

Catholics for Peace and Justice

September 2011 Newsletter

Greetings!

September is upon us. Clearly through your efforts there are many opportunities for us as a community to engage and invite others to do the same.

This month what if...

- we all were visible at a prayer service or rally and spoke the way of compassion to others?
- we all asked our pastors to participate in Pray for the Dream Sunday and wrote 1 legislator?
- we all took the Eat Local Challenge for 2 weeks and purchased only fair trade chocolate?

.....And then invited others to do the same

Would it make a difference in the life of one other? In our community? Our country? To someone across the world? .

We invite you to read on. What is God calling you to this month?

Blessings on your ministry

Quote

What I have learned is that we need to approach differences with the notion that there is good in the other. If we can't figure out how to do that and if there isn't the crack in the middle where there are some people on both sides who absolutely refuse to see the other as evil this [divide] is going to continue... *Frances Kissling, former president of Catholics for Choice.*



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CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ON COMMUNITY AND WORK

“The development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family working together in true communion, not simply a group of subjects who happen to live side by side.” “On 1 May 2000 Pope John Paul II issued an appeal for “a global coalition in favour of decent work. What is meant by the word “decent” in regard to work? It means work that is freely chosen, effectively associating workers, both men and women, with the development of their community; work that enables the worker to be respected and free from any form of discrimination; work that makes it possible for families to meet their needs and provide schooling for their children, without the children themselves being forced into labour; work that permits the workers to organize themselves freely, and to make their voices heard; work that leaves enough room for rediscovering one’s roots at a personal, familial and spiritual level; work that guarantees those who have retired a decent standard of living.” *Caritas In Veritate, Benedict XVI* [\[back to top\]](#)

CULTIVATING COMPASSION IN YOUR LIFE - WITH 7 PRACTICES

“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.” - *Dalai Lama*

The key to developing compassion in your life according to Leo Babauta is to make it a daily practice. He identifies 7 different practices that you can try out and perhaps incorporate into your every day life. [READ the full Article](#)

Seven Compassion Practices

1. Morning ritual. Greet each morning with a ritual. Then try one of the practices below.

2. Empathy Practice. Develop empathy for your fellow human beings.

3. Commonalities practice. Instead of recognizing the differences between yourself and others, try to recognize what you have in common. With your attention discretely geared to the other person, tell yourself:

Step 1: “Just like me, this person is seeking happiness in his/her life.”

Step 2: “Just like me, this person is trying to avoid suffering in his/her life.”

Step 3: “Just like me, this person has known sadness, loneliness and despair.”

Step 4: “Just like me, this person is seeking to fill his/her needs.”

Step 5: “Just like me, this person is learning about life.”

4. Relief of suffering practice. Empathize with another’s humanity and suffering, by wanting that person to be free from

suffering – to experience compassion.

5. Act of kindness practice. Practice doing something kind to help ease the suffering of others.

6. Those who mistreat us practice. When we encounter someone who mistreats us, instead of acting in anger, withdraw.

7. Evening routine. Take a few minutes before you go to bed to reflect upon your day. [\[back to top\]](#)

MU CENTER FOR PEACEMAKING FALL RETREAT – SEPT 17

Sept. 17, 9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. at Chapel of the Holy Family, Marquette University. Original Christianity, for about 300 years after the life of Christ, forbade the use of violence and enmity. This retreat led by Rev. Charlie McCarthy and John Carmody provide what many have called a life-changing experience of the Nonviolent Jesus of the Gospels. It addresses our struggles to transform our lives and our world by living Christ's example and message of universal love and kindness in all our relationships. It shows us how we can effect peace in our families, communities, workplace, political structures and the world by confronting with love those forces within that undermine the innate capacity for care and compassion with which we are all imbued. This event is free and open to the public. Morning coffee will be provided. Participants are responsible for their own lunch. Contact: peacemaking@marquette.edu

