

Catholics for Peace and Justice

MAY 2012 Newsletter

We would be remiss if we did not begin this month's newsletter with an encouraging word of support for our Sisters. While several long hoped for letters have recently emerged from the US Bishops on funding for the poor and the immigrant, at the same time we read about reprimands of our Sisters for doing the same. To quote Jim Wallis "These women are often the ones at the core of Jesus' ministry, building relationships with the poor and vulnerable, and most concretely offering the love of God." Ladies, we thank you for your past and future demonstration of God's love, your commitment and your leadership.

Peace and blessings on your ministry



TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL

[Having the Sisters' Back](#)

ACTIONS AND ISSUES

[Catholic bishops criticize Ryan budget cuts to food stamps](#)

[Georgetown University Faculty Letter to Rep Ryan](#)

[Not Another War Based on Suspicion](#)

[Beating at the Border](#)

[Jaime Martinez, Manitowoc Father of Four Deported to Mexico](#)

[USCCB & Faith Leaders' Letters on the Eve of AZ Supreme Court Hearing](#)

[Detention of Children](#)

[The Farm Bill: What's in it?](#)

[Common Ground Local Campaigns – Get Involved](#)

[Voting Canvas – Ensure Every Voice Is Heard](#)

EVENTS AND EDUCATION

[Webinar CRS and USCCB on Reauthorizing the Farm Bill – May 2](#)

[Medea Benjamin on NATO, Iran, Drones, and resisting militarism – May 3](#)

[Forum/book discussion of "Illegal" by Peter Geniesse - May 6](#)

[At a Global Crossroads: Turn Against War – May 7](#)

[NATO Potluck at Peace Action – May 9](#)

[5th Annual Greater Milwaukee Fair Trade Crawl – May 12](#)

[Film “Strangers No Longer: Historic similarities? - May 21,](#)

[“Come Laugh with Us! – May 22](#)

[Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee Day at Miller Park – July 17](#)

[Parish Social Ministry – Save the Date Nov 2/3](#)

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

[Reflection: *Love and Truth* from Frank Pauc](#)

[Prayer: *Relase Me* from *Guerrillas of Grace*](#)

Having the Sisters’ Back

By Jim Wallis

...The sisters may be the most positive face of the Catholic Church today... These women are often the ones at the core of Jesus’ ministry, building relationships with the poor and vulnerable, and most concretely offering the love of God. If you had a referendum on who the best faith and moral teachers are in many local communities and parishes around the country, it would likely be the women who are now under attack. [Read the Article.](#)

Interview with S. Simone of Network on Democracy Now

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

Catholic Bishops Criticize Ryan Budget Cuts to Food Stamps

[By Jonathan Easley - 04/17/12 05:26 PM ET From “The Hill”](#)

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is criticizing the House Republican budget authored by Rep. Paul Ryan for cutting food stamps and other assistance programs for the poor. **In a letter sent to the House Agriculture Committee** on Monday, the bishops say the budget fails to meet certain “moral criteria” by disproportionately cutting programs that “serve poor and vulnerable people.” A second **letter sent Tuesday to the Ways and Means Committee** criticizes a provision that makes it more difficult for illegal immigrants to claim child tax credits. The bishops called the credit “one of the most effective antipoverty programs in our nation.” In the letter to the Agriculture Committee, the bishops urged lawmakers to reject “unacceptable cuts to hunger and nutrition” programs for “moral and human reasons.” They said spending cuts should instead be made to subsidy programs that “disproportionately go to large growers and agribusiness.”

Lawmakers should “protect essential programs that serve poor and hungry people over subsidies that assist large and relatively well-off agricultural enterprises,” said the letter, signed by Bishop Stephen E. Blaire. “Cuts to nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will hurt hungry children, poor families, vulnerable seniors and workers who cannot find employment. These cuts are unjustified and wrong.”

