



Catholics for Peace and Justice

APRIL 2012 Newsletter

"Listen," St. Benedict tells us, "with the ear of your heart" (*Rule of St. Benedict, Prologue 1*). This opening in a recent Pax Christi reflection, caught my attention considering we were practicing non-judgmental listening at the recent St. Mary program "Do Faith and Politics Mix". The goal of the program - to share Church moral teaching, to listen to each other with respect and openness and to honor the experience of truth each person brought to the discussion. In other words, to listen to each other face to face "with the ear of our hearts".

As we move through the election season, Catholics for Peace and Justice will continue to offer to work with parishes and groups to provide meaningful and productive programs that address the issues in light of our Christian Catholic moral foundation – with a focus on civility. We'd love to hear your ideas.

Wishing you the grace and blessings that can only be realized in the joyful love of our risen Christ. May the peace of Christ be upon you.



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Election Issues – Care for the Poor

On March 29, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the House Budget Committee's FY2013 Path to Prosperity Budget, a plan that is expected to be rejected by the Senate on a party line vote. Once again congress will come to an impasse on the budget. The issues of government participation, taxes, the deficit, how we care for the poor and seniors in our community, healthcare and military spending will not go away.

One thing we learned at the recent "Do Faith and Politics Mix" discussion session at St. Mary is that we may assume that all Catholics know and understand the teaching of the Church on care for the poor [and other topics]. It is a defective assumption. With this election year, it is time for all of us to take some time to brush up on our understanding of the moral teaching of the Church. Then clearly think through – even write down – the core of our own personal moral foundation. As the candidates, media and the super pacs take to the air waves; we can draw from and speak from our firm Christian foundation.

[Summary - Church teaching on "Care for the Poor"](#)

[House Budget Committee – The Path to Prosperity](#)

[Values and the Ryan Budget/Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good](#)

[The Ryan Budget: God's Politics – Sojourners](#)

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What's Wrong with This Picture? - Personal Income Increase Facts

[From the New York Times, March 26, 2012](#)

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Catholics for Peace and Justice New Website

Visit our new website at www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org

There you will find...

[Listing of local justice events](#)

[Current and Past CPJ Newsletters](#)

[Social Teaching Resources](#)

[Links to Church Documents](#)

[Advocacy Resources](#)

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[And More....](#)

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Iran – Another Preventive War?

From Debra Schneider

Listening to Mit Romney earlier last month, I could not believe I was hearing the exact same rhetoric about Iran that we were hearing the year before invading Iraq. Not even 10 years and over billions of dollars later, how could the American people not hear the echo in his and every other candidate's language and blithely ignore the threat? In case we all forgot let's review Pope Benedict's succinct words **"the concept of preventive war does not appear in the Catechism of the Catholic Church."** Recalling that the reason for invasion of Iraq was the threat of weapons of mass destruction, Benedict said, "There were not sufficient reasons to unleash a war against Iraq. To say nothing of the fact that, given the new weapons that make possible destructions that go beyond the combatant groups, today we should be asking ourselves if it is still licit to admit the very existence of a 'just war'." [[Benedict XVI: A New Peace Pope by Michael Griffen](#)]

At Least One Bishop Is Taking a Stand - Will You?

"In a letter dated March 2 to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, **Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace**, said there has been "an alarming escalation in rhetoric and tensions" regarding Iran's nuclear capacities.. "Discussing or promoting military options at this time is unwise and may be counterproductive," he said. "Actual or threatened military strikes are likely to strengthen the regime in power in Iran and would further marginalize those in Iran who want to abide by international norms." [*"Tone Down War Talk" - America Magazine, March 19, 2012*]

Andrew Bacevich a West Point graduate and Vietnam veteran turned scholar who was interviewed by [Bill Moyers March 23, 2012](#), answers the question of whether Iran is a direct threat to America with a definitive no. **"Whatever threat Iran poses is very very limited and certainly does not constitute any kind of justification for yet another experiment with preventive war"** The war in Iraq was an expensive, unnecessary, disaster. The American people need to acknowledge that in order to not replicate it. The interview with Andrew Bacevich is worth viewing. [View the interview on line](#)

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Nuclear Weapons – The SANE Act HR 3974

From Peace and Life Connections

[H.R. 3974](#) the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures Act of 2012, was [introduced February 8 by Rep. Ed Markey](#) . Markey is currently collecting co-sponsors for the bill, As of this writing only one WI Congressperson, Tammy Baldwin, has signed on to the bill. Consider encouraging your representative to sign on to H.R. 3974, The bill is flawed in specifying numbers of nuclear weapons to keep for the time being, but it would cut new expenditures and turn around the direction of nuclear weapons policy. As Markey said when introducing it, "America's nuclear weapons budget is locked into a Cold War time machine . . . let's cut new nuclear weapons – not the poor, the sick, the children, and the elderly of our country."

