

Catholics for Peace and Justice

October 2012 Newsletter



On the 10th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI in “Evangelization in the Modern World” asked the following questions” what has happened to that hidden energy of the Good News that would have a powerful effect on man's conscience?” To what extent is that energy “capable of really transforming the people of this century?” and what can we do so that the “Gospel may have its effect?” As the Milwaukee Archdiocese begins its year of Evangelization, those of us involved in social justice ministry should be asking these same pertinent questions. What is our role in transforming hearts for justice?

Our newsletter this month is packed – a testimony to your dedication to making a difference in our community and the world. We ask that you encourage members of your parish and organizations to attend “Living the Jesus Story” Conference sponsored by Catholic Charities. The conference offers some excellent learning and sharing opportunities for expanding social justice throughout our communities. Please register by October 19 to insure the conference takes place.

Blessings on your ministry

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Civil Dialogue – Make It Work

More tips on civil dialogue from Parker Palmer and others.

We need to come to an understanding that we are all in this together. Parker Palmer writes that “despite our illusions of individualism and rational superiority, human beings are a profoundly interconnected species, with each other and with all forms of life.” The Rev. Martin Luther King put it this way, “We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools. We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”

Here is a tip: Given how closely we are woven together, think - how will I choose to respond and act toward others? How will what I say and do affect both them and me?

Parker Palmer lists the “third habit of the heart” as “An ability to hold tension in life-giving ways.” Our lives are filled with contradictions – from the gap between our own behavior and our aspirations to the information and ideas we cannot abide because they run counter to our convictions. When we learn to hold these contradictions in a heart-opening way, they may open us to new ways of understanding ourselves and the world. Richard Rohr uses the calls this holding tension as seeing things as “both/and”. The truth of something usually lies somewhere in between your belief and mine.

Here is a tip: Next time you are convinced of your opinion consciously think about holding the tension between your opinion and your neighbors - in other words hold the tension of believe that each of you has some aspect of the truth. Another tact is to consider the downside of your position. When we consider the up and down side of our opinion it opens us to greater possibilities and may move us to a less defensive position.

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Catholic Social Teaching: Human Dignity and Healthcare

From U.S. Bishops, [A Framework for Comprehensive Health Care Reform, 1993](#)

“Our call for health care reform is rooted in the biblical call to heal the sick and to serve “the least of these,” the priorities of social justice, and the principle of the common good.

Our approach to health care is shaped by a simple but fundamental principle: “Every person has a right to adequate health care. This right flows from the sanctity of human life and the dignity that belongs to all human persons, who are made in the image of God.” Health care is more than a commodity; it is a basic human right, an essential safeguard of human life and dignity. We believe our people’s health care should not depend on where they work, how much their parents earn, or where they live.”

The Church’s criteria for reform are respect for life, priority concern for the poor with universal access, pursuing the common good, preserving pluralism to include public, private and non-profit sectors with respect for religious and ethical values - including religious liberty, which is the right of people or groups to uphold their religious convictions, and restraining cost. [Read the USSB document](#)
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Guidelines for Church Involvement in Electoral Politics

According to the [Wisconsin Catholic Conference \[WCC\]](#), “For reasons that are both theological and legal, the Church’s involvement in public life does not extend to endorsing candidates for election to public office nor calling for their defeat.” Partisan Political Activities Not Allowed for persons acting in an official church capacity include: “Endorsing or opposing political candidates or parties (e.g., homily, newsletter, etc.)” “Using diocesan or parish bulletins or web sites to support, promote, endorse, or oppose any particular political party or candidate” and “Evaluating candidates in writing or in speech” such as Labeling a candidate as “pro-life” or “anti-school aid”.

