

Catholics for Peace and Justice

SEPTEMBER 2012 Newsletter

Still a bit in shock? Cardinal Dolan providing the closing prayer for not one, but two national political conventions? If you were giving the closing prayer for both party's conventions, what would you pray for?

The election and election issues continue to rise to the forefront of the topics this month. If this season is a tough one for you, try checking out the tips on civil dialogue from the Wisconsin Council of Churches Season of Civility training.

In observance of Labor Day

"In this time of economic turmoil and uncertainty, we need to reflect on the moral and human dimensions of too much poverty and not enough work. We are called to work together--business, labor, and government--to build a productive economy that offers opportunity, creates jobs, generates growth, protects the dignity of working people, respects the family, and promotes genuine human development." [US Bishops 2012 Labor Day Statement – Placing Work and Workers at the Center of Economic Life](#)

Blessings on you and your ministry



TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL

[Civil Dialogue – Make It Work](#)

ACTIONS AND ISSUES

[Paul Ryan and the Catholic Vote](#)

[Nuns on the Bus and the Ryan Budget](#)

[Farm Bill Advocacy – Local and Global Food Security Update](#)

[Report from the Annual Assembly of LCWR](#)

[Pro-Life Democrats](#)

[Two Million Friends to End the Afghan War](#)

[Common Ground Update](#)

[Global Warming's Terrible New Math](#)

[Sign Letter to Congress for Economic Justice](#)

[Take NBCs "Stars Earn Stripes" Off the Air](#)

EVENTS AND ISSUES

[Beyond Polarization Dialogues – Zeidler Center – Sept - Nov](#)

[Growing Power Urban and Small Farm Conference – Sept 7- 9](#)

[Spirituality of Nonviolence – Siena Center Retreat – Sept 8](#)

[Does Faith and Politics Mix? – St. Marys – Sept 12/19](#)

[Just Peacemaking, Become Sentinels of Peace – Begins Sept 13](#)

[Voting With a Catholic Conscience with Lincoln Rice – Sept 23](#)

[Faith, Politics and Civil Dialogue – St James - Sept 29/Oct 2](#)

[Annual Peace Prayer Service at St. Therese – Oct 3](#)

[Ground for Hope Interfaith Regional Conference – Oct. 21-22](#)

[Living the Jesus Story - Social Ministry Conference – Nov 2/3](#)

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

[Reflection: Jesus Says](#)

[Prayer for Leadership – Joan Chittister](#)

Civil Dialogue – Make It Work

Here are a couple tips from the recent Wisconsin Council of Churches Season of Civility training on civil dialogue.

Truly listening to each other is important in any dialogue, but when engaging in discussion about politics or any “tough” topic truly listening to each other is critical. Rather than listening to what is being said, we may find ourselves judging what we are hearing and/or thinking about how we will respond.

Here is a tip – next time you are in discussion where you feel judgmental or defensive, try turning to a position of wonder and curiosity. Ask yourself “I wonder what brought him/her to this belief? I wonder what he/she is feeling right now? I wonder what my reaction teaches me about myself? Set aside judgment to listen to others – and to yourself – more deeply.

In our society, we are engrained with the idea that we need to be “right”. As a result, we tend to want to give advice or win others over to our way of thinking. In reality, people are complex. They come to their beliefs through many years of personal experience and careful thinking.

Here is a tip – rather than trying to advise or convince others of your position, try asking simple honest open ended non-leading questions that help you learn more about why that person feels the way they do. You may find you have more in common than you thought. Remember “Jesus’ commandment isn’t ‘You shall be right’, but ‘You shall love one another”” [*Richard Rohr, Simplicity*].

[\[back to top\]](#)

Paul Ryan and the Catholic Vote

[Excerpt from America Magazine](#) Aug 23, 2012

Dan Finn, a professor of economics and theology at St. John’s University in Collegeville, MN stated that Ryan’s “individualistic economic analysis” leads the candidate to believe that reducing payments for welfare is actually good for people in poverty, because welfare makes them dependent. However, this view fails to see the larger framework necessary for an accurate analysis. “While there is some truth there, that is a terribly incomplete story,” Finn said. “There are many causes of poverty. Dependency is certainly a problem for some, but for many it is not, and they’re working trying to make ends meet. What’s missing is the debate about the social and scientific analysis that undergirds anyone’s position on this matter.” The Republican Party, in general, tends toward an “overly simplified” view of poverty, which leads to budget cuts, Finn said, adding that Catholics are obliged to help people who can’t meet their own needs, whether those needs are related to food, medicine or education. “Reducing welfare is inconsistent with the Catholic view of life,”

Rev. Brian Massingale, Professor at MU said, “Paul Ryan represents a group of Catholics who believe that as long as they’re with the church on abortion then they get a pass on the rest of Catholic identity,” “And I think there are some statements of our bishops that have fed into that. But we need to ask: How does our commitment to the poor and vulnerable factor into Catholic public identity and witness? The question goes deeper than Paul Ryan. He becomes a symbol of something that has been an ongoing conversation in the church and that we need to engage more forthrightly.”