Rev. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy is the founder and the original director of The Program for the Study and Practice of Nonviolent Conflict Resolution at the University of Notre Dame, a co-founder of Pax Christi-USA and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. John Carmody, director of the Center for Christian Nonviolence in Wilmington, DE., served as a Marine Platoon Commander and Company Executive Officer in Vietnam in '67 and '68 where he was awarded a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts. [\[back to top\]](#)

PAX CHRISTI STATEMENT ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF 9-11

"These past ten years, we have witnessed the failure of policies built on vengeance." ... "This anniversary offers us an opportunity to reflect the values of the God to whom we have given our allegiance." [READ the Full Statement](#) [\[back to top\]](#)

SEPTEMBER ELEVENTH FAMILIES FOR PEACEFUL TOMORROWS - AFGHANISTAN: ENDING A FAILED MILITARY STRATEGY

[September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows](#) is working to bring the issue of Afghan civilian casualties and the dire situation of Afghan civil society back into discussion within the US peace movement, the media, and the wider US society.

"In the past few years, we have seen Afghanistan held up as a model of the successful pursuit of the so-called War on Terror. Indeed, the myth of success in Afghanistan has been a selling point for claims that it is possible to bomb a country into peace; that military action can bring about democracy and human rights."

In November, 2008, Peaceful Tomorrows published the report, "Afghanistan: Ending A Failed Military Strategy," created in collaboration with Afghan NGO's and our friends in the international peace movement. Go to <http://www.peacefultomorrow.org/> to learn more about September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows . "Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows" *Martin Luther King, Jr.* [\[back to top\]](#)

LETTER TO JS EDITORS: WARS, IN THE END ITS ABOUT THE MONEY

Dear Sirs,

If recent polls are correct, it appears that most people in the U.S. are tired of our wars and are ready for our troops to come home. Ten years of fighting in Afghanistan and eight years of conflict in Iraq have worn out our patience. This is remarkable because we are not a nation that gives up easily. Once we decide on a course of action, we doggedly follow that course, and we often continue to pursue goals that have shown themselves to be unattainable, or even undesirable. Now, we are finally at a point where we can look at our overseas adventures and say, "Enough".

What impresses me most is the reason why, at long last, we may be ready to end these wars. For years, people like Ron Paul have condemned these wars for being unconstitutional, and therefore illegal. Certainly, the war in Iraq was

started under false pretenses, and qualifies as a war of aggression. There has always been a small, but constant, outcry against the loss of life involved in these wars. However, none of these arguments against the wars have ever made any real impression on people in our country. Moral or legal concerns have never been enough to stop the killing.

The truth is that when we end these wars, it will be for that most American of reasons: we will do it because we are not making a profit. Over the course of a decade we thrown away over a trillion dollars and have nothing to show for it. We may not care about human beings getting killed or maimed, but we care about the bottom line.

The wars are ultimately a pocketbook issue. In the end, it's all about the money.

Francis Pauc

The above [Letter appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on August 31, 2011](#) [\[back to top\]](#)

NON-VIOLENT ANTI-NAZI RALLY – SEPT 3

September 3, 1 pm, West Allis City Hall, 7621 W. Greenfield Ave.

The Nazis are using the unfortunate incidents at the Wisconsin State Fair in West Allis to further their own racist agenda. Concerned individuals and members from over 30 organizations will unite September 3, 2011, to say no to fear and racism when the Nazis come to rally at the West Allis City Hall. Join us at 1pm at the West Allis City Hall, 76th and Greenfield, to nonviolently confront this racist presence in our community. For more information go to the [Peace Action Milwaukee Website](#) [\[back to top\]](#)

PRAY FOR THE DREAM SUNDAY – IS YOUR PARISH PARTICIPATING?

