

Catholics for Peace and Justice

MAY 2013 Newsletter

Greetings!

There are two important issues that need your careful consideration and action – [Immigration Reform](#) and the [11x15 Campaign](#). As we write these words, legislators are positioning and decisions are being made. If you have not contacted your legislators in the past now is the time. If you already have contacted them, now is the time again. More on these issue campaigns are below.

AND...the planned [Keystone Pipeline](#) to be routed through WI is a concern we bring to your attention that has for many of us been flying well under the radar as we focus on so many other things. Margaret Swedish provides us a succinct explanation of the ecological impact of mining tar sands and transporting bitumen/crude across country, directly across WI and through our waterways.

Blessings on your ministry.



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Understanding the Proposed Senate "Gang of 8" Immigration Bill

National Immigration Law Center summary and analysis of the proposed Senate Bill S.744 – "On January 28, 2013, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators unveiled a framework for a future bill that, if enacted, would modernize our current immigration system as well as create a process for those living in the U.S. without authorization to apply to become U.S. citizens. The framework contains four basic pillars, which would put in place a new system for future immigration while addressing the needs of immigrants currently within the country." [Summary and analysis of S.744](#)

[Senate Immigration Reform Bill](#) including Border Security (Title I); Immigrant Visas (Title II); Interior Enforcement (Title III) [General Information on Immigration reform in 2013](#)

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Contact Your Legislators on Immigration Reform

[Click Here for the list of your Senate and House Representative](#) quick email links and phone numbers.

The Catholic Church supports these 5 basic elements for Comprehensive Immigration Reform:

1. Provide a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country.
2. Preserve family unity as a cornerstone of our national immigration system.
3. Provide legal path for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States.
4. The U.S. should treat asylum seekers, refugees, and other forced migrants with respect and dignity.
5. Address the root causes (push factors) of migration, like persecution + economic disparity.

Good explanations of the Catholic bishops' position on Comprehensive Immigration Reform can be found in [The Feb 12, 2013 testimony of Most Rev. Jose H. Gomez to the Senate Committee on Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#)

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Survey: Strong Catholic Support for Immigration Reform

"[Nearly eighty percent of Catholic voters support earned citizenship](#). Most Catholics support the bishops' call to respect human rights and dignity. Catholics need to contact their legislators".

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New Press Statements from U.S. Bishops Pushing for Immigration Reform

Consider sharing these statements from the U.S. Catholic Bishops, or portions there of, with your social justice groups, parish staff and parish members.

[USCCB President Says 'Now Is The Time' To Reform Immigration System](#) / Press Release: Cardinal Dolan
[Statement of Cardinal Timothy Dolan 4/20/2013](#)

[Statement of Archbishop Jose Gomez 4/20/2013](#)

[Statement of Bishop John Wester 4/20/2013](#)

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Immigration - Deport "Hate" YouTube Video

Brave New Foundation - The history and rejection of Immigration in the US. Good Film that puts rejection of immigration into perspective. ["The Top 5 ways anti-immigrant hate makes its way into media and policy."](#)

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The 11x15 Campaign – Action: Contact WI Legislators

The cost of Corrections in Wisconsin has risen from under \$200 million per year in 1990 to more than \$1.3 billion in 2011 – more than we spend on the entire UW Education system. There are effective options. Treatment programs are being proven effective every day in our state. Counties have established numerous programs: drug treatment courts, mental health courts, day report centers, universal screening, and more. We are learning, decisively and overwhelmingly, that alternatives to incarceration are effective by most any measure. 11x15 is a Wisdom network campaign supported by The Wisconsin Catholic Conference and the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

Learn More: Links to information at the Catholics for Peace and Justice website

Take Action: [Sign A Petition to Legislators](#)

[Write Your State Representative](#) to request increased funding for TAD programs to reduce the cost and rate of incarceration in WI.

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Alberta's Oil Tar Sands: Grave Threat to the Planet

From Margaret Swedish - [Spirituality and Ecological Hope](#)

In Alberta thousands of square kilometers of boreal forest have been literally scraped off the face of the earth in the quest for oil. The forests are removed along with the top layer of soil to get to the tar sands containing a sticky goo called bitumen, a form of crude oil. An area the size of Florida has been slated for bitumen mining by the Canadian government.

