



Catholics for Peace and Justice

February 2012 Newsletter

The Republican debates have brought to light a slice of the heightened verbal rancor we can anticipate in the coming year. If elements of one party are so willing to deride their brethren in the primary, imagine what we have to look forward to in the final election. We have a choice – shut down and shut off every aspect of communication and allow ourselves and others to experience the consequences or equip ourselves, with God’s help, for the rugged journey.

Fortunately, we have a plan to get started. On Feb 11, at “Summoned to Justice” you will have an opportunity to unwrap some of the issues that affect the least - and the rest – of your neighbors. Come to learn. Come to network. Come to share.

The deadline to register for Summoned to Justice at the pre-registration rate is this Friday, Feb 3rd. That includes the group rate of \$7 each for 5 or more people registering from the same parish or organization. For details on workshops and the conference in general visit www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org . For more information, contact us at info@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org .

Peace and blessings on you and your ministry.

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"Summoned to Justice" Conference – Feb 11, 2012

"Summoned to Justice: Equipping Faith Communities to Answer the Call" is a half day conference to develop and equip leader advocates with spiritual refreshment, new ideas and proven tools to successfully engage your faith community in the social teaching of our Catholic faith. You will connect with other local faith communities to learn how they are moving beyond charity to create change through connecting with, empowering and advocating for people in need.

The deadline to pre-register at the reduced rate is this Friday, Feb 3. We look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Saturday, **Feb 11, 2012 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Location: St. Mary Hales Corners

Prayer Leader: Fr. Joe Juknialis – On Living Compassion

Unique session: Members of Human Concerns groups will have an opportunity to come together to build connections, share successes, concerns and how we might move forward to work together as a stronger whole

Workshops:

- Human Concerns Connection
- Faithful Citizenship/Election Issues 2012
- Disrupting the Cycle of Poverty
- Environmental Justice
- Addressing Immigration
- Tools to Engage Discussion in Your Parish
- Advocating for the Common Good through Common Ground

Summoned to Justice List of Organizations Hosting Information Tables:

Archdiocese of Milwaukee – Social Justice Ministry

Catholics for Peace and Justice/Common Ground – Election Year Social Teaching and Advocacy

Christian Life Community – Small Group Ignatian Spirituality and Action

Dismas Ministries – Prison Ministry

Four Corners Fair Trade - Education and Fair Trade Goods for Sale

Franciscan Peace Makers – Street Ministry

Interfaith Earth Network – Congregations Practicing Environmental Justice

Just Faith – Program Information

Justice for Immigrants/Rescuing Regina – Immigration Advocacy

St. Clare Center – Lay Ministry Program
Voices of the Poor – St. Vincent de Paul Advocacy
Women of Cell Block book sales – Prison Ministry

This conference is an excellent opportunity to gain new insight and ideas for building parish involvement and networking with others who are engaged in social justice ministry. All are invited. Brochure with Registration **Check our website for details** on the conference including registration and workshop descriptions. Conference fee: Adult \$10, Student \$7. A parish/group rate is available. Sponsored by Catholics for Peace and Justice. www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org
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Save the Date – Peace Conference: Interrupting Cycles of Violence – March 25

Candlelight Coalition and the Unitarian Universalist Church West [UUCW] will be sponsoring its 8th annual peace conference entitled “Interrupting Cycles of Violence”. The event will be held at the UUCW church, 13001 W. North Ave in Brookfield on Sunday, March 25 from 2-5 pm. Featured panelists will be Ramon Candelaria-Director of [Medical College of WI's Violence Prevention Initiative](#) , Tio Hardiman-Director of [CeaseFire Illinois](#) , Patrick Kennelly-Associate Director of [MU Center for Peacemaking](#) and Barb Notestein-Executive Director of [Safe and Sound](#). The conference will also feature small group discussions and workshops. Catholics for Peace and Justice is a co-sponsor of this event.
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Voter ID Law – Fraud on the People of Wisconsin?