All parishes in the Milwaukee Archdiocese have been personally invited by Archbishop ListECKI via email to the pastor to participate in “Pray for the DREAM Sunday” on September 25. The campaign is in support of immigrant students and youth that are eligible for the DREAM Act. Parishes are being asked to help raise awareness about the DREAM Act and the Justice for Immigrants Campaign. YOU CAN HELP RAISE AWARENESS by asking your pastor to participate. For more information on the DREAM Act go to [Justice for Immigrants website](#). Contact Rob Shelledy for more information on the Archdiocese campaign. [\[back to top\]](#)

IMMIGRATION: 'SECURE COMMUNITIES' BRINGS FEAR, NOT TRUST

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency reports that its Secure Communities program has resulted in the deportation of thousands of migrants because of serious criminal offenses. But critics of the program, including local government and police officials and immigrant advocates, say the reality on the street is that the effort has instead thrown a wide net over the undocumented community with little selectivity. Read the Article from [America Magazine, August 29, 2011](#) [\[back to top\]](#)

WHY DON'T THEY JUST COME THE LEGAL WAY?

Have you ever been asked the question, "Why don't immigrants just come into our country the legal way?" UnDocumented.tv explains why it's not that simple anymore. For a short, clear explanation of the problems with our current immigration system and a brief history of how it got this way, [check out this blog](#). [\[back to top\]](#)

COMMON GROUND UPDATE

[U.S. Bank to contribute \\$16 million in foreclosure aid](#)

Save-the-Date for our upcoming Fall Delegates Assembly Tuesday, October 4th 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Mount Mary College – Helfaer Hall [child care available]. The Common Ground Delegates Assembly is made up of: Core Team Leaders from each Member Organization, Friends of Common Ground, Prospective New Member Groups. The Delegates Assembly meets several times a year to:Vote on new Strategy Team Members, Welcome new Member Organizations, Set our Strategic Direction for the coming months, Learn about how you can become a leader within the organization. Would you like to attend? Contact Debra Schneider at info@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org [\[back to top\]](#)

SPIRITUALITY AND ECOLOGICAL HOPE

Some thoughts from [Margaret Swedish's blog on August 12 As a culture, we are in such trouble](#) should stick with us. In her blog posting Margaret quotes an article in AlterNet today by David DeGraw:

“While 68.3 million Americans struggle to get enough food to eat and wages are declining for 90 percent of the population, US millionaire household wealth has reached an unprecedented level. According to an extensive study by auditing and financial advisory firm Deloitte, US millionaire households now have \$38.6 trillion in wealth. On top of the \$38.6 trillion this study reveals, they have an estimated \$6.3 trillion hidden in offshore accounts. In total, US millionaire households have at least \$45.9 trillion in wealth, the majority of this wealth is held within the upper one-tenth of one percent of the population.”

Margaret goes on to say, “The wealth of the world has never been this skewed. My friends, we are not being governed any longer, we are being ruled. In a world where economic power, and therefore political power, is this concentrated, we have lost the ability to determine our own future. Given this much power in the hands of so few, think about the forests and the rivers, the wetlands and endangered species, the children in our impoverished urban or rural communities, and tell me what their prospects are.”

“So I go back to a point I have made here over and over again – and will continue to insist on over and over again: The only way to create change in this context, the only way to turn back the power of concentrated wealth, is with the power of people actively engaged from the grassroots up, locally, in our communities, our neighborhoods, our faith communities and union halls, in building democracy movements that are ecologically whole in how they operate, that are inclusive, that are in an integral solidarity with the poor, marginalized, and discriminated-against, that are bent on a vision of the human community and embody that vision in how the movements themselves function.”

Margaret Swedish is the author of “[Living Beyond the End of the World: A Spirituality of Hope](#)” Her website is www.ecologicalhope.org [\[back to top\]](#)

TAKE THE EAT LOCAL CHALLENGE IN SEPTEMBER!!

Here is an opportunity for you to take individual action and make a difference! The [Milwaukee Eat Local Challenge](#) one of many local food challenges, begins September 4 through the 17th The first Eat Local Challenge effort began in Portland, OR. Since that time, a grassroots effort of locally organized, independent challenges has sprung up around the nation- with thousands of people around the country participating in their own way to build a better food system. Why Eat Local? The [Eat Local Milwaukee explains the details](#). Here is the short answer. Enjoy excellent taste and freshness, Know what you're eating, Support endangered family farms, Strengthen local economy and communities, Protect the environment and reduce your carbon footprint, Get in touch with the seasons and get to know your region better

What is local? You decide. Try starting at your local farmers market! [Here are some guidelines to help you decide](#).