The industrial process is considered to be one of the most toxic and polluting on the planet. It uses huge amounts of energy and water, pours carbon dioxide into the atmosphere (a leading cause of global warming), and has caused death and disease among the human and wildlife communities anywhere in the vicinity. The water used in this process is laced with chemicals then stored in vast open pools so contaminated that birds mistaking them for fresh water have been known to land and die on contact. The Athabasca River, once pristine and pure, is now too dangerous to drink.

That is the nature of the oil that is planned to run through the Keystone XL pipeline, focus of fierce recent policy debates. It will run from Alberta across the midsection of the Great Plains all the way to ports in the Gulf of Mexico.

Here in Wisconsin, another section of pipeline is in the process of being developed. Called the Alberta Clipper, it would run from Alberta to Superior and across our state to Chicago and beyond. Another section would run from Superior across our northern border and Michigan's Upper Peninsula, then east to the deep ports of Maine.

It gets worse. Tar sands crude is already being shipped by rail across the Midwest. A recent derailment in Minnesota caused tens of thousands of gallons of bitumen to be poured out onto the countryside.

And there is still more. Plans are being considered to transport the oil by barge through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

All this is being planned with little if any input from the citizens of this state. That needs to change. Below are links to some websites with more information. Contact your members of Congress to express your concerns about these plans. And then contact the White House and ask President Obama to reject the Keystone XL. That decision is likely to come in the next few months.

Websites:

[Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society](#) ; [Sierra Club Canada](#) ; [Tar Sands Action](#) ; [Tar Sands Flyover: My](#)

[Memory Forever, stunning 6-minute video](#)

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Common Ground Core Team Meeting, Delegates Assembly and Update

The next Catholics for Peace and Justice Common Ground core team meeting will take place on July 16th at 4:30 pm at the Panera on at 15040 W Greenfield Ave Brookfield, WI 53005 [(262) 641-0550]. Contact Mary Kleist maryakleist@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Common Ground Fair Play - a campaign to foster greatness in public spaces. It is Common Ground's position that if public funds are used to build a new Bradley Center arena, then at least \$150 million of these funds must be used to improve Milwaukee County public schools athletic facilities and recreational spaces. [More information](#)

A CG Suburban/Rural Caucus will take place Tuesday, May 21st with an Issue Campaign Launch meeting 7:00 - 8:30pm at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, N88 W17658 Christman Rd, Menomonee Falls. Contact Mary Kleist maryakleist@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in attending.

CG Healthcare Education Seminars The [Common Ground Healthcare Cooperative](#) is sponsoring a series of seminars [\[List of Seminars Here\]](#) to explain the health insurance reform coming in 2014. The seminars are designed for individuals without insurance, self-employed individuals, small business owners and non-profit leaders. Topics for discussion include the new insurance exchanges (market places), subsidies for purchasing insurance, the individual mandate and other important issues.

Visit the Common Ground website at www.commongroundwi.org for more info on Common Ground.

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Wisconsin Blocks Bill for Gun Background Checks

[From JSOnline, April 18, 2013](#)

"In the wake of failed firearms legislation in the U.S. Senate, Gov. Scott Walker and a top Republican lawmaker made clear Thursday that GOP officials will also block similar legislation in Wisconsin to expand background checks on gun sales." "Walker said the state should focus on reducing violence by sticking to his budget proposal to expand funding for the treatment of mental illness." [Read the entire article.](#)

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Nuns "'Tainted by radical feminism'? More like 'living the Gospel'"

[From The National Catholic Reporter, Joan Chittister/From Where I Stand, Apr. 24, 2013](#)

"The BBC just called, an incident that in itself may well be a measure of the larger import of the situation. It's a strange moment in history: Suddenly everyone in the world, it seems, wants to know what is happening to the nuns and what they can do next. "Next," of course, means what they can do now that the Vatican is back to questioning both their intelligence and their faith." [Read more](#)

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Journey Towards Solidarity: Encountering Communities in El Salvador

Immersion opportunity - November 3-12, 2013 Application Deadline: June 15th. Trip Cost: \$1900. This mission immersion experience is open for any adult 18 years or older in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Participants will learn first-hand the effects that civil war, a persecuted church, economic injustice, and emigration can have on a country and its people and will come to understand these challenges and how Salvadorans are working in community on the issues of human rights, sustainable development, education, and health care. For more information on the El Salvador immersion trip, [See the archmil site](#) [click here for an informative flyer](#) or call 414-758-2283 to speak to Elizabeth Howayceck, International Mission Coordinator. You can also e-mail her at howaycecke@archmil.org.