By Gerry Fischer – Catholics for Peace and Justice

The Wisconsin Voter ID law was passed by the legislature last fall with very little vocal dissent from the public. With all the protests in Madison about the loss of collective bargaining perhaps the law slipped by the public's view. Those who promulgated this law expressed the simple logic of such a requirement for voting in order to protect the integrity of the election process. After all, you need an ID to get cough medicine at the drug store.

If I give the proponents of this law the benefit of the doubt, I could presume that these lawmakers were sincere in the ideal to preserve the integrity of elections in Wisconsin. That they also assumed that this law has implications for just the slightest minority and that they also reasonably assumed that those without these governmentally issued IDs could readily acquire them with only minor inconvenience. It scares me to think that the proponents of this law knew exactly what the real impacts would be, but I am more and more convinced that that is indeed the case. What is the big deal?

The big deal is that eligible voters are being disenfranchised from their Wisconsin constitutional right to vote while picking up cough medicine, or entering a bar, or going through airport security do not have these constitutional guarantees.

I am sure that every Wisconsin citizen would be for the integrity of elections and against voter fraud. Before the voter ID law was passed, voter fraud was already a felony in Wisconsin. In actuality, there is ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE of widespread voter fraud in our state! In fact, Attorney General, JB Van Holland has made prosecuting vote fraud in Wisconsin a high priority. After an extensive investigation into the 2008 election, the Attorney General found 11 potentially fraudulent ballots out of nearly 3 million cast. Eight of those were felons who were not eligible to vote, which a voter ID would not eliminate anyway. This leaves only 3 potentially prosecutable cases of voter fraud. Clearly voter fraud is not a substantial problem in Wisconsin.

What is the real reason for this new law? [The answer comes when you look at the statistics Finish reading the article.](#)
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One Less Excuse for MU to Host Teaching War on Campus From Non-Violent Cow

Many years ago when I started to question the military training programs at Marquette, a Catholic Jesuit university, a friend, close to the Society of Jesus, told me that it was better for military officers to be trained at a Catholic Jesuit university since then we would have military officers with a good Catholic Jesuit education. At the time, thinking it sounded like a case of “end justifies the means”, I dismissed it. However, a few years ago the past president of Marquette University, in an email to me, brought up the same reasoning: “To my thinking, it is tremendously beneficial for our military to have amongst its leader’s men and women who have the benefit of a Catholic, Jesuit education. In other words, Marquette ROTC alums provide a haven for good in our military.” ... [Read more](#)
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Update on the WI Mining Bill and Request for Action

According to Midwest Environmental Advocates the Assembly's Mining Bill, AB 426, which passed the assembly last week on a party line vote and strong public opposition, contradicts Wisconsin's proud history of bipartisan, open environmental legislation. “The bill was drafted by and for the iron mining industry, to serve the interests of Gogebic Taconite alone. It disregards and disrespects the people of Wisconsin, the people of the Bad River Tribe, who live downstream from the proposed Gogebic Taconite site, and people of all Tribes who hunt, fish and gather on Wisconsin lands.” [According to the Wisconsin State Journal](#) the state Senate committee could begin discussing a bill to streamline the permitting of the iron mines as early as this week. What is the upside? The Walker administration is working to make good on its campaign commitment of job creation.

What are the points of contention?

- The bill was largely written by five Republicans and their staff who huddled for months with the business lobby WMC and Gogebic Taconite, which wants to construct the mine in northern WI. According to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel details of the bill were kept under wraps for months with Democrats and environmentalists left in the dark.
- The proposed open pit mine sits near the headwaters of the Bad River which empties into Lake Superior, borders the Chippewa band’s land and threatens the reservations air and water quality as well as its extensive rice beds.
- [According to Bloomberg Business week](#) The Assembly bill relaxes numerous environmental standards involving wetlands, groundwater, rock disposal and reduces the level of public participation in the review process.
- The bill creates a new set of laws specifically for iron mining and streamlines the DNR permitting process from 2.5 years to a mandated 360 days.
- Contested case hearing on DNR permitting decisions would be eliminated and no law suits with the exception of a direct mining operation injury could be brought forth.
- The bill acknowledges mining will probably result in “adverse impacts” to wetlands but presumes it’s necessary.
- The Tribe emphasized that "Wisconsin laws meant to protect people and the environment should not be rewritten to benefit a single out-of-state company, especially where there has been no independent analysis of the economic impact ... on the region as a whole,"