“If every U. S. citizen ate just one meal a week (any meal) composed of locally and organically raised meats and produce, we would reduce our country's oil consumption by 1.1 million barrels of oil every week.” “Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life” by *Barbara Kingsolver*. [\[back to top\]](#)

FAIR TRADE – YOU CAN BE AN ABOLITIONIST!

Are you an Abolitionist?

- Did you know that nearly half of the chocolate available on store market shelves today is the result of enslaved children[some younger than 11] doing the hard work of producing cocoa?
- Did you know the going rate for buying a child into the chocolate slave labor is approximately \$30 US dollars?
- Did you know that every time you purchase a Fair Trade chocolate bar you are casting a vote against slavery and for sustainability?
- Want to know more? Check out the [story at the BBC News website](#) or the [Stop Slavery website](#)

Divine Fair Trade chocolate is available at **Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store, 5401 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee**. Open Tues-Fir noon to 6 pm and Sat 10 am to 4 pm. 414-443-9606 Four Corners Mission: Working for

Peace by Achieving Justice through Fair Trade [\[back to top\]](#)

WAVE – BUSINESS HAS THE RIGHT TO KEEP GUNS OUT

Did you know that people who work where guns are allowed are five to seven times more likely to be murdered*? Wisconsin gives business owners the right to keep guns out by simply posting a sign. To make sure our businesses do what we all know is right, we need to show them that thousands of Wisconsinites have their backs. WAVE is organizing people from across the state to pledge their support for businesses that adopt a no-guns-allowed policy. Will you join us? [Sign the pledge: “I will support businesses that support my family’s safety.”](#) Add your voice and help keep guns out of Wisconsin’s public places. [\[back to top\]](#)

JUSTFAITH MINISTRIES

St Mary, Holy Apostles and Elizabeth Anne Seton will be collaborating with area parishes to offer JustFAITH Ministry programs starting this fall. JustFAITH provides programs that transform people and expand your commitment to social ministry.

Three Programs beginning in fall - JustFaith Core Program - EngagingSPIRITUALITY - JusticeWALKING

Attend any one of the following informational meetings to begin your spiritual journey into compassion.

Monday, August 29: 7-8 p.m. in room 312 - St. Mary Catholic Faith Community - 9520 W. Forest Home Ave.

Tuesday, August 30: 7-8 p.m. in Seton Hall - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish - 12700 W. Howard Ave.

Thursday, September 1: 7-8 p.m. in Johnson Hall - Holy Apostles Catholic Parish - 16000 W. National Ave.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#) or [Contact: Pam Lownik](#), OR 414-425-2174 x356 [\[back to top\]](#)

NONVIOLENCE STUDY GROUP AT MU - BEGINS SEPT 1

Faculty and Graduate Student Nonviolence Study Group meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month beginning September 1, 2011 at 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, Center for Peacemaking, 735 N 17 St. This study group is open to the public. This semester we will be studying Jim Douglass’ “The Non-Violent Cross: A Theology of Revolution and Peace.” Email Patrick at patrick.kennelly@marquette.edu to be added to the mailing list for the assigned readings for each week. [\[back to top\]](#)

“SOUP WITH SUBSTANCE: BORDER AWARENESS EXPERIENCE” – SEPT 7

The Faber Center for Ignatian Spirituality and the Center for Peacemaking will host “Soup with Substance: A Border Awareness Experience,” Wednesday, Sept. 7, from noon to 1 p.m. in AMU 157 (the student Union) at Marquette University.

A panel of 10 MU employees who participated in the first Faber Center Spring Break Mission Retreat with the Women’s Intercultural Center in Anthony, N.M., last spring, will share their experiences and what they learned about immigration and issues facing the people at the United States/Mexico border. Next year’s Border Awareness Experience, which will take place March 11-16, 2012, will also be discussed.