As election day approaches, we should be reminding our Church leaders that “the Church has a duty and a right to call attention to the moral and religious dimensions of public issues, but for reasons that are both theological and legal, the Church’s involvement in public life does not extend to endorsing candidates for election to public office nor calling for their defeat.” [\[Guidelines for Church Involvement in Electoral Politics\]](#)
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The Single Issue Trap – What the Bishop’s Voting Guide Overlooks

[Cathleen Kaveny University of Notre Dame, Commonweal, Sept 28, 2012](#)

Selecting a candidate for public office means judging a candidate’s probable exercise of his responsibilities while in office. It combines judgment about the merits of the candidate with a prediction about the nature of the challenges he or she will face during the upcoming term. In assessing candidates for a particular office, four considerations are paramount: 1) Competence—does the candidate have the intellectual capacity, the experience, the temperament, and judgment to do the job? 2) Character—does the candidate have a good set of moral values and the integrity to pursue them in situations of temptation and fear? 3) Collaboration—can the candidate work well with other people, both political allies and opponents? 4) Connections—what are the moral and practical ramifications of the candidate’s political and financial connections for the manner in which he or she will carry out the job? Politicians, after all, do not act alone; they operate within networks of political power, including party affiliations, lobbyists, and big corporate and individual donors. [Read the article](#)
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The Ryan Budget Plan – Two Views

Ryan: Social Security and Medicare Are the Target

Excerpts From America Magazine article “Secret Ryan Transcript: Social Security and Medicare are the Target” by Vincent Miller, September 19, 2012

This isn’t from a secret video; it’s from the untranscribed portion of Ryan’s 2005 speech at the Atlas Society’s “Celebration of Ayn Rand.” “it makes clear that middle class entitlements, “so called defined benefit programs” such as Social Security and Medicare ARE an explicit strategic target because they are collectivistic, socialistic and foster dependency. [\[Read a partial transcript on the Atlas Society website\]](#) Ryan describes Social Security and Medicare as “collectivist” and “socialistic.”

Ryan's strategic plan: privatize Social Security and Medicare in order to convert people from "collectivism" to believers in an "individualist capitalist" philosophy.

For Ryan "defined benefit" programs such as Social Security and Medicare are problems in themselves.... This transcript doesn't so much reveal a secret, as highlight a clear theme in his policy rationale that is always present, but in more public settings subordinated to his prophecies of fiscal apocalypse. Thus, it is no surprise his budget cuts the safety net and radically reshapes Medicare first and addresses the deficit later.

This philosophy leaves no room for Catholic notions of Government in service to the common good; there is no room for a social conception of the human person. Rejection of Ayn Rand's atheism notwithstanding, Ryan's policies are based on a political philosophy completely at odds with the principles of Catholic Social Doctrine. "Prudence" is an insufficient measure of his proposals and the threat this philosophy poses to the Catholic faithful.

[Read the full article.](#)

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Catholics for Romney Coalition

Romney for President Announces [Catholics for Romney Coalition](#): Sept 24, 2012. National Honorary Chairman Paul Ryan

"As a life-long Catholic, I learned very early that we must love our neighbors as we love ourselves," said Congressman Paul Ryan. "That principle has informed my life in public service, and I am pleased to have so many leaders in the faith supporting Mitt Romney and me in this election. We understand that policymakers must target the root causes of poverty with reforms that promote economic growth and opportunity. Free enterprise and strong communities remain the best means to promote upward mobility and help individuals escape the trap of government dependency. It is an honor to support Governor Romney as he advances solutions that champion the dignity of every human being. That is a goal that people of all faiths can support."

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Farm Bill and Rising to the Middle Class

[By Melissa Boteach Director of the Poverty and Prosperity Program for American Progress](#)

The House should reject the farm bill, which asks low and middle-income Americans to foot the bill for deficit reduction while asking nothing of the wealthiest Americans.

The bill slams families struggling to put food on the table by cutting \$16 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps). These cuts would kick more than 2 million vulnerable people off of nutrition assistance, and cut 280,000 low-income schoolchildren from automatic enrollment in free school lunch. The bill axes \$90 per month in food aid from 500,000 households by eliminating a provision that helps households with high utility bills avoid impossible choices between putting food on the table or paying their heating or cooling bills. With 84 percent of all supplemental nutrition assistance going to a household with a child, senior, or person with a disability, these cuts would cause real hardship to many vulnerable populations close to the edge.