Now is the time to voice your opinion. [Contact your state senator](#) or join the [League of Conservation Voters on Feb 16 for Conservation Lobby day](#).
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Catholic Leaders Challenge Gingrich and Santorum on Divisive Rhetoric Around Race and Poverty From Faith in Public Life

More than 40 national Catholic leaders and prominent theologians at universities across the country released a strongly worded open letter today urging “our fellow Catholics Newt Gingrich and Rick

Santorum to stop perpetuating ugly racial stereotypes on the campaign trail.”

In the lead up to Saturday’s primary in South Carolina, Newt Gingrich has frequently blasted President Obama as a “food stamp president” and implied that some African Americans are more content to collect welfare benefits than work. Rick Santorum attracted scrutiny for telling Iowa voters he doesn’t want “to make black people’s lives better by giving them somebody else’s money.”

The open letter reminds the two presidential candidates, vying for Christian conservative voters, that U.S. Catholic bishops have called racism an “intrinsic evil” and consistently defend vital government programs such as food stamps and unemployment benefits that help struggling Americans. [Read the full text of the statement and signatories.](#)

Can each and every one of us take a vow this election year to ban our use of language and stereotypes that undermine the human dignity of our neighbors regardless of race, religion, politics, political position or monetary wealth? Be peace. Demonstrate compassion.

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You Want Films? We’ve Got Sustainability and Social Justice Films!

Four Corners of the World Fair Trade has films... and they are available at **NO CHARGE**. Films may be viewed privately or shown to groups. The newest addition is “The Last Mountain” from Appalachian Voices, which is a prelude to our own state’s iron mine. [Check here for a list of all available films](#)

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The Great American Food Waste

From Debra Schneider

[A study from the University of AZ](#) [UA] released in 2004 revealed that 40 to 50 percent of the food grown in the U.S. goes to waste, meaning food ready for harvest never gets eaten. This fact is again beginning to resurface as people have become more interested in focusing on cooking, healthy food and community gardening.

Timothy Jones, an anthropologist at UA who spent 10 years measuring food loss, found that “not only is edible food discarded that could feed people who need it, but the rate of loss, even partially corrected, could save US consumers and manufacturers tens of billions of dollars each year. These losses also can be framed in terms of environmental degradation and national security. Jones’ research showed that households waste on average 14% of their food purchases tossing out an estimated \$590 per year for an average family of four. Cutting food waste also has an environmental impact on landfill reduction, soil depletion and fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide use.

Having worked with community gardens and two non-profit farms over the past year, I can verify that food waste is prevalent. While conventional wisdom is still proclaiming that the only way to feed the masses is with extremely large fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide intense mono-cropped farming methods, the local farmer is struggling to get their produce into the local market. Both local farms I worked with this past year had excess produce looking for a market.

What can you do? Start by buying local and buying fresh. Frequent the farmer’s market. Look and ask for local products at your grocery store and ask yourself if you really need to buy the overly packaged and overly processed products. Then take responsibility to direct and move excess edible food to your local food pantry.

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Common Ground Update

View the February Common Ground Newsletter at <http://www.commongroundwi.org/category/newsletters/>
Next Common Ground Delegate’s Assembly Monday, **February 27th at 7 pm. Location: Mount Mary**

College North Dining Room. Come and hear what the issue teams have been up to and find out what's in store.

Save the Date – Spring Assembly: Sunday, April 29th – mid-afternoon.