No RSVP is needed.

Soup with Substance takes place on Wednesdays, Noon to 1:00 pm, Alumni Memorial Union 157. Presentations and discussions on issues related to peacemaking and social justice. For more information on topics and speakers, call 414-288-8444 [\[back to top\]](#)

“BEYOND BELIEF” SCREENING AND BEYOND 911 PRESENTATION BY SUSAN RETIK – SEPT 9 / 22

The [documentary Beyond Belief](#), to be screened on Friday, September 9 at 6 pm at [Notre Dame of Elm Grove on Watertown Plank Road in Elm Grove](#), is about Susan Retik and Patti Quigley, who become 9/11 widows. Rather than turning inwards, grief compels these women to focus on the country where the terrorists who took their husbands’ lives were trained: Afghanistan. Over the course of two years, as they cope with their own loss and as single mothers, these extraordinary women dedicate themselves to empowering Afghan widows whose lives have been ravaged by decades of war, poverty and oppression - factors they consider to be the root causes of terrorism. This event is free and open to the public. PLEASE [RSVP via email here](#). Our screening of Beyond Belief is in support of campus-wide reading of the book “Half the Sky” and will culminate in a [presentation by Susan Retik on September 22 at the Pfister](#). [\[back to top\]](#)

UNITED WE STAND 9.11.11 ANNIVERSARY EVENT – SEPT 11

Religious leaders from the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee will offer an invocation, reflections and a Prayer

for the Future as participants in a Bel Canto Chorus and Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra “United We Stand” concert in Cathedral Square Park at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11. The free event will feature Mozart’s Requiem, commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, and honor “heroes and first responders.” Interfaith is providing prayer flags for attendees to write words of peace, hope, healing and understanding for victims and their families, first responders, our armed forces and their families, our nation, and countries of the world. Public television is doing a statewide broadcast. A prelude starts at 2:15 p.m. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. See www.belcanto.org. [\[back to top\]](#)

"TEN YEARS LATER - LET'S TALK ABOUT 9/11" - SEPT 11

Sunday, Sept. 11, 7:00p.m.at Where: Milwaukee Friends Meeting House, 3224 N. Gordon Pl., Milwaukee, WI with Facilitator Julie Byrnes Enslow and Resource Person Tom Spellman, member of Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth. A chance to address the recent developments in 9/11 research, the unanswered questions and why they are vitally important. More Information. [\[back to top\]](#)

"THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN: WORKING FOR NONVIOLENT SOLUTIONS" PATRICK KENNELLY – SEPT 11

A decade after 9/11 and entering into ten years of war in Afghanistan, the immense toll this conflict has taken on the American and Afghan people is apparent. There have been over 75,000 people killed in Afghanistan. Sadly, but not surprisingly — since violence begets violence — Afghan, American, and UN officials are predicting increased violence in the future. Patrick Kennelly 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. Patrick participated in a March delegation to Afghanistan to explore nonviolent solutions to the war. He is the Associate Director of the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking, a cofounder of the Iraqi Student Project Milwaukee, and a member of the Casa Maria Catholic Worker community. [\[back to top\]](#)

RESCUING REGINA BOOK DISCUSSIONS – SEPT 12 & 20

Join the School Sisters of Notre Dame, associates, and friends for a [discussion of the book, Rescuing Regina](#). The Battle to Save a Friend from Deportation and Death, with the author herself, Sister Josephe Marie Flynn, on either [Monday, September 12](#) (6:30 – 8:00 pm) or [Tuesday, September 20](#) (2:00 – 3:30 pm)! These book discussions are free and open to the public. [Please pre-register via email here](#). [Flyer](#) [\[back to top\]](#)

