

Catholics for Peace and Justice

OCTOBER 2013 Newsletter

This past weekend I wanted to send my Christian representatives of Congress a copy of the Gospel story of Lazarus. As a society, and against the historical warning of the prophets, like the “rich man”, it appears that we are becoming more complacent about the poor – perhaps because there are just too many of them. In a country where we still believe that everyone can pull themselves up if they just work hard enough, I am reminded of the words “The poor can’t pull themselves up by their bootstraps, because they have no boots.”

Poverty is not just monetary. It includes depriving people of hope. The name Lazarus, in Hebrew meaning “God will help”, begs us to ask how we can “hear” the Gospel message that urges us to do something, to love enough, to break down the barriers and hurdles that stop the poor from having a chance at a life not fraught with misery. Whether an issue of over incarceration, SNAP funding, fair immigration law, or even availability of local transportation to get to a job; if we remove our blinders to “hear the word” - with abundant grace “God will help”.

October is Respect Life Month – In our reflection this month we offer an excerpt from John Paul II’s “Gospel of Life”

Blessings on your ministry



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A Big Heart Open to God: A Conversation with Pope Francis

The [September 30, 2013 issue of America](#) posted an exclusive interview with Pope Francis. The interview, which took place over the course of three meetings in August 2013, is long and worth reading in its entirety. Here Pope Francis expresses his views on everything from his view of himself as “a sinner”, to change in the church, the make up of the Church, women’s role in Church, and more. [Read Here](#)
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“Living a Spirituality of Action, A Woman’s Perspective”

Book Review by Joyce Radtke

“Living a Spirituality of Action” by Joan Mueller: While promoting the educational and social development of Sudanese refugees, and developing networks of people to help the poor, Joan Mueller, a Franciscan Sister of Joy, has written an activist’s book for women about serving the poor. Many of us are called to social justice and serving the poor, but we often get burned out. We often feel at a dead end of frustration and doubt. This book attempts to bring us back to what our ministry is based on: a deep spirituality.

The book is brief; only 9 chapters, about 88 pages, but it provides us with tools to inspire our ministries with the poor, and to nurture our own relationship with God. Each chapter contains a “Food for Thought” section of points for discussion or contemplation, and a “Prayer for a Mothered World.” These features make it appropriate for individual or group meditation. I found the book to be practical, yet inspirational. In one chapter, there is a self-assessment to assist the reader to decide how to use her unique skills.

I especially like the way Mueller interprets the Bible story about Martha and Mary. Martha seems to represent all the practical and productive women who would like some help, but never get it. In the book, Mueller says that Martha is doing a worthy task, just as worthy as her sister, Mary, but she’s losing control; she’s too upset. So the book brings us back to the joy and satisfaction of our ministry, whatever that may be. If we are depleted of grace, how can we offer it to others?

This book is recommended for individual or group reading and discussion.

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Immigration Reform – Need Your Support for “Interfaith Press Conference” Oct 14

On October 14-18 Congress will be out for the Columbus Day break and that week will be another excellent opportunity for Catholic dioceses and parishes to step up one more time to urge Members of Congress to advance immigration reform legislation. The Milwaukee Archdiocese Justice for Immigrants committee is coordinating and holding an Interfaith Press Conference on October 14 at 3:30 pm at St. John’s Cathedral, 812 N Jackson St Milwaukee. We need volunteers to come hold signs and show support for immigration reform during the press conference. Please join us and bring a friend! RSVP to Debra at djschneider@wi.rr.com
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Immigration Reform - Yes... More calls and emails please

We know you are all getting weary of this request. We know our legislators find it difficult to do more than one thing at a time. We know legislation for immigration reform continues to be pushed back; however, now is not the time to relent. JFI [Justice for Immigrants Campaign] is continuing to put pressure on Rep. Paul Ryan who has promised to work this issue through the House. Please support our and his efforts by contacting your U.S. House Representative and asking them to support comprehensive immigration reform legislation. ([A list of the representatives and their phone numbers can be found here](#))

It is important for Representatives to hear from their constituents that there is support for bi-partisan immigration reform that keeps families together and creates a path to citizenship. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and our local bishops in Wisconsin have long advocated for the enactment of comprehensive immigration reform legislation. In Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope, the U.S. bishops called for reform that included five elements:

- A path to citizenship for the undocumented population in the country;
- Reform of the family-based immigration system to reunite families—husband, wife, and children—more expeditiously;
- A future flow low-skilled worker program for migrant workers to enter and work in the U.S. safely and legally;
- The restoration of due process protections for immigrants; and
- Policies which address the root causes of migration--poverty and persecution.