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Convergences: Decent Work and Social Justice – A Handbook

"... universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice..." The International Labour Organization has teamed up with the World Council of Churches to write a handbook entitled [Convergences: Decent work and social justice in religious traditions – A handbook](#). "Spirituality and values are essential in the quest for a fair globalization. This handbook demonstrates that in different religions and spiritual traditions there is great convergence of values on the subject of work. Human dignity, solidarity and above all the connection between work, social justice and peace put us on common ground. There is much to inspire and guide future action." [The handbook can be downloaded here](#).

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Soup with Substance - Wednesdays in Feb 1, 8, 12

Marquette University, Alumni Memorial Union 157, Noon – 1:00 pm

Wednesday, February 1 - Interpersonal Violence Awareness and Solutions: Perspectives on Healing from the Native American Community. Data from the Department of Justice indicate that Native American women disproportionately experience violence compared to other groups. This event will feature a panel of experts whose passion it is to stem this cycle of violence, provide support for women in need and honor the life giving force of all humanity.

Wednesday, February 8 - The Genesis of Violence: Child Abuse. A person's first encounter with violence is sadly, often in the home, and often as a child. This interdisciplinary panel examines the phenomenon of child abuse from various aspects - psychological, physical, philosophical, and theological. What are its possible effects on the person in the short and long term? Are there ways to heal or counteract those effects? Each panelist will make a brief presentation to allow for subsequent interaction among panelists and with those present. Theresa Tobin, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Simon Harak S.J., Director, Marquette University Center for Peacemaking, and Eva Cribben, Program Therapist, Milwaukee Academy

Wednesday, February 12 - Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and the Commandment to Love. This talk will highlight the significance in the thought of colonial Latin America's most important writer, Sister Juana Inés de la Cruz (Mexico, 1651-1695), of the commandment to love one's neighbor. With anguish, courage, humor and intelligence, this exceptional early modern writer grappled with her own situation as a woman with a literary vocation within an ecclesial and patriarchal establishment. Dr. Dinorah Cortés-Vélez earned her Ph.D. in 2006 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a dissertation on the ethical and political uses of humor in the proto-feminist writing of Mexican nun Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.

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Film: "Crossing the Line: Defending Wisconsin's Environmental Commons" – Feb 3

Plowshare is honored to have the opportunity to host a screening of "Crossing the Line: Defending Wisconsin's Environmental Commons", a documentary produced by Midwest Environmental Advocates. Crossing the Line is a short film which celebrates the stories of five individuals, families and communities who, with the help of Midwest Environmental Advocates, stood up for their rights to clean air, land and water and won. Jodi Habush Sinykin, Senior Staff Attorney of Midwest Environmental Advocates will introduce the film and then facilitate a discussion afterwards. The film will be shown on Friday, February 3rd, at 7:00 pm in the Carroll University Student Center Ballroom. [More Information](#)

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Social Concerns Forum: "The Human Face of the Future: Imagining a Just Society" – Feb 4

Saturday, February 4th, 9:00 am-noon: "The Human Face of the Future: Imagining a Just Society".

Speakers: Justice Janine Geske (ret.) Distinguished Professor of Law at the Marquette University Law

School; Founder and Director of the Restorative Justice Initiative will speak on “Restorative Justice; Remembering We Are All Part Of The Same Human Family”; Betty Groenewold, President of SOPHIA on “Imagine: Life Sustaining, Affordable Housing For All”; and John Whitcomb, M.D., Board Certified in Holistic and Integrative Medicine on “How To Reform Health Care So Everyone Is Motivated To Be Well And Stay Well: Aligning Incentives” [More information](#)

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Climate Change, Science and Sustainability – Feb 11

Is climate change real? Is it happening now? Do you need to believe in climate change to live sustainably? Saturday, February 11th, 1:00-4:00pm, Wauwatosa Public Library, with Sue Loomans Local Climatologist and Green Building Expert. Join us for an afternoon of Learning and Action on Climate Change. Organized by Green Neighbor – Wauwatosa, Co-Sponsored by Sierra Club – Great Waters Group and Transition Milwaukee. RSVPs appreciated: Email: green.neighbor@gmail.com, Phone: Mike at (414) 771-8850, or Facebook event “Learning and Action on Climate Change” Contact us page: www.greenneighbor.org [Flyer](#)

