appropriately reminded—that some of his positions are fundamentally at odds with the teachings of the Catholic Church. [Read the full article](#)

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Ryan’s “Blueprint for American Renewal” – A Summary

Most voters like to be educated or informed when going into the voting booth. But when you mention reading a blueprint for the Federal Budget your eyes may glaze over as you envision enormous phone book sized volumes of numbers. Take heart, in her article “A Summary of Paul Ryan’s “The Path to Prosperity: A Blueprint for American Renewal”, Karen Kindle gives us a synopsis of the 98 pages - like Cliff Notes. Alternately you can peruse the full document courtesy of the office of Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner. [Read this important article here.](#)

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Alarming Child Poverty Rates within America

[From an article by Thomas P. Melady for Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good](#)

In his article former Ambassador Melady looks at the 2011 poverty statistics as gathered by the 2011 U.S. Census bureau. The current poverty rate for children under the age of 18 in the U.S. is 21.4% or 15.5 million children. This number “gets yet more distressing when looking at children under the age of six, a group which has a poverty rate of 24.5% or 5.8 million children – 1 in 4 children being born and raised in poverty. Further, 47.6% of children raised in single female householders were in poverty as opposed to 10.9% raised in married households. Digging deeper – of those children under 18 in poverty 17% identified themselves as white non-Hispanic – an increase of 1.3% from 2009 – 38.2% as black, and 32.3% as Hispanic. Looking further, white real median income in 1999, \$59,604 has fallen to \$55,412 in 2001. During this same decade black real median incomes have fallen a little over \$6500 and Hispanic real median incomes have fallen almost \$5000. “The U.S. is one of the few countries in the developed world having such issues with child poverty.” “The U.S. rate of 21.4% is one of the most drastic and way above the average of 12.3%.” Maledy concludes with one thought - “Looking at this data, I continually asked myself “What

can we do to correct this problem of an increase in the country's poverty rate?" One solution I derived, which can be shown in clear example with looking at the poverty rates among our young, is that it is better for children to be raised in the traditional home of a father and mother. Society should consider its role to take into cognizance this fact and do everything in its power to encourage women not to have babies before they are married."

Note: At a recent Faithful Citizenship program we talked about a local organization "[Pearls for Teen Girls](#)" that has had success building girl's self-esteem while decreasing pregnancy rates among girls growing up in the inner city. Supporting organizations like "Pearls" is another way we can consistently work for Right to Life in a positive and continuous way beyond elections. "In 2011, 100% of PEARLS seniors graduated from high school and were accepted to at least one college, and 99% (all but 3 of 850 girls) avoided pregnancy."

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Support for Government Social Safety Net Declines

[Pew Research Center](#) reports that support for a government social safety net declined in 2009 and has continued to decrease since then. Support for government programs to aid the poor now nears the 25-year lows seen in 1994. Today, just 43% agree that the government should help more needy people, even if it means going deeper in debt, down from 48% in 2009 and 54% in 2007. Similarly, although a majority (59%) says that it falls to the government to take care of those who cannot care for themselves; this is down 10 points from 2007.

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Still Time to Attend SOAW Nov 15-19– Act Now

To friends, family and just folks from Joe Rad - Once again, this mid-November, we will be heading down to Fort Benning, GA for the annual meet-up of the SOAW [School of the Americas Watch] one of the largest peace and social action rallies in the world with 15,000-20,000 attendees per year. Recently, Nicaragua and Ecuador have decided to no longer participate in the SOA due to the ongoing efforts of SOAW. It is more than just a protest against the training of foreign soldiers by our country to become tools and assassins for their country's dictators. This is a gathering of peace activists from around the world and there are displays and booths covering a wide range of issues. The solemn Sunday memorial procession is truly unforgettable and moving as we remember the dead, tortured and disappeared. For anyone who has not attended this event, it is sure to shape and to change your life with it's rich assortment of national and international speakers, colorful and lively discussions, rich presentations, current social/justice movies, meet-ups with old friends and just being with like minded folks for an informative, fun and event filled weekend. The cost for travel via luxury bus along with 2 nights lodging is easily affordable @ \$250-\$300. Leave 11/15/12 5:30 PM, back 11/19/12 early AM. [Please see the attached application form](#). I am once again the bus leader and coordinator and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email for further details. SOAW is affiliated with Peace Action Wisconsin. There is limited seating so please respond in a timely manner to Joe at Jradoszewski@aol.com