[\[back to top\]](#)

Nuns on the Bus and the Ryan Budget

Moyers and Company

Two perspectives on the Ryan Budget. [Watch a field report from “Bill Moyers” producers](#) who rode along on the ‘Nuns on the Bus’ tour, then join a passionate, candid discussion about faith and economics with Sister Simone Campbell and Robert Royal, editor in chief of The Catholic Thing and founder of the Faith & Reason Institute.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Farm Bill Advocacy – Local and Global Food Security Update

On Thursday, August 23rd, representatives from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, The Capuchin Franciscans Action Network, Bread for the World, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and Catholics for Peace and Justice and Catholic Relief Services met with Michael Lavender, Senator Kohl's chief staff person for agriculture. Representatives talked about their organization's concerns about cuts to SNAP and the Food for Peace Safebox program. Specific statistics and examples of how these programs are working and their ongoing need were presented.

As follow up, Mr. Lavender stressed the importance of knowing more about other Wisconsin specific examples of how the Agricultural Appropriations bill affects people. If you have, specific examples based on your ministry or personal experience, please write and share your knowledge with Mr. Michael Lavender at michael_lavender@kohl.senate.gov

Check these resources for more information on the Farm Bill, [how it affects food security](#) and how it affects [Catholic Relief Services](#) programs. Questions? Contact Debra Schneider at djschneider@wi.rr.com
[\[back to top\]](#)

Report from the Annual Assembly of LCWR

At the annual assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) held in St. Louis, MO, August 7-10, the more than 900 participants planned their response to the doctrinal assessment of the organization by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF).

The assembly articulated its belief that religious life, as it is lived by the women religious who comprise LCWR, is an authentic expression of this life that must not be compromised. The theology, ecclesiology, and spirituality of the Second Vatican Council serve as the foundation of this form of religious life – and while those who live it must always be open to conversion – this life form should not be discounted.

The assembly instructed the LCWR officers to conduct their conversation with Archbishop Sartain from a stance of deep prayer that values mutual respect, careful listening and open dialogue. The officers will proceed with these discussions as long as possible, but will reconsider if LCWR is forced to compromise the integrity of its mission.

The members reiterated the importance and value of LCWR's mission to its members and its role as a voice for justice in the world. They urged the officers not to allow the work with CDF to absorb the time, energy, and resources of the conference nor to let it distract the conference from the work its mission requires. [Read the full press release statement here.](#)

To learn more [read the address by Sister Pat Farrell](#), president of LCWR and this NCR article summarizing the LCWR response to the mandate. [Sister Hughes' response to the press club.](#)
[\[back to top\]](#)

Two Million Friends to End the Afghan War

The Afghan Peace Volunteers are a grassroots group of ordinary, multi-ethnic Afghans seeking a life of non-violence, the unity of all people, equality, and self-reliance. They seek non-military solutions for Afghanistan and do not work for the benefit of any political group or religion. They envision Afghans from all ethnic groups

uniting for a non-violent movement towards a peaceful life.

The Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers (AYPV) call on the world community to join the people of Afghanistan in sending 2 million messages and letters of friendship, symbolizing our collective grief for the 2 million victims of war in Afghanistan and our determination to work together for peace in Afghanistan and a life without wars. This event on the 10th of December 2012, the International Day of Human Rights, is supported by Dr Sima Simar, Chairperson of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, and will be attended by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mairead Maguire and former US Army Colonel, Ann Wright. We will request the United Nations and all armed groups involved in the conflict to negotiate for a multilateral ceasefire, and to redirect their war funds to reconstructing the socio-economic, humanitarian and educational services in Afghanistan.

[Learn more about 2 Million Friends](#) at www.ourjourneytosmile.com

[\[back to top\]](#)

Pro-Life Democrats

Each election season pro-life/pro-social justice Americans are frustrated with a lack of political choice that truly represents a Consistent Ethic of Life principle. There are some who are pursuing avenues for change in our political system. [Democrats for Life](#) is one organization whose goal is to provide a voice for Pro-life Democrats within the Democratic Party. Pro-life Democrats share a genuine commitment to reducing the number of abortions, particularly by supporting the needs of pregnant women and their families and by teaming with their fellow Democrats to fight for economic and social justice. [More on this organization and their petition to alter the wording of the Democratic party platform](#). The current election season is also a good time to join with other leaders such as former President Jimmy Carter to [express your concern and belief for change directly to the Democratic Party](#). [Comments to the Republican Party can be made here](#).