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Jobs: Career TOOLS Conference

Are you 19 or older and unemployed? Transform and empower your job search at the Career TOOLS Conference

on Tuesday, June 25, 2013! Join us at the Archbishop Cousins Center, 3501 S. Lake Drive, Milwaukee 53235, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for this FREE, all-day career event, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Catholic Charities, and Cardinal Stritch University. The day includes more than 30 educational sessions and interactive workshops ideal for young adults, mature workers, long-time unemployed or individuals who have recently lost their jobs. Receive helpful feedback during one-on-one resume reviews and interview practice sessions, as well as other valuable sessions including: Work Smarter, Not Harder: A Wellness Approach to Getting Your Next Job, The Power of Spider Web Networking, LinkedIn For Beginners and the Essentials. Supporting organizations include 40 Plus of Southeast Wisconsin, Bell Ambulance, Inc., Direct Supply, Independence First, Interfaith Older Adult Programs, Manpower, Milwaukee Transitional Jobs Collaborative, Toastmasters (District 35 Speakers Bureau) and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Pre-registration required due to limited seating. [Admission tickets.](#) [Share a flyer with a friend and view the Conference at a Glance](#)
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Building Partnerships to Eradicate Modern-day Slavery

Modern-day slavery is one of the greatest human rights atrocities of our time. The scale and cruelty of this crime is truly unimaginable with an estimated 21 million people held in bondage through human trafficking every year. Every 30 seconds another person becomes a victim of human trafficking. Members of President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships presented him with our report of recommendations on how together we can scale our partnerships to counter modern-day slavery. [Learn more](#)
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Judge Orders Release of Names of SOA/ WHINSEC Graduates

In a rare reflection of judicial independence, United States District Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton from the Northern District of California ordered the Pentagon to release the names of who trains and teaches at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (SOA/WHINSEC), [Read more](#)
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EVENTS AND EDUCATION

Nonviolent Communication Weekly Practice Gathering – May 1

May 1, 2013 from 7pm to 9pm – Milwaukee Friends Meeting. The Nonviolent Communication group meets weekly to learn and practice specific communication skills that are beneficial to all your relationships. Join us to learn and practice this heartfelt communication style. Milwaukee Nonviolent Communication Practice Group meets every Wednesday from 7-9 PM at the Friends Meeting house in Riverwest - 3224 N Gordon Pl Milwaukee, WI. Ring the doorbell to be let in. NVC is a simple yet powerful methodology for communicating in a compassionate way that meets both parties needs. NVC is a way to communicate that leads us to give from the heart, to hear our own deeper needs and those of others.
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March for a Just and Humane Immigration Reform Bill – May 4

Join the New Sanctuary Movement at Voces de la Frontera on Wednesday, May 1st for the solidarity march. We are marching for immigration reform and for the rights of all workers. The march begins at 11:00 a.m. on South 5th Street, between W. Mineral and W. Washington Streets and ends at Pere Marquette Park on the west side of the Milwaukee River between Kilbourn and State Streets in downtown Milwaukee. For more information visit Voces at vdf.org or call 608-358-0565. History of the May 1st march: On May 4th, 1886 the Haymarket Riot occurred in Chicago. Mostly German immigrant workers were demonstrating and fighting for an 8 hour work day. The next day in Wisconsin the Bay View Massacre occurred. A group of mostly Polish workers gathered at St. Stanislaus Church to march to the Bay View rolling mill to demand an 8 hour work day. May 1 is known as international workers' day. In many countries, the working classes succeeded in making May Day an official holiday.
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Dreamers Deferred Action Workshops – May 4

Certain young persons are now eligible to apply for deferred action status. Come to a workshop to apply staffed by experienced immigration attorneys from an area nonprofit legal aid agency. Sponsored by: Hispanic Ministry of the

Archdiocese of Milwaukee. [Website](#) ; [Flyer](#).

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What is 11x15? "Am I my brother's keeper?" – May 5

Presentation on the 11x15 Campaign, Sunday, May 5 at 9:30 to 10:10 am [between the masses] you are invited to come and learn more about this important issue. Location: St. James Catholic Church Hall, W220N6588 Town Line Road Menomonee Falls. For info contact Debra Schneider djschneider@wi.rr.com .