Consider contacting congress to oppose cuts to the SNAP program that will harm poor and vulnerable people. [USCCB site for Action Alert](#) [Hunger Task Force Take Action](#)

Consider writing a letter to Archbishop Listeki thanking him and the USCCB for speaking out in defense of the poor. archbishoplistecki@archmil.org Mailing address: 3501 S Lake Dr., P. O. Box 070912, Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

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

Georgetown University Faculty Letter to Rep Ryan

From Biz Times Milwaukee

A letter was written by more than a dozen Georgetown University Jesuit priests and faculty in response to an April 26 appearance by Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan at the university to discuss his federal budget proposal. Excerpts from that letter appear below. BizTimes, Milwaukee Business News, reported on the letter. [Read the entire letter here.](#)

“As members of an academic community at a Catholic university, we see your visit on April 26 for the Whittington Lecture as an opportunity to discuss Catholic social teaching and its role in public policy.” ...“However, we would be remiss in our duty to you and our students if we did not challenge your continuing misuse of Catholic teaching to defend a budget plan that decimates food programs for struggling families, radically weakens protections for the elderly and sick, and gives more tax breaks to the wealthiest few.”

“While you often appeal to Catholic teaching on "subsidiarity" as a rationale for gutting government programs, you are profoundly misreading Church teaching. Subsidiarity is not a free pass to dismantle government programs and abandon the poor to their own devices. This often misused Catholic principle cuts both ways. It calls for solutions to be enacted as close to the level of local communities as possible. But it also demands that higher levels of government provide help -- "subsidium"-- when communities and local governments face problems beyond their means to address such as economic crises, high unemployment, endemic poverty and hunger. According to Pope Benedict XVI: "Subsidiarity must remain closely linked to the principle of solidarity and vice versa.".” [Read the full letter ...](#)

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

Not Another War Based on Suspicion

By Nicholas Neal

[From Life Matters Journal – Spring 2012](#) Before I make the case for why we should not attack Iran, I would at first like to apologize. When I was in high school, I, like many conservative Christians, had supported the Iraq war. Like many Christians I had fused my religion with neoconservative ideology thus blinding myself to the evils of war with “patriotic” rhetoric, and a messianic faith in the American state. When I went to college I had delved deeper into the pro-life philosophy and discovered the consistent life ethic. I realized that the continuation of the pro-life philosophy can only result in opposition [to] war. Now I see our country heading down toward the same mistake in Iran. Attacking a country based on suspicion. Some neoconservative commentators have even had the nerve to dust off the phrase “Weapons of mass destruction” as a reason to preemptively attack Iran. As a matter of penance, I cannot be silent, because as Martin Luther King, Jr. said when he spoke out against the Vietnam War, “A time comes when silence is betrayal”.

First I would like to examine the ethics of war itself, and in doing so I will largely draw from Murray Rothbard’s famous essay “War, Peace, and the State”. Let us say that Jack attacks Patrick and attempt to do lethal harm to him. Now alas, I am not a pacifist (yet) and I would actually agree that Patrick has a right to defend himself, even if it means killing Jack. However, let us say that during this conflict, Jack escapes and hides in a crowd of people. Is Patrick morally justified in spraying a machine gun in the crowd to kill Jack, Is he morally allowed to throw a grenade in the crowd to kill Jack? The answer is no. Killing innocent human beings is an absolute moral evil. It is the reason why Patrick felt he had a right [to] defend himself in the first place. [Read the rest of the article.....](#)

Editor's Note: The author's example of what happens in war is not exaggerated. Every bomb the U.S. dropped on Iraq during "Operation Iraqi Freedom" came with an estimate of "collateral damage" meaning an "acceptable level" of loss of innocent human life. An estimated 100,000 civilians were killed in the US Iraq war. Voices for Creative Nonviolence reports that 2 million ordinary Afghans lost their lives to the past 4 decades of war in Afghanistan.