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Living Under Drones in Pakistan – Another Cost of War

Since 2004, up to 884 innocent civilians, including at least 176 children, have died from US drone strikes in the North Waziristan region of Pakistan. A new report from the Stanford and New York University law schools finds drone use has caused widespread post-traumatic stress disorder and an overall breakdown of functional society in North Waziristan. In addition, the report finds the use of a "double tap" procedure, in which a drone strikes once and strikes again not long after, has led to deaths of rescuers and medical professionals. Many interviewees told the researchers they didn't know what America was before drones. Now what they know of America is drones, death and terror. American drone activity is described as the new recruiting tool for Al Qaeda.

[Watch the video](#)

More information

New York Times: [Report Cites High Civilian Toll in Pakistan Drone Strikes](#)

Huffington Post: [Pakistan Drone Study Finds 'Damaging And Counterproductive' Consequences From U.S. Policy](#)

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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 marykleist@sbcglobal.net for more information.

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Common Ground's Education Team Has Big Win!

It's been a year-and-a-half since our Education Team first began its research and it's been six months since we've kicked off our

first campaign to bring Accountability, Effectiveness and Transparency to our After School Tutoring Program in MPS. This past Thursday marked our first big win with the MPS School Board voting to approve Phase I of the new T4U (Tutoring for You) program. Phase I will bring a much higher rate of accountability, effectiveness and transparency and will help change the program significantly for this school year as we work on ways to creatively address the after school needs for the years to come. [MPS overhauls federally financed tutoring program](#)

Common Ground Newsletter - The latest news from Common Ground and the Common Ground Newsletter can be found here: www.commongroundwi.org/
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Start Planning 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:](#)
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Clergy Take a Non-Partisan Approach to Discussing Immigration Reform

Bishop Minerva Carcaño of the United Methodist Church argues that neither the Republicans nor Democrats have taken a "clear, bold leadership role" on the issue of immigration reform. Carcaño sat on a panel discussion on faith and immigration, and was joined by Bishop Julian Gordy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Bishop Anthony Taylor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Little Rock. The discussion sponsored by the Baptist Center for Ethics and held at St. Peter's Catholic Church, was one of several held by faith communities in Charlotte, N.C. in and around the Democratic National Convention.
[Watch the 3 min. video](#)
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New Films at Four Corners - Start a Discussion

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average American age 15 or over watches 2.8 hours of television per day. That could be a good habit if most of that time involved watching high-quality documentaries. Such documentaries can help viewers understand what they need to know in order to make better decisions affecting the long-term quality of life on this planet.

Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store is not only a store at which you can purchase fair trade goods but also a store at which you can check out high-quality documentaries on a wide variety of sustainability issues. You can view these documentaries in your home with family and/or friends or view them with your church, school or book group as Four Corners has purchased the public-viewing rights for these films. Four Corners newest offerings include Alta Gracia, a film about a successful fair trade garment factory in the Dominican Republic, and The Economics of Happiness, a film about the costs of globalization and the benefits of the buy local movement. Both of these films can start a valuable discussion of consumer and environmental practices. See the complete list of available films at the Four Corners of the World website: www.fairtrademilwaukee.org. These films are available at no cost.
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Year of Faith: Growth in the U.S. of the "Religiously Unaffiliated"

[The latest Pew Research](#) shows that the number of Americans who do not identify with any religion continues to grow at a rapid pace. One-fifth of the U.S. public – and a third of adults under 30 – are religiously unaffiliated today, the highest percentages ever in Pew Research Center polling. In the last five years alone, the unaffiliated have increased from just over 15% to just under 20% of all U.S. adults. Their ranks now include more than 13 million self-described atheists and agnostics (nearly 6% of the U.S. public), as well as nearly 33 million people who say they have no particular religious affiliation (14%). The number of religiously unaffiliated increased from 7% in 1972 to 18% in 2010, while the number of proclaimed Catholics has roughly remained the same [-1% over that period], in part because of immigration from Latin America, those identifying themselves as protestant decreased by 11% with the decrease concentrated among white Protestants, both evangelical and mainline.
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"Water apartheid" in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