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Good Friday Stations of the Cross to Stop Teaching of War and Killing – April 6

Good Friday, April 6th we will meet at 11:15 am in front of Gesu Church. We will peacefully say the Stations of the Cross while people are going into Gesu for the noon Good Friday service. We will carry our message, "Marquette, Stop Teaching War and Killing", in banners, pictures and with a cross. There will be a nonviolent direct action of

civil disobedience available for those who choose to participate. For more information contact Don Timmerman [414.342.0185], Joe Radoszewski or Bob Graf [414.379.4162] by phone or write breakingthesilence@nonviolentcow.org . Sponsored by Catholic Worker and Breaking the Silence.
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Common Ground Update

Common Ground April Newsletter

We have a lot to be proud of as we continue our work. Included here is a video about the [Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative](#)

We rolled out our Education Campaign this last Monday at Shiloh Baptist Church. [Read our website for info on the Action](#). Read the articles here to see what the Journal is saying about us. [Front Page - Tuesday, March 13th Journal Sentinel](#)

And [Passionate rally for education program an encouraging sign](#) - Front Page Local Section Sunday, March 18th .

Save the date - Sunday, April 29th 2:00-4:00 PM at the Italian Community Center, 631 E Chicago Street, Milwaukee. It's our Spring Assembly and we're expecting over 1,000 attendees! Put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Bring along another member of your organization to introduce them to Common Ground. This will be an exciting, energizing event and we hope to see you there. More at our website: www.commongroundwi.org .
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USA v. State of AZ: What's Being Argued & What's at Stake?

On April 25, the Supreme Court of the United States will hear oral arguments in a landmark case, United States of America v. State of Arizona, challenging Arizona's authority to enact its own immigration enforcement law. A decision is expected in the case this June. The specific legal questions the Supreme Court will decide are the extent to which an individual state can engage in immigration enforcement and what rules a state can make related to the immigration status of individuals living in that state. Historically, state efforts to enforce immigration laws and make immigration policy have been constitutionally "preempted" because immigration policy is exclusively a federal responsibility. The Arizona law and related measures in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Utah are, in effect, challenging that principle of federal supremacy in immigration. **What's at stake?** [Read here..](#)
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May Day Solidarity March – April 29

Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 12:30 pm. Assemble at Voces de la Frontera at 5th St. and Washington, Milwaukee. Stop separating families! Stop the deportations! Good Jobs, Not cuts to Badgercare and public education! Restore drivers licenses and in-state tuition for immigrants! Defend voting Rights! [More information](#)
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Indigenous Critique on the Keystone XL Pipeline From Global Exchange

If anyone has any reservations about the devastating impacts of the tar sands or the potential impact of the Keystone XL pipeline through the United States on the communities surrounding it, encourage them to [listen to Gitz Crazyboy](#), indigenous youth activist from the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation.

[In this interview](#) Crazyboy details first hand experiences of the health challenges facing indigenous communities close to the major tar sands operations, specifically in Fort Chipewyan and Fort MacKay. Gitz, a member of [the True Cost of Chevron](#) Network, details the environmental impacts of the Alberta tar sands on surrounding ecosystems and water ways like the Athabasca River.

[The True Cost of Chevron Network](#) is one of the largest and most unique activist coalitions organizing to reform Chevron and the entire oil industry. Composed of Chevron affected communities and organizations from around the globe concerned with the human right and environmental impacts of Chevron's operations, the Network is

expanding, becoming increasingly coordinated and unified.

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The Farm Bill: What's in it?