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

Beating at the Border

From Sister Lucy Nigh, SSND working on the border in Douglas, AZ

S. Josephe Flynn, Chairperson of the Milwaukee Justice for Immigrants Campaign sends this report from S. Lucy. [This video of Anastasio Hernandez-Rojas](#) laying in the dirt, screaming for help, while over a dozen Border Patrol agents taser and beat him to death makes my stomach churn. It was on many public television stations last week. [Here's a short version](#): Anastasio is the father of five young children. His widow and family wants the Department of Justice to release their findings. [Click here to tell the Justice Department to cooperate now](#). And please pass this message on to others. Thank you!

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

Jaime Martinez, Manitowoc Father of Four Deported to Mexico

[From Catholic Herald on Line](#)

Jennifer Martinez waved in vain through tears of fear and frustration as the windowless white bus left the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportation center in Chicago shortly after 7 a.m. Friday, March 23. Inside the nondescript bus, Jennifer's husband and the father of her four children, 32-year-old Jaime Martinez Espinal, his wrists cut and scraped from handcuffs binding his hands, prepared for his forced return to Mexico as an undocumented resident. "It was so heartbreaking. Our oldest daughter, Isabel, who is 6, was so upset she kept throwing up. [Read the](#)

[article](#)

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

USCCB & Faith Leaders' Letters on the Eve of AZ Supreme Court Hearing

[Justice for Immigrants Campaign](#)

In letters sent April 24, on the eve of oral arguments to the Supreme Court on Arizona's immigration law, 15 religious leaders urged President Barack Obama and the 112th Congress to "reassert your authority" and move to enact immigration reform legislation "as soon as possible."

The national faith leaders expressed concern that, because of its inaction on this issue for several years, the federal government is implicitly transferring "unprecedented authority" to state and local governments to implement immigration policy, to the "detriment of our nation and our local communities."

[Faith Leaders' Letter to President Obama](#)

[Faith Leaders' Letter to Congress](#)

[USCCB Testimony to Senate Immigration Subcommittee](#)

[USCCB Amicus \[Friend of the Court\] Brief](#)

[Justice for Immigrants Action Alert](#) Give work authorization to immigrants who came to this country as young children.

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

Detention of Children

Every day thousands of children fleeing abuse, poverty, human trafficking and war are locked up simply because they do not hold the right documentation. Immigration detention has a devastating effect on the physical, emotional, and psychological development of children and must be stopped. A global campaign to end detention of these children was recently launched by the International Detention Coalition. This campaign has been endorsed by many groups, including the School Sisters of Notre Dame International Shalom Network. Individuals can also sign on. [Learn more](#) [Take action](#)
[petition](#)

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

The Farm Bill: What's in it?

The Farm Bill 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.

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

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

Common Ground Local Campaigns – Get Involved

[Common Ground of Southeastern WI](#) is a multi-county organization of diverse religious, labor, non profit, education and small business organizations dedicated to serving as an alliance which acts with power in the public arena for the common good. Common Ground works to make a major impact on the critical social and economic issues facing Southeastern Wisconsin.

Through Catholics for Peace and Justice you can get involved with these current Common Ground Issue Campaigns.

Milwaukee Rising – housing revitalization initiative that will rehabilitate and sell 100 foreclosed properties in the Sherman Park neighborhood of Milwaukee

Healthcare Cooperative – affordable and effective health insurance

Education – improve the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the Supplemental Education Services (SES) Tutoring Program

Contact Debra Schneider at info@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org for more information on how to get involved.

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

Voting Canvas – Ensure Every Voice Is Heard

20,000. That's the number of eligible voters in the Northside of Milwaukee that are unregistered. That's 20,000 voices not heard, and not being represented. The complications created by the introduction of the Voter ID laws, and the lawsuits that followed, have confused and discouraged many. We can help them through these present challenges, by educating them, and encouraging them to make it to the polls. It **just takes the will to dedicate at least an hour out of our time to make a phone call or approach a door to bring a few voices back to the ballot box.**

For the May 8th Gubernatorial Primary Election and the June 5th Gubernatorial Election, MICAHA will be canvassing areas at risk for low voter turnout. Help us restore the faith in Democracy by educating

citizens, and letting them know that they still can make a positive difference with a single vote. Email micahcivicengagement@gmail.com to RSVP yourself or a group for a Sunday afternoon canvass, or a Wednesday phone bank. You may also contact Jeremy at 262-620-5949.