House Republicans claim they want to end "dependency," but their bill also cuts off pathways to the middle class. Under the House farm bill, if a poor family on food stamps tried to save money for car repairs so they could get to work or to pay for tuition to train for a better job, they would lose their food aid. This is because the bill would eliminate a provision that enables states to waive stringent asset-limits that penalize families for saving money to pull themselves up. [For more information and other opinions](#)

You can make a difference. Please write and share your knowledge of specific examples based on your ministry or personal experience with Mr. Michael Lavender chief staff person for agriculture appropriations at Senator Kohl's office michael_lavender@kohl.senate.gov

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Latest Census Bureau Statistics

- 46.2 million Americans were living in poverty defined as earning less than \$23,000 per year for a family of four. At the same time the number of Americans living in poverty remained unchanged for the first time in the last four years – attributed by some economists to real gains in employment.
- The income gap between the wealthiest 20% of American households and the rest of the country grew with a rare statistically significant rise over the course of one year
- Income for the top fifth of American households rose by 1.6 percent
- All households in the middle of the scale saw declines, while those at the very bottom stagnated
- The share of Americans without health insurance declined driven by a 2.2 percent drop in the 19-25 year olds due to the Affordable Care Act.
- The uninsured rate for the nation fell to 15.7% from 16.3%

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Vatican II Awards – From the Archdiocese on the Nominations and Results

Barb Messerknecht received the following note from Richard Tank, Director of Priest & Lay Ecclesial Personnel and Placement/Director of Personnel Services at the archdiocese.

The bishops were very appreciative of the Vatican II nominations made on behalf of the women religious of the archdiocese. Over 1,600 individuals showed their support for the work of the religious women in our archdiocese through signatures gathered and submitted. Other people also independently submitted the names of various women religious and organizations. This year three religious women from three separate religious orders are among the recipients for the 2012 awards. While they are honored as individuals (which has long been the practice in these awards) , they also represent a broader spectrum of many women over the years that have enriched the life of the archdiocese and the Church. Thank you for your efforts and please thank those as well that voiced their support for these dedicated women of the Church. [Link to the 2012 Vatican II Awards page](#)

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Why Not Women?

A bishop makes a case for expanding the diaconate. By Emil A. Wcela | OCTOBER 1, 2012

By the third century, the hierarchical structure of church communities had developed into the now familiar pattern: bishop at the top, then priest, then deacon. Circumstances also created a need for women to serve as deacons. Since persons were unclothed when they were baptized, having men ministering to women would have been highly improper. The same reservation would apply to men visiting sick women in their homes. Women deacons instructed women converts and greeted women who came to the Christian gatherings. There is no evidence that they had a public role in teaching or preaching. By the end of the fourth century in the Eastern churches, they were considered part of the clergy, made so through the laying on of hands. [Read the article.](#) [Video](#)

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Common Ground Update

The latest news from Common Ground and the Common Ground Newsletter can be found Here.

www.commongroundwi.org/

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Human Dignity of the Elderly From Catholics in Alliance

The graying of the Boomer generation begins and a new front in the intersection of morality and politics becomes evident - the end of life. Two current issues bear upon the human dignity at issue for aging Boomers: a Massachusetts ballot initiative for physician assisted suicide and a radical cut to Medicaid. [Read the article](#)

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Petition to Ban Weaponized Drones from the World

Meticulous researchers have documented that U.S. drones are killing many innocent civilians in Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere. Drones are making the world less stable and creating new enemies. Their remoteness provides

those responsible with a sense of immunity. Weaponized drones are no more acceptable than land mines, cluster bombs, or chemical weapons. The world must renounce and forbid their manufacture, possession, or use. Violators must be held accountable.