A December [2011 report by a French parliamentary committee](#) calls Israel's allocation of water in the West Bank "apartheid". This report closely preceded the United Nations release of data showing that almost half of the West Bank is geographically off limits to Palestinians. As a result, Israel keeps much of the West Bank's water off limits to Palestinians, too. The French report

edited by Jean Glavany, a member of parliament for the Socialist Party, states that “Some 450,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank use more water than the 2.3 million Palestinians that live there” and that “in times of drought, in contravention of international law, the settlers get priority for water.” [Read the report](#)
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Global Nonviolent Action Database

From Peace and Life Connections

Swarthmore professor George Lakey initiated a project with students to create an online data base of cases of nonviolent rebellion campaigns. Going back as far as a successful strike in the 12th century B.C. in Egypt, there are now over 600 cases logged in the [Global Nonviolent Action Database](#)
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Free Social Justice Education Resources from Pax Christi

[Seeds in Good Soil: Examining the Challenges of Making Catholic Social Teaching a Constituent Part of Parish Life in the United States](#)

[For Now We See in a Mirror, Dimly, An Anti-Racist Critique of Pax Christi USA's Theology & Practice of Nonviolence](#)

[The Gospel, Nonviolence and Civil Discourse: Reflections on civil discourse, respectful dialogue across difference, and nonviolence](#)

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Legislative Candidates Forum - South Suburban – Nov 1

Featuring candidates in the 28th State Senate District and the 82nd, 83rd, and 84th Assembly Districts (eight candidates) in the Greenfield, Greendale, Hales Corners, Franklin area. Thursday, November 1 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The forum on Nov. 1 will not be held at the Franklin Library; as we were told earlier, instead it is at the Greenfield library, 7215 W Coldspring Rd. LuAnn Bird will be moderating and we are co-sponsoring with Patch.com.

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Sunseed Global Book Club – Compassion is the Radicalism of Our Time – Nov 1

Sunseed Eco-Education Ministries Global Book Club begins November 1, 2012 Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m. Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Road. Subsequent dates, times & locations to be decided by participants. “Compassion is the radicalism of our time.” The Dalai Lama. Judy Cannato convincingly connects the so-called Universe Story – the scientific theories that say all life is connected and evolving toward a “new consciousness” of the oneness of all things-with the Christian story, especially the theology of Karl Rahner and Jesus' teaching about a this-worldly kingdom of God. – Heidi Schlumpf; US Catholic; March 20, 2010. She shows how meditation and the power of intention can tap into this field of compassion. Contact S. Suzanne Moynihan, SSND sunseeddirector@ssnd-milw.org [FLYER](#)

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Living the Jesus Story - Social Ministry Conference – Nov 2/3

You can still attend: “Living the Jesus Story: Walking through Faith, Justice and Healing”. Come to the Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry Regional Training. Strengthen your skills Put your faith into action – in your family, in your parish, in your work, in your school – Wherever the Lord's Work Needs to Be Done! [Pre-Register Here](#) or Register at the door

Program Dates/Times: Friday evening, November 2, 6 pm check in. Program begins at 7 pm with keynote Janine Geske, Marquette University Law School. Reception follows. Saturday, November 3, 8:00 am check in. Program begins at 8:15 am with keynote Rachael Lustig – Catholic Charities USA. Lunch keynote: Dr. Tom Thibodeau, Viterbo University. 4 pm mass with Bishop Sklba. Three tracks Leadership Development, Outreach/Direct Service, and Advocacy, plus a panel on poverty and immigration:. Location: Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center, 3501 South Lake Drive, Milwaukee. Cost: \$50 [includes reception, continental breakfast and lunch]. [Detailed information and registration : .](#)

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Prayer in Anticipation of the Election – Nov 4

St. Mary Catholic Church in Waukesha invites you to pray with us for our country in anticipation of Election Day. Join us on Sunday, November 4th for Eucharistic Adoration (including Scripture, Song, Silence and Communal Prayer) from Noon concluding with Vespers at 4:00 pm. Go to: <http://www.stmarywaukesha.4lpi.com> for map and directions.