[\[back to top\]](#)

Common Ground Update

[The latest news on Common Ground and the Common Ground Newsletter can be found Here.](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Global Warming's Terrifying New Math

Three simple numbers that add up to global catastrophe - and that make clear who the real enemy is.
By Bill McKibben, Rolling Stone, July 19, 2012

If the pictures of those towering wildfires in Colorado haven't convinced you, or the size of your AC bill this summer, here are some hard numbers about climate change: June broke or tied 3,215 high-temperature records across the United States. That followed the warmest May on record for the Northern Hemisphere – the 327th consecutive month in which the temperature of the entire globe exceeded the 20th-century average, the odds of which occurring by simple chance were 3.7×10^{-99} , a number considerably larger than the number of stars in the universe.

Meteorologists reported that this spring was the warmest ever recorded for our nation – in fact, it crushed the old record by so much that it represented the "largest temperature departure from average of any season on record." The same week, Saudi authorities reported that it had rained in Mecca despite a temperature of 109 degrees, the hottest downpour in the planet's history.

[Read more:](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Letter to Congress for Economic Justice

Pax Christi USA has signed onto a letter to Members of Congress asking them to protect low-income and vulnerable people; promote job creation to strengthen the economy; increase revenues from fair sources; and seek responsible savings by targeting wasteful spending in the Pentagon and in other areas that do not serve the public interest. [Read the letter and consider signing on.](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Take NBCs “Stars Earn Stripes” Off the Air

With Thanks from Peace Action

War is not entertainment! Let's take NBC's reality show, "Stars Earn Stripes," off the air! Join the call of folks across the country and world, including nine Nobel Peace Laureates -- NBC, take this show off the air! NBC has created an entertainment show "[Stars Earn Stripes](#)," co-hosted by retired U.S. general Wesley Clark. NBC promoted the show during its Summer Olympics telecast glorifying war as the next big sporting event. But the sport it's exhibiting is war.

On "[Stars Earn Stripes](#)," celebrities pair-up with members of the U.S. military to compete at war-like tasks, including "long-range weapons fire." The reality of killing, death, life long injury, PTSD, and true respect for sacrifice are missing. [Take 30 seconds to sign the petition](#): Call NBC: Call local Programming Director Brenda Serio (414-967-5444) and tell her you want this show canceled!

[\[back to top\]](#)

Beyond Polarization Dialogues – Zeidler Center – Sept - Nov

The Frank Zeidler Center for Public Discussion is hosting a series of “Beyond Polarization Dialogues” These structured and facilitated dialogues bring together people of many different beliefs and backgrounds, and increase mutual understanding on polarizing public issues. The goal is not to reach agreement, but to explore and better understand each other’s perspectives. All dialogues are free; space limited; sign-up and confirmation required. Scheduled Dialogues – On Immigration 9/19, On Economic Fairness and Freedom 10/17, On Our Democracy, 11/5, On War, 11/12. For more information and to sign up, visit:

www.zeidlercenter.org - Dialogue Sign Up.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Growing Power Urban and Small Farm Conference – Sept 7- 9

[Wisconsin State Fair Park. Full Conference Details](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Spirituality of Nonviolence – Siena Center Retreat – Sept 8

"Spirituality of Nonviolence" - with Fr. Simon Harak, SJ, Director of the Center for Peacemaking at Marquette University - at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Saturday, September 8, 9 am-3:30 pm. For more information go to www.SienaRetreatCenter.org.

[\[back to top\]](#)

Does Faith and Politics Mix? – St. Marys – Sept 12/19

Need another option: You are invited to participate at St Mary Hales Corners for our civil dialogue offering, preparing for the upcoming election: Politics and religion do mix when Christianity is at your core. Join Fr. Chuck Schramm and Fr Matthew Widder of St. Mary’s Hales Corners to: Explore the Catholic spiritual foundation of politics and conscience formation. Learn, in a safe environment, how to move civility back into your discussions about politics and community.