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

Webinar CRS and USCCB on Reauthorizing the Farm Bill – May 2

Please join Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for an online Catholics Confront Global Poverty discussion on:

Reauthorizing the Farm Bill: What You Can Do to Prevent Hunger May 2, 2012, 1:00-2:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time Information on [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#) [Register for Webinar](#)

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

Medea Benjamin on NATO, Iran, Drones, and resisting militarism – May 3

Thursday, May 3, 7:00pm at UWM Union Room 191, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. A discussion with Medea Benjamin (co-founder of CODEPINK and Global Exchange) on NATO, Iran, Drones, and resisting militarism. Also, join Medea and Peace Action for dinner before her talk at Rio West Cantina (2730 N. Humboldt Blvd.) at 5:00pm. Call 414-964-5158 to reserve your seat!

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

Forum/book discussion of “Illegal” by Peter Geniesse - May 6

St. Richard's Parish, 1503 Grand Ave., Racine. Contact: Sister Joyce Quintana, jquintana@racinedominicans.org, 262-639-4100 for details and time.

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

At A Global Crossroads: Turn Against War – May 7

A Walk from Madison to Chicago to challenge NATO's occupation of Afghanistan. [Marching to Brookfield May 7](#) – Location Unitarian Universalist Church West - 13001 W North Ave, 6:00pm Potluck and Teach-In on Afghanistan and NATO by Kathy Kelly and Delegates just back from Afghanistan. The aim of the walk is to bring all NATO troops home safely, to prevent any more NATO involvement, no more drone strikes, night raids, to press NATO to fully fund reparations for Afghans following 11 years of warfare, to promote the Two Million Friends campaign - an effort by the Afghan Peace Volunteers to get 2 million friends to pledge to light a candle, hold a sign, write a letter, or take another action to remember every Afghan killed over 4 decades. **A request: Homes of hospitality in the Milwaukee area to overnight 1 or 2 walkers** in the Voices for Creative Nonviolence Walk from Madison to the NATO Meeting in Chicago are needed. For more information about the march contact [Voices for Creative Nonviolence](#): 773-878-3815. To volunteer hospitality, contact: Ann Heidkamp 441-771-8099 [FLYER](#)

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

NATO Potluck at Peace Action – May9

Wednesday, May 9, 6:30 pm, Peace Action, 1001 E. Keefe Ave., Join Peace Action in welcoming the people walking for change from Madison to the NATO Summit in Chicago. Bring a dish to pass and an idea to share. Sponsored by Voices for a Creative NonViolence, the Marquette Center for Peacemaking, and Peace Action Wisconsin. For more information, [Click Here](#) or contact Buddy at buddy@vcnv.org or call 773-878-3815

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

5th Annual Greater Milwaukee Fair Trade Crawl – May 12

Saturday, May 12, 2012, 10am – 5pm - What is the Fair Trade Crawl? Milwaukee will join with cities all over the globe to celebrate World Fair Trade Day and a “Fair Trade Break” to remember the producers who labor to bring us the foods and products we use daily. We will celebrate how fair trade helps fight modern day slavery and human trafficking all around the world. 20+ locally owned shops in the greater Milwaukee area will host World Fair Trade Day Celebrations. Crawlers will go from shop to shop to learn about the featured producers and enjoy special samples, sales and activities. For more information, follow “Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition” on facebook, or visit www.milwaukeeairtradecoalition.org . Know your producer Know your product. [FLYER](#)
[\[back to top\]](#)