Roots Action is sponsoring a petition and delegation led by Veterans for Peace and organized by Code Pink to Pakistan to make clear to Pakistanis how many US citizens oppose the endless killing imposed on their country by our unmanned planes. [To Sign the Petition.](#)

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Rand Paul, Values Voter Summit Speech

I'm not a pacifist, but I do think it unacceptable not to hate war. I'm dismissive of those who champion war as sport and show no reluctance to engage in war. Any leader who shows glee or eagerness for war should not be leading any nation. ... I believe that though some would find this a contradiction in terms that there is a such thing as a Christian or just theory of war, that a just war is a war of self-defense. At the same time I'm conflicted. I don't believe Jesus would have killed anyone or condoned killing, perhaps not even in self-defense. I'm conflicted.

The coarsening of our culture towards violent death has more consequences than even war. Tragically, this same culture has led to the death of 50 million unborn children in the last 40 years. I don't think a civilization can long endure that does not have respect for all human life, born and not yet born. [Read the speech](#)

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Breaking the Cycle of Violence Death Penalty Resource

Pax Christi USA resource packet to aid in abolishing the death penalty - sharing a message loud and clear that these are still children of God. This resource called "Breaking the Cycle of Violence" includes a copy of a handout called Sentenced to Die, Still Children of God which can be used as an informational outreach tool on the death penalty. The packet also includes stories from death row inmates and those who work with them, along with action suggestions and a prayer card by Sr. Helen Prejean. [View the Resource](#)

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Northwest Earth Institute Environmental Discussion Resources

Are you looking for resources to begin a discussion on ecology and how we live in our environment? Check out the Northwest Earth Institutes varied list of discussion courses including Voluntary Simplicity, Choices for Sustainable Living and Reconnecting with the Earth. [Learn more](#) Courses offer a roadmap for people to create change within their own community, neighborhood, workplace, faith center or school.

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Interfaith Immigration and ICE Vigils – Oct 2 and Oct 4

On Tuesday October 2nd from 6:30 to 8:00 PM there is an Interfaith Vigil at Ascension Lutheran Church. The address is 1236 S. Layton Blvd Milwaukee, WI 53215. The purpose of this vigil is to reflect on Dia de la Raza or Day of the Race, multi-cultural appreciation, and uniting cultures. The other focus will be on the individuals who are affected by deportation. This vigil is bilingual.

On Thursday October 4th from 12:00 to 1:30 PM there is a ICE Vigil across the street from 310 E. Knapp St. Milwaukee WI. The purpose of this vigil is to pray for people affected by deportation and to reflect on faith and thanksgiving. We will reflect on where we are in our connection with people affected by immigration. This vigil is in English.

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Soup with Substance at Marquette - Oct 3 & 11

Racial Justice - Wednesday, Oct 3, 12 to 1 pm, Alumni Memorial Union Rm157

Marriage Equality, Wednesday, Oct. 10, 12 to 1 pm, Alumni Memorial Union Rm157

Native Population and Justice, Wednesday, Nov 7, 12 to 1 pm, Alumni Memorial Union Rm157

[Updates and Details](#)

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Fair Trade Film Festival – Oct 4, 11, 18, 25

Sustainability Film and Speaker Festival featuring award winning documentaries and first hand speaker accounts. Thursday evenings October 4, 11, 18 and 25. 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store, 5401 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee. Reserve your seat by calling 414-443-9606. Oct 4: Film-Sun Come Up; Oct 11: Author S. Josephe Flynn; Oct 18: Alta Gracia and first-hand accounts of worker life in the Dominican Republic; Oct 25: The Economics of Happiness. [Flyer for details](#). FREE

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Beyond Polarization Dialogues – Zeidler Center – Oct 17/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 Dialogue – On Economic Fairness and Freedom Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 5:30 - 8:00 PM at Bucketworks (706 S. 5th Street), Milwaukee. Future programs: 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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Sun Come Up – Documentary About Climate Change Refugees – Oct 3