Please phone or email your representative and ask them to support comprehensive immigration reform. Thanks for your continued support.

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11X15 Campaign for Safer, Healthier Communities – Next Steps

The 11x15 Campaign for Safer, Healthier Communities being led by Wisconsin’s faith-based community organization WISDOM has brought the desperate need for criminal justice reform to the attention of the state. After a long period of base-building and public education, nearly 200 leaders gathered in August to reflect, discuss, and lay the groundwork for an ambitious plan to build on the gathering momentum.

The new phase of the campaign will engage hundreds of leaders, from every part of Wisconsin, to attack the scourge of mass incarceration from many angles. The 2013-14 strategy calls for efforts that are local and statewide, short-term and “big picture”, affecting those in prison, those who have been to prison, and those who can be diverted from prison in the first place. There will now be four separate task forces covering the following areas:

- Wisconsin’s TAD (Treatment Alternatives and Diversion) program and other alternatives to incarceration
- Sentencing reform
- “In-prison” issues
- Post-release issues

As the 11x15 campaign has progressed, WISDOM has received hundreds of letters from inmates of Wisconsin prisons, and from others who have been involved in the criminal justice system. Excerpts from many of these can be found at www.prayforjusticeinwi.org. Many of the letters are quite moving, and many express the

sentiments of the 11x15 campaign in a far more powerful way than would be possible for anyone who has not lived the experience. As part of its mission to ensure that all voices are heard when public policy is made (especially the voices of those most directly impacted by the policy), WISDOM is working to compile many of those letters and put them into a booklet form. A separate committee of the 11x15 campaign will direct the “Stories from the System” book.

If you would like to participate in or learn more about the 11x15 Campaign, please contact Joel Gaughan at jgaughan1@wi.rr.com or 262-789-9736.

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Mend the Gap! Tools to Heal Wealth Inequality

From [Sept 17, 2013 Press Release](#) by [NETWORK](#): “NETWORK is deeply dismayed by our wealthy nation’s continuing inability to unite political will and dramatically lower poverty rates... As Sister Simone Campbell recently reminded the U.S. House Budget Committee, more than one-fourth of U.S. jobs pay wages below the poverty level. When you combine low-wage earners with the millions of unemployed and underemployed Americans, it is clear that cutting funding for responsible government programs only exacerbates the continuing crisis of poverty in our wealthy nation. And yet, that is what is happening. For example, congressional efforts to undermine the SNAP (food stamp) program are mean-spirited and not in keeping with American values. SNAP does more than any other program to lower the number of Americans struggling in deep poverty, that is, below half the poverty line. It deserves our full support. [Sign up to receive Weekly Mend the Gap! Emails in fall from Network Lobby.](#)”

Other good reads on this topic [“Just Picking On the Poor: The Facts and the Faces of Cutting SNAP”](#) by Jim Wallis Sojourners [U.S. Census Bureau Report on Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012](#)

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Punishment and Poverty – The Connection

[From America](#) “Ralph McCloud, the head of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (C.C.H.D.), said that sentencing guidelines harm minority communities by creating a disenfranchised class of American citizens that is increasingly unable to integrate back into society. He said that many C.C.H.D.-funded organizations report that reforming sentencing guidelines could be the best antidote to lessening poverty” [Read more](#)

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Common Ground Update

Looking for a way to be a part of Common Ground? Join us- Catholics for Peace and Justice Common Ground. We meet quarterly. Our next meeting is October 15th at 4:30 until 6:00 p.m. at Panera 15040 W Greenfield Ave, just east of Moorland Rd. Contact Mary Kleist at maryakleist@sbcglobal.net for more information.