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Organizing to End Military Aid to Israel – Feb 12

On Sunday, February 12, please join the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation's National Advocacy Director Josh Ruebner for a training event on Organizing to End Military Aid to Israel. 10:30AM-12:00PM ♦ General Session followed by lunch and strategizing sessions on: Campaigning to Get City Councils to Pass a Resolution to End U.S. Military Aid to Israel: 12:00PM-5:00PM. All events will be held at the ISM Community Center, 815 West Layton Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53221. Register by going to this link:

<http://www.fundcommunityneeds.org/milwaukeeetraining>.

Sponsored locally by Friends of Palestine Further Info: Contact: S. Virgine svirgine@earthlink.net

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Our Call to Mission: International Twinning in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee – Feb 18

World Mission Ministries and the Global Mission Network would like to invite you to join us for a morning of learning, sharing and reflection as we focus on a growing trend in mission today: international twinning relationships. Whether your parish has a long-standing relationship, is just building your new friendship, or is starting to consider developing a new partnership, the gathering will be beneficial to all! We welcome Dr. Mike Gable, Director of the Mission Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, as our facilitator and keynote speaker. He has extensive experience helping parishes to build long-term twinning relationships based on global solidarity and mutuality. He speaks nationally on this topic and focuses not only on developing the relationship but sustaining it through the years. Our day will also include break-out sessions and the opportunity to share your own experiences and best practices with each other, ultimately focused on deepening one's own mission spirituality and that of our archdiocese through these diverse twinning experiences. [Flyer with details.](#)

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Breaking the Silence Ash Wednesday Service – Feb 22

We invite you to join the Breaking the Silence Ash Wednesday Service February 22nd, 11:30am - 1pm at 12th and Wisconsin, on the Campus of Marquette University. We will offer all ashes in repentance for our contribution to the killing of Americans, Iraqi's, Afghans, Palestinians and many around the world and to remind and give strength to all of us that we must 'break the silence' about teaching war and killing at Marquette University. For more information contact BreakingtheSilence@nonviolentcow.org. Sponsored Nonviolent Cow (f.k.a. Nonviolent Worm).

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Confessions of an Apostate from the Religion of “Education” – Feb 25

The JPIC Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi invite all to the final event in the Sr. Esther Hofschulte Memorial Lecture Series: CONFESSIONS OF AN APOSTATE FROM THE RELIGION OF

“EDUCATION” with Dr. Dan Grego, Executive Director of TransCenter for Youth, Inc. DATE/TIME: Saturday, February 25, 2012, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. LOCATION: The Troubadour, Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, 3221 S. Lake Drive, All are welcome! For more information, contact Irene Senn, imbenn@lakeosf.org or 414-744-1160
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Lenten Experience with Catholic Relief Services – Feb 29

You are invited to a Lenten Experience with Catholic Relief Services Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 6:30 pm, Cousins Center, 3501 South Lake Drive, Milwaukee. Event features include: Stations of the Cross, Archbishop Jerome Listecky presiding, Enjoy a meal featuring recipes from Madagascar, El Salvador, and India, Educational Session by CRS, “Saving Lives – Strengthening Communities in Madagascar”, Registrations Preferred by February 16, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Feb29-CRS-Madagascar>
Contact Kathy Shine at shinek@archmil.org or 414-758-2285 with questions.
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Winter Farmer’s Markets

[Check Here for Locations, Dates, Times and Programs](#)
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Prayer and Reflection from Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched me and Known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord,
you know it completely.
You pursue me behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is so high, I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts,
You knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works!
You know me very well;
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately molded in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;
In your book were written the days that were formed
for me, each day, before they existed.
How profound to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
When I awake, I am still with you.