Wednesday, October 3 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at Notre Dame of Elm Grove in the All Purpose Room. All are welcome to join us in a viewing and discussion of the Academy Award-nominated film Sun Come Up. The documentary follows the relocation of the Carteret islanders, a community living on a remote island chain in the South Pacific Ocean. They are considered some of the world's first climate change refugees. This film screening is sponsored by the Shalom/JPIC Commission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame – Central Pacific Province as part of a nationwide series of screenings coordinated by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. [FLYER](#)

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Annual Peace Prayer Service at St. Therese – Oct 3

The St. Therese Sunday Choir will be joined by the Sacred Heart Croatian Choir and the St. Vincent Pallotti Parish Choir in a service of prayers, hymns and anthems to pray for peace in our neighborhoods, our country and the world. All are invited to join parishioners of all three parishes in prayer. Time: 7: pm at St. Therese Catholic Church, 9525 W. Bluemound Rd. Milwaukee. Hospitality will be shared after the service. We are inviting your members to help us pray and sing as we work toward peace and justice in our communities. You can find out more about our parish at www.sainttheresemilwaukee.org

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Sun Come Up – Documentary About Climate Change Refugees – Oct 4

You are cordially invited to attend a free screening of the Academy Award-nominated film Sun Come Up. The film depicts some of the world's first “climate refugees,” inhabitants of the Carteret Islands just north of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The screening, which will take place on the Feast of St. Francis, is made possible through The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and is co-sponsored by World Mission Ministries, Church of the Gesu, Marquette University's Campus Ministry, and Marquette's Students for an Environmentally Active Campus (SEAC). There will be a short discussion following the screening. Here are the details: October 4, 6:30pm, Gesu Parish Hall, 1210 W. Michigan St., Milwaukee WI 53233, (Take 11th Street south from Wisconsin Avenue, turn right at the parking booth, and right into the Gesu Lot. Enter through the east ramp door or south door, down the steps, across from the Law School) For more information, contact Eileen Ciezki at Gesu at 414-288-7387 or e-mail

eileen.ciezki@marquette.edu. [Film Trailer](#) [Flyer](#)

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Stop the War – Eleventh Anniversary Rally – Oct 6

From Milwaukee Coalition for a Just Peace

Eleventh Anniversary Rally – U.S. Out of Afghanistan! Rally: 12-1 pm Action 1-2 pm Milwaukee County Courthouse (South End), 901 N. 9th St. Special Guest Speaker Matthew Rothschild, editor of The Progressive magazine. Sponsored by Milwaukee Coalition for a Just Peace. Call 414-964-5158 for more info.

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Men and Women For Others: Exploring Social Justice Leadership – Oct 11

Author and Social Justice Activist TIM WISE; Weasler Auditorium, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Thursday, October 11, 2012, 7:00 PM. This lecture will explore how to better understand our leadership roles in dismantling oppression and promoting inclusion in our communities. Activist Tim Wise is among the most prominent anti-racist writers and educators in the United States who lectures and trains on many social justice topics including issues of comparative racism, race and education, racism and religion, and racism in the labor market. This lecture is free. Book signing to follow lecture. Sponsored by the Office of Student Development, Marquette University Student Government, the Office of Residence Life, Division of Student Affairs, and the College of Education. For more information, contact carla.cadet@marquette.edu

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Nonviolence in Afghanistan with Pat Kennelly – Oct 15

October 15, 7:00 P.M., AMU 227 - October 6th marks the 11th anniversary of the American invasion of Afghanistan. The immense toll this conflict has taken on the American and Afghan people is apparent. There have been over 23,000 people killed in Afghanistan in the last ten years. Of those more than 2,100 were American troops. The majority of the other victims of this conflict were Afghan civilians. Sadly, but not surprisingly – since violence begets violence – Afghan, American, and UN officials are predicting increased violence in the future. Patrick Kennelly, associate Director of the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking, will provide a concise history of Afghanistan during the last thirty years, an overview of peacemaking efforts in Afghanistan, and facilitate a discussion on what we can do to bring about an end to this war. Kennelly has traveled to Afghanistan in 2011 & 2012 to research how Afghans are using nonviolent solutions to resolve the conflict in their country.