CG Launches Suburban Rural Campaign: Common Ground launches a campaign to provide seniors, the disabled and workers better access to public transit on Sundays in Ozaukee County. On October 24, at 7:00pm, Common Ground’s Suburban/Rural Caucus will hold its first major action at the First Congregational Church in Port Washington. We will be inviting Ozaukee County officials to address our group and all Common Ground members are encouraged to attend and lend their support. Learn more about this campaign and Action. [Details here](#)

Common Ground Healthcare Coop: is open for business beginning with enrollment October 1 [More Info](#)
“If You Build It” film & Group Discussion with CG Leaders: Friday 10/4 at 2:30pm Fox Bay Theatre, Sunday 10/6 at 1:00pm Oriental Theatre, [Buy tickets](#): Join us at one of the showings as a part of the Milwaukee film festival and attend the discussion group directly after the film led by our own Fair Play Team Leaders Leslie Frick & Jeff Jordan.

Institutional & Congregational Growth Seminar: Wednesday, 10/16, 10:00am - 2:00pm, Mt Mary University - North Dining Room. Speaker Michael Gecan, Industrial Areas Foundation Director and author of several books and publications, most notably, *Going Public* and the pamphlet *Effective Organizing for Congregational Renewal*. [More Information](#). This event is provided for Member Organizations. You can attend as a Catholics for Peace and Justice member by contacting Mary Kleist at maryakleist@sbcglobal.net. Cost for non-members is \$25 per person.

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A Plea for Peace – Videos from Pax Christi National Conference

Watch the videos of keynote presentations by Bishop Gumbleton and Rev. Massingale! [Audio and video versions also available Here](#)

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Latest PEW Research on the XL Pipeline and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

A conundrum in thinking... “Most Americans (65%) continue to favor building the Keystone XL pipeline, perhaps the most politically contentious energy issue in Barack Obama’s second term. Yet when it comes to another issue making headlines – a proposal to tighten greenhouse gas emissions from power plants – the public favors stricter limits, by exactly the same margin as the Keystone pipeline (65% to 30%).” Clearly Americans are more astute about the impact of climate change and the increasingly hazardous state of our planet AND becoming more energy independent. Why are we not talking more about becoming an economic leader in sustainable energy solutions so we might impact jobs [thus economics and poverty] and our future environment? [Read here](#)

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Pollution Fears Grow in China

PEW Research reports that “the Chinese public is increasingly concerned about the quality of the country’s air and water after a year in which China experienced numerous high-profile environmental problems. Meanwhile, even though most Chinese have rated their national economic situation positively in recent years, there are also widespread concerns about the side effects of economic growth, such as rising prices and the gap between rich and poor.” [Read here](#)

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World Council of Churches Calls to Protect Climate Refugees

In order to build on its work for the protection of climate refugees, the World Council of Churches (WCC) joins an innovative campaign “[Postcards from the Frontlines](#)” aiming to achieve urgently needed recognition and protection for climate refugees around the world. According to reports millions of people were forced from their homes due to weather-related events in the year 2012 alone. Initiated by the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) in collaboration with ByPost, the “[Postcards from the Frontlines](#)” campaign allows people to [send a free postcard from phone or desktop](#), which will arrive as a real physical postcard at the United Nations secretary-general's office in New York, calling for action on climate refugees. The project aims to reach 100,000 postcards by Human Rights Day, 10 December, when a public response will be sought from the UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon.

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Gandhian Nonviolence — Oct 2

Dr. Lingam Raja will be the Soup With Substance guest on Wednesday, October 2, at noon in Holthusen Hall, Fourth Floor. October 2nd is Gandhi Jayanti, a national holiday celebrated in India to mark the occasion of the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the "Father of the Nation." The United Nations General Assembly announced in 2007 that it adopted a resolution that declared October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence.

Dr. Raja is a professor at the Gandhigram Rural Institute in India. Using Mahatma Gandhi’s revolutionary concept of ‘Nai Talim’ system of education, Gandhigram Rural Institute has developed a host of academic

programs in rural development, rural economics and extension education and more. Soup With Substance is free and open to the public. For more information, see the Center for Peacemaking website at

www.marquette.edu/peacemaking

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From Fair Trade Mexico, With Love – Oct 3

7pm at Four Corners Fair Trade Store, 5401 W Vliet St, Milwaukee, WI 53208- Stories, pictures and samples from Steve Watrous' tour of southern Mexico in July. The delegation, organized by Fair Trade Towns and Global Exchange, visited exporting coffee and handcraft co-ops in Oaxaca and San Cristobel, Chiapas. The group of 16 from around the U.S. heard and saw the difference fair trade was making in the lives of many Mexicans, visited business that may soon become fair trade, and traveled to other political and tourist sites.