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Together not Torn: Families Can't Wait for Immigration Reform! – May 8

The long-awaited senate bill for Comprehensive Immigration Reform has been introduced. The debate is vigorous. People of faith and other advocates are hopeful. Join the School Sisters of Notre Dame in an evening of prayer, study and discussion of the proposed legislation. Wednesday, May 8, 2013, 6 – 7:00 p.m. Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove (Use the entrance on Stephen Place, off Watertown Plank Road). The gathering will commemorate the Anniversary of the Postville, Iowa Immigration Raid where 389 immigrant workers were arrested and hundreds of families were torn apart and traumatized. Contact: Sister Barbara Pfarr, SSND ~ bpfarr@ssndcp.org ~ 414-841-2762 [Flyer](#)

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Marquette University Center for Peacemaking Spring Social – May 9

You are invited to the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking Spring Social. Friends, alumni and faculty will gather on Thursday, May 9, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Best Place, 901 W Juneau Ave. The Center continues to be the wellspring of work for peace and nonviolence at Marquette. Join us to celebrate our accomplishments, connect with friends and support peace. A ticket purchased for \$30 will get you 2 drinks and heavy appetizers. To get your ticket, email peacemaking@mu.edu or call (414) 288-8444.

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Fair Trade Crawl – May 11

World Fair Trade Day will be celebrated on Saturday, May 11, this year. More than two dozen socially conscious businesses in the Milwaukee area will host special tastings and educational activities as part of the 6th Annual Greater Milwaukee Fair Trade Crawl. Residents of Milwaukee, our nation's first Fair Trade City, will join thousands of people all around the world in taking a "fair trade break" on May 11th to celebrate Fair Trade, invest in their local economy and learn about how Fair Trade is helping to make the world a better place for artisans and farmers in developing countries. If you are going to go shopping for Fair Trade just once a year, make May 11 the day! Visit one store or crawl to as many as you like. Shoppers who identify the "featured product" at seven shops will receive a Fair Trade prize. More information, including a list of participating shops and this year's Fair Trade Passport, [can be found here](#) and at www.milwaukeefairtradecoalition.org . Be sure to mark your calendars for May 11, and we hope to see you there!

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Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Committee Meeting – May 21

Our Lady of Lourdes Social Justice Committee will be meeting on the third Tues of each month. The next meeting is May 21 at 7:00 pm at OLOL. We are interested in forming a southwest social just group and hope you can join us if you'd be interested in exploring this possibility with us. Nancie Chmielewski, who is a staff person at OLOL, (414-541-9470), will be sending out a notice and it will include a room # and an agenda before the 5/21 Mtg. If you have any questions please contact Nancie or Mary O'Connell Williams maryocwil@yahoo.com . We also would like to extend our apology to anyone who wanted to attend March's mtg. It had to be canceled due to circumstances.

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MRS/JFI Immigration Advocacy Day in Washington, DC – May 22

Come support efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform! The Advocacy Day is an opportunity for Justice for Immigrants points of contacts, CLINIC affiliates and other supporters of immigrants to be briefed on immigration reform legislation currently in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and then meet with lawmakers in

Washington, DC to advocate for immigration reform. [Advocacy Day Registration website: Flyer](#). Additional Contact: S. Josephe Flynn, Milwaukee Justice for Immigrants committee chairperson

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March Against Monsanto – May 25

On Saturday, May 25th, people are taking to the streets to express their disgust and outrage for Monsanto, the multinational corporation that is poisoning our planet and ruining our food supply. There will be marches happening in every major U.S. city and around the world in 135 events in 18 countries and counting. The event in Milwaukee will take place at 1 pm. Location is still being planned. [Go here for details and updates on location](#).