BORN TO SERVE: OUR RESPONSE TO RETURNING VETERANS – SEPT 15

Fr. Rick Curry will speak on “Born to Serve: Our Response to Returning Veterans, Parish to Parish – Person to Person” at the Marquette University Weasler Auditorium at the Memorial Union on Thursday, September 15th at 10:00 a.m. Join us to hear and talk with Fr. Curry as he calls parishes to step forward and help our returning veterans. [View a dynamic short video of Fr. Curry that the Wisconsin Province has provided](#) Please RSVP by September 8th to [Rob Shelledy](#) [Coordinator of Social Justice ministry](#) at the archdiocese. [\[back to top\]](#)

"HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS – TOO LITTLE FOR TOO FEW: IS THERE A SOLUTION IN SIGHT?" – SEPT 17

Join us for the first presentation in the Sr. Esther Hofschulte Lecture Series sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, September 17, 10 – 11:30 a.m. The speaker is Stephanie Sue Stein, Director, Milwaukee County Department on Aging. The program will be held in The Troubadour Room at St. Francis Convent, 3221 S. Lake Dr., St. Francis, Wis. The suggested donation: \$5. For more information, contact Irene Senn, 414-744-1160. [\[back to top\]](#)

RESURRECTION FROM THE RUBBLE FUNDRAISER – HAITIAN RESURRECTION DANCE THEATER – SEPT 18

From the poorest country in the western hemisphere comes the incredible power of drumming and dance performed by former street children of Haiti. [St. James Catholic Church W220 N6588 Town Line Road, Menomonee Falls](#) is privileged to host the Haitian Resurrection Dance Theatre on Sunday, September 18 at 2 pm. Through drumming and storytelling the boys and young men of the Resurrection Dance Theater incorporate traditional Haitian and African movements into a modern setting. The earthquake of January 2010 destroyed two of the homes that housed the boys and some of the young men from this dance troupe, the Resurrection Dance Theater of Haiti has dedicated their tour performances to raising funds to rebuild St. Joseph’s Home for Boys. For more information contact [Debra Schneider](#) or 414-550-2167. The performance is free and open to the public. A free will offering for St. Joseph’s Home for Boys in Haiti will be collected. **Please help publicize** [Flyer for Event](#). [\[back to top\]](#)

SSND PUBLIC PRAYER FOR PEACE - SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

Wednesday, September 21 is the International Day of Peace, a day to commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. This year’s theme is, “Make Your Voice Heard.” On September

21 at 1:00 – 1:30 p.m., School Sisters of Notre Dame will host a [Public Prayer for Peace](#) on the Notre Dame of Elm Grove Campus, outside at the SSND peace pole along Watertown Plank Road (weather permitting, otherwise inside). The Public Prayer for Peace is a wonderful intergenerational experience, typically drawing 300 people ranging in age from 10 to 90 plus! All are welcome. [Please help us spread the word by sharing this flyer with others!](#) PDF [\[back to top\]](#)

STUDENT PEACEMAKING FELLOWSHIPS – OCT 12

Each year Marquette students receive grants to actively work for peace and explore nonviolence. At the end of their experience, the peacemakers present their discoveries to the community. Hear about their experience on October 12, 7:00 pm, Alumni Memorial Union 163 [\[back to top\]](#)

REFLECTION OF HOPE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

It may be providential that the dedication of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial has been postponed to September or October – a time when so many in our county are focused on the anniversary of 9.11 and so many of us are struggling to find new avenues toward moving ourselves and our culture toward peace and justice for all people. For those in the trenches, Dr. King's words continue to ring prophetic.

"I must confess, my friends, the road ahead will not always be smooth. There will be still rocky places of frustration and meandering points of bewilderment. There will be inevitable setbacks here and there. There will be those moments when the buoyancy of hope will be transformed into the fatigue of despair. Our dreams will sometimes be shattered and our ethereal hopes blasted. ... Difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future. ... When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice." - *Martin Luther King Jr.*

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PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

[Matthew 16:21-27](#), [Jeremiah 20:7-9](#)

Holy Spirit, come and renew my way of thinking. I want to become a vessel of your grace and power, and I know I cannot do this on my own. Spirit, make your thoughts my thoughts and your desires my desires. – from The Word Among Us, August 28