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Nonviolence and Peacemaking in World Religions – Oct 3

Inter-Religious Summit - Thursday, October 3, 2013, 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, Raynor Library Beaumier Suites, Marquette University, Milwaukee. The one-day symposium on Nonviolence in World Religions will offer seven different sessions on peacemaking, nonviolence, forgiveness, and justice in seven major religious traditions. This symposium will give prominence to the transformative teachings and practices within each of the major world religions while helping us grow in our knowledge of how all faith traditions have the capacity to transform human consciousness and promote peace throughout the world. For more information and to register, [go to the Center's website](#).

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Community Conference 2013: The Art of Happiness with Dr. Parker Palmer – Oct 4

Friday, October 4: Join the entire Alverno community in exploring “happiness” through the lens of different disciplines and approaches. Keynote Speaker Parker Palmer, best known as the author of such books as Let Your Life Speak, The Courage to Teach, A Hidden Wholeness, and Healing the Heart of Democracy, Parker J. Palmer is founder and Senior Partner of the Center for Courage & Renewal. A world-renowned writer, speaker and activist, will speak from 11:40 am to 12:30 pm in Pitman Theatre. [More Information](#)

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National Day of Action for Compassionate Immigration Reform – Oct 5

The Racine Interfaith Coalition invites you to observe the National Day of Action for Compassionate Immigration Reform on Saturday, October 5. Please join us to celebrate a day of human dignity and respect for our immigrant sisters and brothers, beginning at 10:30 AM with a Prayer Vigil at Olympia Brown Church. We will then process to Congressman Ryan's office on 6th Street for an 11:00 AM Press Conference to affirm Ryan's leadership for immigration reform. Now is the time for our Congress and nation to fix our broken immigration system. [Flyer with More Details](#)

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How to Stop a War: Teach-In and Discussion on Preventing Military Action in Syria – Oct 8

A few weeks ago our nation was on the brink of yet another deadly military mistake. At the last moment, a threat of a U.S. missile attack against Syria was averted as the justifiable concern about chemical weapons moved away from a military incursion into a diplomatic process. The raging civil war has not yet stopped, but the massive outpouring of anti-war sentiment from people in every corner of the country and around the world prevented this new attack, and is helping to slow the flow of arms into Syria. Our victory was clear, but our work is far from over. Join a live-stream National Teach-In at [Peace Action Center](#), 1001 E. Keefe Ave. [Flyer](#)

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Rob Hopkins at Brew City Abundance Tour – Oct 15-17

Rob Hopkins, an independent activist and writer on environmental issues, based in Totnes, England, best known as the founder and figurehead of the Transition Towns movement, which he started in 2005, will be in Milwaukee for the Brew City Abundance Tour hosted by Transition Milwaukee. Oct 14-16. Hopkins has written three books in support of ecological community Transition: The Transition Handbook (2008), The Transition Companion (2011) and The Power of Just Doing Stuff (2013). Go to [Transition Milwaukee](#) for information on programs and tickets.

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Brown Bag “Buzz” sponsored by The EDGE – Oct 16

The Brown Bag Buzz is an opportunity to view a quality, thought-provoking film, then “buzz” about it with others while savoring your brown bag lunch and munching on a homemade dessert. We’re even willing to share the recipes! First film of the series: The Economics of Happiness; October 16, 2013; 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Email theedge@ssndcp.org or call 262-787-1011 to register.

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Fair Trade Kid's Day at Four Corners – Oct 19

Four Corners Fair Trade. 5401 W Vliet St, Milwaukee, WI - 10:30 am - 2 pm. It's never too early to learn about fair trade! Please join us for story hour at the store with crafts to follow. Open to all ages!