The Farm Bill, which will be coming up for discussion again this year, [is a major piece of agriculture and nutrition legislation](#) that has a profound impact on public health. It not only affects farming and food production; it also ultimately determines the types of food we eat and how much it costs. Congress writes the Farm Bill with input from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), farmers, and other stakeholders every five to seven years. The most recent Farm Bill, approved in 2008, authorized more than \$600 billion in spending over 10 years. Stakeholders can play an important role in ensuring that those dollars are spent in ways that promote health by communicating to elected officials the links between local work and federal policy.

Did you know that the Farm Bill establishes Commodity Programs that subsidize 21 commodity crops, including corn, soybeans, wheat, grain sorghum, barley, oat and rice? Notably, fruit and vegetable producers do not receive these subsidies.

[Read Growing Change – A Farm Bill Primer for Communities.](#)

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Are You Still Buying Bottled Water? Hear the Story

If you are still buying bottled water, [its time to watch The Story of Bottled Water](#) brought to us by Annie Leonard at The Story of Stuff Project. Bottled water is the classic story of how “manufactured demand” pushes what we don't need, gets all of us to buy it and destroys what we need the most – water. The good news? It proves that in capitalism the consumer is in control!!!! Its time to take control.

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Marquette Soup with Substance – Wednesdays

The Center for Peacemaking, Campus Ministry and Multicultural Affairs partner to host Marquette's Soup with Substance program. The program invites members of the Marquette and larger Milwaukee community to listen to a local or national figure known for his/her academic or practical work in nonviolence while enjoying **free soup and bread during the lunch hour 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Location Alumni Memorial Union AMU157 unless otherwise noted.** [Go to the website for a complete description of each program.](#)

Topics in April

Mind the Gap – The Effects of Wealth Disparity in America – April 4

This presentation will be done in the form of a workshop designed by NETWORK

Youth Empowered in the Struggle (Y.E.S.) – Immigration – April 11

Hear from student participants of the spring break border awareness experience

What do America, Haiti and Pakistan Have in Common? – April 25

Ethan Casey, journalist, writer and speaker will draw the historical, geographical and human connections.

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Forks for Sustainability Early Spring Farmers' Market – April 1

The Plymouth Church Board of Outreach and Mission In Cooperation with the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee's Interfaith Earth Network invite you to join us for Forks for Sustainability Early Spring Farmers' Market Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012 from 10:30am-2pm Plymouth United Church of Christ 2717 E. Hampshire St., Milwaukee Coordinated by Dela and Tony Ends of Scotch Hill Farm. 10% of sales will be donated to purchase tools for Senegalese farmers. [Flyer with details](#)

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Earth Day Celebration in Elm Grove – April 20

The School Sisters of Notre Dame Sunseed Eco-Education Ministries invites the public to join them for an Earth Day celebration on Friday, April 20 from 3 pm – 8 pm at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Road. Our celebration will feature a variety of fun and informative activities, demonstrations, displays, and presentations – all

focused on creative ways to care for our planet and each other by living more thoughtfully and sustainably. For more information contact Tim Dewane at 262-787-1023 or justiceandpeace@ssnd-milw.org

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Celebrate Earth Day – April 21

Celebrate Earth Day with the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. 3221 South Lake Drive, St. Francis, Saturday, April 21, 2012, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Refreshments, Special Earth Prayer, Short Walking Tours: Grape arbor, Deer Creek wetlands, Gardens, Green burial, Future urban forest, and Orchard. Take home French marigold seeds that were gathered on the grounds. [Flyer](#)

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Meet Your Neighbor – April 22

“Who are my neighbors?” you ask? You are invited to meet them at Good Shepherd Parish (N88 W17658 Christman Road, Menomonee Falls) on April 22nd at 12:30 pm, after the 11 am Liturgy. We will welcome Sr. Alice Thepouthay along with immigrants and refugees from St Michael’s Parish in Milwaukee. Come and hear Marianna and Myriam from Columbia and Gabriela from Guatemala. They will share their stories and struggles faced on their journey to a strange and challenging new culture in the United States. Together, we will grow our human family and build community. We will gather to pray, sing, and listen to the stories of our immigrant neighbors. Our sharing will continue as we enjoy a “simple meal” together. For questions, (262) 255 2035 [Flyer](#)

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Election 2012: Help Develop a Platform for the Common Good – April 25

On Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 6:30 p.m – 8:00 p.m in anticipation of this fall’s elections, Catholics Vote for the Common Good, a collaborative effort of 16 national Catholic organizations, is inviting people across the country to participate in small group dialogue sessions to discuss the needs of our communities and our vision for a society that reflects the common good. The fruit of these deliberations will be collected and formed into an Election 2012 Platform for the Common Good that can be used to engage candidates at both the state and federal levels. Location: Notre Dame of Elm Grove – All Purpose Room 13105 Watertown Plank Road. All are welcome! Learn more at www.CommonGood2012.org . Please RSVP for the April 25 session by contacting the School Sisters of Notre Dame - Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation at tdewane@ssndcp.org

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Greening Your Home – April 26

Learn how you can make sustainable decisions that positively impact your home, your health, your wallet and your planet. Thursday, April 26 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mount Mary College Alumni Dining Room, 2900 N. Menomonee River Pkwy (enter on 92nd Street, park in the lot on the left). This program with presentations and displays is free and open to the public. Registration is requested. [Register Here](#) [Flyer with more information](#)

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Film Screening: The Interrupters – April 27

Date: Friday, April 27th at 9 a.m. at the Gesu parish center. All are invited.

Contact: Eileen Ciezki (eileen.ciezki@marquette.edu) [The Interrupters](#) tells the moving and surprising stories of three Violence Interrupters who try to protect their Chicago communities from the violence they once employed. The film’s main subjects work for an innovative organization, CeaseFire. The organization works under the premise that the spread of violence mimics the spread of infectious diseases, and so the treatment should be similar. One of the cornerstones of the organization is the “Violence Interrupters” program, created by Tio Hardiman, who heads the program.

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Immigration Service Experience in Milwaukee – April 27-29

The Sisters of Charity, BVM invite you to join them, along with associates, friends and college students, for a weekend service experience in Milwaukee, Wis., April 27–29, 2012. The experience will focus on meeting and

working with immigrants to the U.S. and learning more about the challenges they face. Volunteers will connect with outreach workers at Voces de la Frontera, an immigrant rights group based in Milwaukee. This annual “in country” volunteer experience is sponsored by the BVM Initial Membership and Associate offices. [Click here to view details and registration information](#). Registration Deadline: April 2, 2012. Contact: Kathy Carr, BVM, kcarr@bvmcong.org 563.588.2351 ext. 5133
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Common Ground Spring Assembly – April 29

Save the date - Sunday, April 29th 2:00-4:00 PM at the Italian Community Center, 631 E Chicago Street, Milwaukee. It's our Spring Assembly and we're expecting over 1,000 attendees! Put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Contact us at info@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org . Bring a friend. This will be an exciting, energizing event and we hope to see you there.
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Parish Social Ministry – Save the Date Nov 2/3

This November, our local Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Catholic Charities USA is hosting a training on Parish Social Ministry at the Cousin's Center on Friday Nov 2 and Saturday Nov 3. A “Save the Date” flyer is attached. Please let folks in your networks know.
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Reflection - The Healing Touch

Touch, yes, touch, speaks the wordless words of love. We receive so much touch when we are babies and so little when we are adults. Still, in friendship touch often gives more life than words. A friend's hand stroking our back, a friend's arms resting on our shoulder, a friend's fingers wiping our tears away, a friend's lips kissing our forehead --- these are true consolation. These moments of touch are truly sacred. They restore, they reconcile, they reassure, they forgive, they heal.

Everyone who touched Jesus and everyone whom Jesus touched were healed. God's love and power went out from him (see Luke 6:19). When a friend touches us with free, non-possessive love, it is God's incarnate love that touches us and God's power that heals us. [*From Henri Nouwen Society – Daily Meditation, March 25, 2012*]
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Easter Prayer

Lord of life
You defeated death
To show that we can rise
From all that binds us to the world
Pride, envy, anger, fear
The debt of sin that holds us here
Christ the Lord is risen to-day

Lord of life
We pray for all who bring your word of life
As a light to those in darkness
For those who bring your word of peace
To those enslaved by fear
For those who bring your word of love
To those in need of comfort
Lord of love and Lord of peace
Lord of resurrection life
Be known
Through our lives

and through your power
Christ the Lord is risen to-day

Excerpt from www.FaithandWorship.com Prayers on a Theme of Easter