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Rural Model of Collaborative Food Distribution Webinar – Nov 5

Monday, November 5, 3pm EST: Rural Model of Collaborative Food Distribution Webinar from Catholic Charities. This webinar

will highlight one agency's approach to increasing access to healthy food in more remote parts of their diocese. A local partnership between Catholic Charities, the local food bank and congregations will be shared that has resulted in a strong collaborative with regular rural deliveries. [Register here](#)
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Beyond Polarization Dialogues – Zeidler Center – Nov 5/Nov12

The Frank Zeidler Center for Public Discussion is hosting a series of "Beyond Polarization Dialogues" These discussions are taking place in the post-recall and pre-Presidential election context. Given the potential for further polarization and division, the goals of these dialogues are to bring together people of different beliefs and backgrounds, and to increase mutual understanding. All dialogues are free; space limited; sign-up and confirmation required. Next Scheduled Dialogues –On Our Democracy, 11/5, On War, 11/12. For more information on these dialogues and to register, go to the Frank Zeidler Center for Public Discussion at <http://zeidlercenter.org/>.
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HHS Rescue & Restore to Host WebEx Training on Human Trafficking – Nov 5

"Returning Home, Reintegration and Family Reunification for Foreign Human Trafficking Victims in the United States" Monday, November 5, 2012, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is hosting a series of free, online WebEx training sessions on a variety of topics related to human trafficking. [Information and Registration:](#)
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Marquette Soup with Substance – Nov 7, 14, 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 here for program details.](#)
Native Population and Justice: Wednesday, November 7, 12:00-1:00 p.m., AMU 157
International Education: Wednesday, November 14, 12:00-1:00 p.m., AMU 157
Restorative Justice: Wednesday, December 5, 12:00-1:00 p.m., AMU 157
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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, Milwaukee. [Program 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. [More Info](#)
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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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La Posada – Dec 14/15

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 14th or 15th (TBD) 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 for more info.
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Social Justice Ministry World Café: Discovering Our Collective Wisdom – Feb 23

Save the Date: Saturday Morning, February 23, 2013 for the Social Justice Ministry / Human Concerns World Café:

“Discovering Our Collective Wisdom Around Questions That Matter” Time: 8 am to 12:15 pm; Location: St. Alphonsus Community Room, 5960 S. 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](#) [Register Here](#) [FLYER](#) Pass the word.

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Reflection: Which is the Better Path?

By Frank Pauc

Yesterday, [October 6, 2012] Peace Action sponsored a rally at the Milwaukee County Courthouse to mark the 11th anniversary of the American war in Afghanistan. I planned on attending the rally. It seemed important to me to join others to speak out against an apparently endless, useless, and mostly forgotten war on the other side of the world. Our son, Hans, killed a man during combat in Iraq, so I am very aware of the damage that our wars cause, and ending these wars is both a personal and political issue for me.

I didn't go to the rally. Something else came up. Mohamed, a young man who emigrated here from Tunisia, called me to set up a time when we could meet and study Arabic together. Mohamed has been teaching me Arabic for the last few months, and it is difficult for us to synchronize our schedules. [Read the Full Reflection.](#)

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Prayer

From “Graceful Passages”

Who you are cannot be contained in what is happening to you just now. You are part of a love story. You are desired and longed for. There are thousands of witnesses before you who would claim that you are held in the arms of love.

O my God, you are here. O my God, I am here.

O my God, we are here.

And always, always you love us. Always, always you love us.

Thou has seen and known my heart, seeing into every part
Nothing hidden here from Thee, ever Thou embraceth me
Even deep in darkest night, Thou would guide me with Thy light.

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