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Truth: The Testimonial of Sojourner Truth – Oct 19

Truth: The Testimonial of Sojourner Truth by Eric Cole will be performed by Marti Gobel, Artistic Director and Co-Founder of UPROOTED Theater Company on SATURDAY, Oct. 19th, 7pm at UUCW, 13001 W. North Ave, Brookfield. Tickets: Adults \$5 in advance at church office; \$6 at the door; children free. Both enjoyable and educational, Truth is a powerful drama, suitable for ages 8 and up, exploring the life and journey of Sojourner Truth, a slave woman who, after her escape with her small child from slavery in the early 1800s, searches for her identity as an abolitionist and women’s suffrage activist. You and your family will marvel as actor Marti Gobel, develops at least twelve different characters who influenced Truth's life and molded her into the person she became. Ms. Gobel is an acclaimed local performer who has appeared recently in productions by the Milw. Rep, Milw. Chamber Theater, Renaissance Theaterworks, and FirstStage Children's Theater. Uprooted Theater is a local not-for-profit theater that produces professional productions, readings, and educational programming that diversify Milwaukee's cultural landscape.

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Green and Glorious: Meet Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Prophet and Saint for Our Time! – Oct 19

October 19, 2013, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm, Holy Wisdom Monastery, 4200 County Road M, Middleton. Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) was an extraordinary woman, with a creative voice articulate in numerous fields. When few women could write at all, Hildegard not only produced major works of theology and visionary "illuminations," she also recorded her inspired use of the curative power plants, animals, trees and stones. Her journey of interior maturation and growth in spirit provides a compelling invitation and model for all contemporary spiritual seekers. Sister Gabriele Uhlein, OSF, Ph.D., is nationally known for her refreshingly practical spiritual perspectives, offering learning opportunities grounded in the wisdom of the Christian mystics as well as contemporary eco-spiritual thought both east and west. More information or to register Registration due October 11, 2013. Contact: Jamie Dunbar at jdunbar@benedictinewomen.org , 608-836-1631, x100

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Peace Project Presentations — Oct 24

Center for Peacemaking fellowships support individuals to work to transform structures and relationships to provide for the well-being of all. On October 24, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, the students will present their projects at Marquette University in the Alumni Memorial Union, room 252. Students develop valuable skills, knowledge, and experience while putting nonviolence into practice. For more information, check the Center for

Peacemaking website at www.marquette.edu/peacemaking or call 414-288-8444. The 2012-13 student fellowship recipients and the names of their projects are:

David Angel - Themes of Peace: Analysis of Interviews with Transnational Arab-American Muslim Youth
Mallory Daily - Crafting Confianza

Ciara McHugh - Mná Síochána: Women & Peace In Northern Ireland

Sally Nadeau - Peaceful Effects of Music and Dance in Pre- and Post-Genocide Rwanda

Marisola Xhelili - The Gandhi of the Balkans: Ibrahim Rugova's Strategy of Nonviolent Resistance

Jisun Yoo - Community Peacemaking through Public Health and Local Government Interaction

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Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition Event – Oct 25

At Olive Fine Organic Living, 2624 N Downer Ave: Celebrate Fair Trade Month with the Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition. Browse organic and fair trade clothing and booths from fair trade retailers around Milwaukee.

Sample fair trade wine and beer, snacks and more. Updated details will be

at <http://milwaukeefairtradecoalition.org/>

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Fracking: How It Affects A Neighborhood – Nov 5

A bit confused about the pros and cons of fracking? Wondering about the impact on our state? Plug into an expert, Kimberlee Wright. She is the executive director of Midwest Environmental Advocates and has been working statewide for more than twenty years on issues related to the protection of our natural heritage. Based on her experience, she believes that people care deeply about the rights of future generations to the air, land and water. November 5, 2013; 7:00-8:30pm, Urban Ecology Center: Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St., Milwaukee, WI.