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Pax Christi USA 2013 National Conference – June 14-16

This conference is entitled, "Remembering the Past with Gratitude, Living the Present with Enthusiasm, Embracing the Future with Confidence and Hope," and will observe the 40th anniversary of Pax Christi USA. Speakers include Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Sr. Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB and Rev. Bryan Massingale, STD. There will be workshops and a visit to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for a prayer ritual. Location: the Sheraton Gateway Hotel at the Atlanta Airport in Atlanta, GA [More information and registration](#)

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Catholics for Peace and Justice Common Ground Core Team Meeting – July 16

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Jesuit Central Provinces Social Ministry Gathering - August 4-6

2013 Central Social Ministry Gathering will take place August 4-6, 2013 at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. The theme for the gathering will be "When did I see you? Jesuit Social Ministries: Friendship, Faith, and Frontiers." The Gathering will be for those connected with works of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in the Chicago-Detroit, Missouri, New Orleans, and Wisconsin Provinces, which comprise the Central region of the U.S. Jesuit works. For more on this gathering [see the Gathering website](#). Contact John Sealey (Wis. and Chicago-Detroit Provinces, Social Ministry Assistant at jsealey@jesuitswisprov.org with questions about the gathering.

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Interfaith Day at Miller Park – Save the date Aug 19

Join the interfaith community for the fourth annual Interfaith Day at Miller Park for an exciting 7:10 p.m. Brewers vs. Cardinals game on Monday, August 19, 2013. ALL faiths are welcome! We have blocked out seats for this game and will make it as simple as possible for you to purchase tickets and be seated with your congregation, friends and family. Keep checking our website at www.interfaithconference.org for information on when and how to purchase tickets. Until then, please SAVE THE DATE and plan to join us on Monday, August 19.

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REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Why? - Frank Pauc

Is the world more evil today than it was when Jesus walked the earth? I don't think so, but I don't think the world is any better either. Like a virus, evil has changed and mutated over the centuries. Sin is still sin. We just have more efficient ways of offending God and the other members of the human family. Jesus lived in a world just as wounded as our own.

I am often impressed by how compassionate Jesus was (is) toward sinners. With the exception of the self-righteous, Jesus rarely judged other people. Even on the cross, he asked his father to forgive the mob because "they know not what they do". Christ realized that even his murderers acted mostly out of ignorance. He understood their anger and fear and confusion. It grieved him, but he understood.

I see and experience evil in my life. I am not God, so often I cannot understand it. In the past, I have been

offended by acts of violence, and I have protested against some of these things. I have demonstrated against our country's seemingly endless wars. I've demonstrated against abortion and capital punishment. I've spoken out against the ill treatment of immigrants. I've played the prophet. Often I have been completely baffled about why people do terrible things. I haven't understood the reasons behind the acts. I haven't understood the motivations. Now I ask, "Why?"

For years I railed against the war in Iraq. I was so convinced that the war was wrong and that those involved in it were wrong. I was so angry about this act of aggression on the part of our country. Then our oldest son, Hans, joined the Army. He went to Iraq, saw combat, and he killed a man. Hans came home different. He came home changed. He suffered.

I understand why Hans joined the Army. I understand why he went to war. I still believe that the war was wrong. If anything, I believe it more now than I ever did before. But I'm not angry any more. I'm just sad.

When I look at injustice and oppression now, it is harder for me to identify the bad guys. I don't usually see people as evildoers any more. I see people that are ignorant or scared or foolish. That doesn't mean that what they do is right. Sin is still sin. Violence is still violence. It's just that I sometimes see the reasons behind that violence, and my anger dissolves into sorrow. It's hard for me to hate.

Why?

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A Reason to Be Alive – Joan Chittister

"Life is pure flame," Thomas Browne wrote, "and we live by an invisible sun within us." It is this invisible sun, this light within, this call to something worthwhile in life that is meant to dispel life's darkness. It gives us our reason to be. And it is this call to the fullness of ourselves that drives us on, that becomes our internal measure of worth and, in the end, it is, as well, the judge of our quality of happiness.

Life is not about having a job. Life is about responding to the great human call to make life more than a series of aimless occupations. A call is a sacred reason to be alive.

The spiritual value of discovering the star by which we are steering the entire rest of our lives shapes us both internally and publicly. It affects the way we feel about ourselves, it determines how we relate to others, it defines our place in the world, and it provides a sense of purpose to life. When those things are defined, the emptiness goes, the rootlessness goes, the capriciousness of life that eats away at the heart of us disappears. Days may be difficult after that, yes, but they at least have a sense of meaning. We are no longer simply spinning around in the space called our lives, fearful of the future, dissatisfied with the present. We are now going someplace for a reason larger than ourselves and feeling more humanly significant than simply self-important.

—from *Following the Path: the Search for a Life of Passion, Purpose, and Joy* by Joan Chittister

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