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WISCAP Poverty Matters! Conference Oct. 17 and 18

Registration is now open for the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) Poverty Matters! Conference on Oct. 17 and 18 at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. The conference offers over 30 workshops and 4 plenary sessions. Use the WISCAP Conference Information link below for more conference details and registration information. 2012 Poverty Matters! Conference Information. <http://www.wiscap.org/>

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Ground for Hope Interfaith Regional Conference – Oct. 21-22

Planning is well under way for Ground for Hope – Wisconsin, a regional environmental training conference Oct. 21-22 for clergy, seminarians, lay leaders and faith community members of many faiths and denominations. Renowned Native American environmental leader Winona LaDuke will give the keynote talk. There will be a large array of workshops on topics ranging from sacred texts and energy/climate issues facing Wisconsin to environmental justice and sustainable food for faith-based sites. Plus, there will be an optional Muslim iftar fast-breaking meal and optional eco-spirit bus tours to Milwaukee area sites where inspirational environmental and sustainability efforts are under way. The Interfaith Conference's Interfaith Earth Network and the national GreenFaith organization are planning this event with help from 16 major co-sponsors.

The first day will be at the Islamic Community Center, the second at the Archbishop Cousins Center. Prices and other details are being finalized. Go to www.greenfaith.org for updates. [Program details](#) or at [Archdiocese of Milwaukee website](#)

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

[Register by Oct 19](#) for “[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!

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 is Dr. Tom Thibodeau, Viterbo University. Program concludes with 4 pm mass with Bishop Sklba.

Three tracks plus a focus on issues are offered: Leadership Development, Outreach/Direct Service, and Advocacy. A panel will focus on immigration and poverty. Who should attend: Excellent opportunity for HC committee members, SVdP members, parish/organization staff, youth, parish council members, and anyone interested in social justice ministry, leadership, advocacy, and outreach/direct service to those in need. Location: Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center, 3501 South Lake Drive, Milwaukee. Cost: \$50 [includes reception, continental breakfast and lunch]. [Register Here](#). [Flyer for Distribution](#) – please distribute widely Limited scholarship assistance is available. [Contact information on 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.

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Reflection

Creation Story

By Carol Waskovich

Part I

Stars and sunshine
bird song and falling rain
endless waves and wind rustling through the leaves
sunsets glorious in heart stopping color
moon in all its phases
clouds and soil
worms and flutterbys
horses and polar bears,
our dog and two cats
old friends and those I haven’t met yet
and so much more to celebrate!

Mother Earth and her abundance!

All made of stardust –
yes, you and me and creation
are made of stardust
formed after the resplendent emergence
of creation’s birth.

Creation, our gift to treasure and nourish
who in turn treasures us and gives nourishment.

Part II

Soot and smog
factory whistle and falling acid
endless waves of arsenic
and wind spreading sickness
water ornamented with plastic
and cast away stuff
ocean sweeping great whirl pools of our junk
Now Stardust is masked
with pollution and poison

Creation, our gift to treasure and nourish –
who will restore the treasure now?

Part III

I remember -
perhaps in only dream-time -
I begin again to cherish together
with others of like mind:
for the arc of creation curves into hope

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Prayer

How easy for me to live with you, O Lord.
How easy for me to believe in you.
When my mind parts in bewilderment
or falters,
When the most intelligent people
see no further than this day's end,
and do not know what must be done tomorrow,
You grant me the serene certitude
that you exist and
that you will take care
that not all the paths of good be closed.
Atop the ridge of earthly fame,
I look back in wonder at the path
which I alone could never have found,
A wondrous path through despair to this point
from which I, too, could transmit to mankind
a reflection of your rays.
And as much as I cannot take up
You will have already assigned to others.

Solzhenitsyn, Autobiograph