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Poverty and Hunger in WI – Nov 9

Five years after the onset of the Great Recession, members of our communities and congregations continue to struggle with its aftermath, including unemployment, food insecurity, and poverty. Here are some opportunities to learn more and take action to help our neighbors in these difficult times: The Poverty Simulation helps participants to gain insights into the daily life challenges faced by low-income and poor citizens of Wisconsin
WHEN: Saturday, November 9, 2013, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm; WHERE: First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, WI; WHO: Co-sponsored by Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, PEPartnership, Inc., First United Methodist Church [More Information](#)

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Raw Reality - Alberta's Oil Tar Sands: A First Hand Experience of Environmental Impact – Nov 16

Saturday, November 16, 10 am to noon at the Urban Ecology Center 1500 E Park Place Milwaukee. In September local writer and activist Margaret Swedish traveled with 5 others along the Athabasca River from its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains to Alberta's Ft. McMurray to learn about the oil sands industry, its impacts on the environment, and to meet with elders of a First Nation community living downriver from the extraction zone. One of most environmentally damaging industries in the world, Alberta's oil sands project is expanding rapidly through North America. Wisconsin sits at the heart of plans for the refining and transport of tar sands oil. Come see and hear what she and others witnessed. Wisconsin is deeply implicated in the tar sands industry. From refineries to pipelines to rail and barge transshipment on our waterways, the tar sands are also a local issue. Read more at <http://riverpilgrims.net/> and at www.ecologicalhope.org . Margaret is available to lead presentations, group discussions, faith reflections, and retreats emerging from the narratives of this journey. Contact Margaret at mswedish@gmail.com 414-486-1464

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Join SOA Human Rights Activists at Fort Benning – Nov 22 to 24

Yes, it is that time again to make plans to join Peacemakers at the gates of Fort Benning the weekend of November 22 – 24th. Reservations are now available for your travel/lodging either by plane (leaving November 23rd) or bus (TBA). The good news – six countries have now announced will no longer send its soldiers to the School of the Americas (SOA/ WHINSEC). [What is School of the Americas and SOA Watch?]

If you are unable to travel to Fort Benning, please consider sponsoring someone who needs financial help for the trip, especially a young or a low income person. Now is the time to increase the strength of youth within movements for peace and justice! An MU student commented on the 2012 SOA Vigil, Let your voice be heard by contacting the President and your Congressional representative to encourage them to work for the closure of the SOA/WHINSEC. Flyer For more information contact Barb M. at 262 - 255 2062 or jandb@wi.rr.com
SOA Watch site www.soaw.org

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Reflection:

Excerpt from “[The Gospel of Life](#)” Pope John Paul II

[Humans are] called to a fullness of life which far exceeds the dimensions of [our] earthly existence, because it consists in sharing the very life of God. The loftiness of this supernatural vocation reveals the greatness and the inestimable value of human life even in its temporal phase. Life in time, in fact, is the fundamental condition, the initial stage and an integral part of the entire unified process of human existence. It is a process which, unexpectedly and undeservedly, is enlightened by the promise and renewed by the gift of divine life, which will reach its full realization in eternity (cf. 1 Jn 3:1-2).

Every person sincerely open to truth and goodness can, by the light of reason and the hidden action of grace, come to recognize in the natural law written in the heart (cf. Rom 2:14-15) the sacred value of human life from its very beginning until its end, and can affirm the right of every human being to have this primary good respected to the highest degree. Upon the recognition of this right, every human community and the political community itself are founded.

In a special way, believers in Christ must defend and promote this right, aware as they are of the wonderful truth recalled by the Second Vatican Council: "By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being".² This saving event reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16), but also the incomparable value of every human person.

"Whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, or wilful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others like them are infamies indeed. They poison human society, and they do more harm to those who practice them than to those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are a supreme dishonour to the Creator".⁵

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Prayer

From “[Living a Spirituality of Action](#)” by Joan Mueller

Holy Wisdom, Be Our Guide.

Holy Wisdom, Be Our Love.

Holy Wisdom, Come to Us

Let us pray for the wisdom to discern the truth, to keep our minds thinking even as our hearts move us forward.

Holy Wisdom be our guide

Let us pray for the wisdom to respect the authority of others, to obey boundaries even when they break our hearts,

Holy Wisdom be our love

Let us pray for the wisdom to be endlessly creative, to imagine new and original solutions,

Holy Wisdom come to us.

Holy Spirit, you who mother the earth with integrity, creativity, truth and wisdom, fill us with your gifts. Keep us light on our feet and gentle in our hearts so that we choose to move as you lead us. Help us learn to do the truth in love and in this way invite your goodness into our world. Amen