Film “Strangers No Longer: Historic similarities? - May 21,

Short film “Strangers No Longer: Historic similarities? Causes and implications of global migration? by Fr. James Groody, 7 to 8 PM with discussion at St. Jude Parish Activity Center, 2nd floor, 734 Glenview Ave, Wauwatosa. Contact: Art Montgomery, amontgomery1@wi.rr.com.
[\[back to top\]](#)

“Come Laugh with Us! – May 22

World Mission Ministries and representatives from the Archdiocesan Sister Parish, La Sagrada Familia, invite you to join us the evening of May 22nd at ComedySportz Milwaukee for a special invitation-only show and catered buffet dinner. We will be celebrating our years of Sharing Faith and Friendship with our brothers and sisters in La Sagrada Familia. Reservations required and seating is limited. Visit www.archmil.org/parishes/Sagrada-Familia.htm or call 414-758-2280 for more information.” [Flyer](#)
[\[back to top\]](#)

Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee Day at Miller Park – July 17

Tickets - \$11.50, T-shirts \$6.00. Help support the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee and its interfaith dialogue, educational, environmental, peace and advocacy programs, while enjoying a Brewers game with your family, congregation or other group at a discounted price. Elevate your recreation to a higher plane by bringing a donation of food for the Hunger Task Force to the ballpark and raise public awareness that people of many faiths can come together in friendship by wearing an Interfaith "Going to Bat for a Better World" T-shirt. Deadline for ticket orders is June 15. [Event page and registration](#)
[\[back to top\]](#)

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

Reflection: Love and Truth

By Francis Pauc

....I don't think that our society is comfortable with love. As Americans, we are fiercely independent, sometimes self-centered, and often outspoken. I think that we prefer the word "truth". We admire the

person who "tells it like it is". We don't like a subtlety or nuance. We want it all to be in black and white. We are encouraged by our religious leaders to fight for the "truth". We are not shy about speaking our minds regardless of the consequences. If somebody's feelings get hurt because of our words, we can always excuse it by saying, " Well, it was true!"

The pursuit of truth without love is an ugly thing. I have been to many protests and demonstrations over the years. Some of them were protests against abortion, and some were protests against the wars. Quite often, I found very little love among the people that were gathered. I could sense the anger and the bitterness in the crowd, but very seldom did I feel any compassion or understanding. Single-minded zeal, even for a noble cause, can be very destructive.

Truth and love are not separate entities. Edith Stein explained it very well when she said, "You cannot have truth without love or love without truth. One without the other becomes a destructive lie." Our problem today is that we want truth without love. We want to be able to speak without listening. We want to judge others without showing compassion or empathy. We want to be right more than anything else. We seldom stop to ask the question that Pilate asked: "What is truth?", before we fight for it.

The other part of Stein's statement is also applicable to our times. We sometimes think that love is the same as complete tolerance, and that we can love others by turning a blind eye to the evil that they do. That is also an error. We are called to be prophets in our world, but we are called to be prophets with hearts that can understand the suffering in our fellow humans. We are called to correct and encourage; we have no right to condemn.....

[READ THE FULL REFLECTION HERE.....](#)

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

Prayer

From *Guerrillas of Grace, Prayers for the Battle* by Ted Loder

O Holy and haunting Presence

Whose spirit moves quietly but surely in the sound and fury of the world and of my life,
You know me as rushing water knows the rock and releases its beauty to reflect new light.

Open me to the insistent abrasiveness of your grace,

For I often trivialize love by abandoning the struggles which accompany its joys and rejecting the changes which lead to its fulfillment.

Release me from the dark fury of assuming I am unloved when the day calls for sacrifice and the night for courage.

Release me from the ominous fear of thinking some sin or failure of mine can separate me from you when life demands hard choices, and the battle, high risks.

Release me from the dangerous illusions of independence when the human family summons me to the realities and promises of interdependence among races, sexes, nations.

Release me from being possessed by riches I do not need and grievances that weary me when you call me to share my very self with neighbors

And to reflect for the world the light of the kingdom within me.

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