Presentation: Wednesday – September 12 – 6:30 – 8:00 pm - Faithful citizenship, conscience formation and the “art of the possible”. Location: St Mary Parish Gathering Space

Dialogue: Wednesday – September 19 – 6:30 to 8:00 pm, Location: St. Mary Parish Gathering Space (facilitated by the Social Concerns team) Civil Dialogue Small Group Listening Topics: Care for the poor and budget priorities &/or Human dignity and healthcare issues. [Register by Sunday, September 9](#) with the Social Concerns Team at 414-425-2174 ext:356 or email: lownikp@stmaryhc.org [Flyer with details](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Just Peacemaking, Become Sentinels of Peace – Begins Sept 13

The challenge of nonviolence is great. The promise of nonviolence is entrusted with the peacemakers of the planet. Will you be a peacemaker? Facilitated by Fred and Mary Matestic. We invite you to join this 12-session program explores the challenges and promises of justice-based peacemaking. You will engage in prayer, readings and discussion, four “film nights”, a strong spirit of group dialog and interaction, immersion

activities and a call to organize a just peacemaking initiative locally. Each and every participant is asked to reflect deeply and to act locally, or, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "You must be the change you want to see in the world." Meeting on Thursday evening beginning on September 13 at St Mary Parish, Hales Corners. Visit our website to read more about it at www.stmaryhc.org. Register by contacting the Social Concerns office at 414-425-2174 ext.356 or emailing lownikp@stmaryhc.org [Flyer with more into](#) [\[back to top\]](#)

Voting With a Catholic Conscience with Lincoln Rice – Sept 23

Sunday, September 23 9:45am -10:45am at Good Shepherd Parish – Church Hall - N88 W17658 Christman Rd., Menomonee Falls, WI <http://www.mygoodshepherd.org> Cost: FREE . This session will address the principles at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching and how these can be applied to inform our consciences relative to addressing the important, and often controversial, issues of our day. For more information contact Jane Clare at ishiguroj@archmil.org or 262-255-2035 [\[back to top\]](#)

Faith, Politics and Civil Dialogue – St. James - Sept 29/Oct 2

Does your Christian faith steer your thoughts and actions at home and at your work place? What about in society? As Christians we are called to see and respect the dignity of all people and to work for the common good, but what does that mean in today's political environment? Politics and religion do mix when Christianity is at your core. Join Fr. Chuck Schramm of St. Mary's Hales Corners Explore the Catholic spiritual foundation of politics and conscience formation, and experience a format of civil dialogue. Two Presentation/Dialogue Opportunities. **Sunday – September 30 - 12 noon to 1:30 pm and Tuesday – October 2 - 6 to 7:30 pm.**

Location: St. James Community Center. W220 N6570 Town Line Rd., Menomonee Falls. [See Flyer for details for more information.](#) Please register by Sunday, September 23 at 262-253-2902 or beimbornm@archmil.org For more information contact Debra Schneider at djschneider@wir.rr.com [\[back to top\]](#)

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 [\[back to top\]](#)

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](#) [\[back to top\]](#)

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

“Living the Jesus Story: Walking through Faith, Justice and Healing” Come to the Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry Regional Training. [Registration is now open](#) 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.](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

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. [Save the date Flyer](#)

[\[back to top\]](#)

Reflection

by S.Lucy Edelbeck, OP, NCR, Aug.17, 2012

Jesus says: “Woman anoint my feet.”

My church says: “Woman, you shall not anoint.”

Jesus says: “Woman, preach the news of My resurrection!”

My church says: “Woman, you shall not preach!”

Jesus says: “Do this in memory of me!”

My church says: “Woman, you shall not bless and break this bread.”

Can my church be the church of Jesus?

[\[back to top\]](#)

Prayer for Leadership

By Joan Chittister, OSB

Give us, O God,

Leaders whose hearts are large enough

To match the breadth of our own souls

And give us souls strong enough

to follow leaders of vision and wisdom

In seeking a leader, let us seek

More than development for ourselves-

Though development we hope for-

More than security for our own land –

Though security we need -

More than satisfaction for our wants –

Though many things we desire

Give us the hearts to choose the leader
Who will work with other leaders
to bring safety
to the whole world.

Give us leaders
Who lead this nation to virtue
Without seeking to impose our kind of virtue
On the virtue of others.

Give us a government
That provides for the advancement
Of this country
Without taking resources from others
To achieve it.

Give us insight enough ourselves
To choose as leaders those who can tell
Strength from power
Growth from greed,
Leadership from dominance,
And real greatness from the trapping of grandiosity.

We trust you Great God,
To open our hearts to learn from those
To whom you speak in different tongues
And to respect the life and words
Of those to whom you entrusted
The good of other parts of this globe.

We beg you, Great God,
Give us the vision as a people
To know where global leadership truly lies,
To pursue it diligently,
To require it to protect human rights
For everyone everywhere.

We ask these things, Great God
With minds open to your word
And hearts that trust in your eternal care.

Amen

