

## Catholics for Peace and Justice

### April 2009 Newsletter

This month the CPJ prayer and education groups once again are combining efforts to present a speaker on an important issue of social justice in combination with our monthly prayer services. At this month's **Prayer Service for Peace** our thoughts will turn to the very real issue of jobs and poverty. **David Fields from Project Return** and formerly of the Social Concerns office of the archdiocese will share his experience of working with those who struggling within our own community. In the city of Milwaukee upwards of 24% of families live in poverty, 50% of African American men are unemployed and we have the distinction of having one of the most segregated communities in the country. How can we bring a greater sense of peace and justice to our own community? Join us on **Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** for a time of sharing in prayer, education, and community to enliven us in the work we are called to do.

**Second** – Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** to attend the **Catholics for Peace and Justice General Meeting at the Sacred Heart Center**. The meeting is designed for networking and discerning focus for our organization. Please plan to attend. YOU are the Catholics for Peace and Justice! More on the meeting is listed below.

Peace and blessings



## Table of Contents

### General

[Prayer Service for Peace: Seeking Peace through Jobs and Education with David Fields – Thursday, April 23 2009 Peace Conference: “Cultivating Global Peace: Nurturing the Seeds Within” – Sunday, April 19](#)  
[Catholics for Peace and Justice General Meeting – Saturday, May 2nd](#)

### Actions

[Soldier's Angels](#)  
[Fast and Prayer for Peace - Wednesdays](#)

### Presentations and Education

[St. Sebastian's Human Concerns Book Discussion – Blessed Unrest by Paul Hawken](#)  
[The Green Habit Campaign – April 18](#)  
[Thomas Awiapo – Catholic Relief Services – April 1 and 2](#)

## Other Events

[The US and the Changing Global Order - April 2](#)

[Live Stations of the Cross in the North Side – April 10](#)

[Alverno College Discussions on the Middle East](#)

[Creating Communities – Waukesha County Affordable Housing Panel Discussion – April 22](#)

[No Private Armies - Stop Blackwater Conference – April 24](#)

## Prayer Reflections

[A prayer based on the writings of Archbishop Oscar Romero](#)

### **Prayer Service for Peace: Seeking Peace through Jobs and Education with David Fields - Thursday, April 23**

Our Church teaches the importance of changing the structures of society that lead people to, and leave them in situations of poverty and alienation; but to effectively change structures, we must first come to an understanding of how our actions and those of our community rob people of their dignity. Join us on **Thursday, April 23, 7 pm at St. Alphonsus parish** as we pray for peace in our community and hear **Speaker David Fields** share his experience of working with the poor and alienated in our community.

David is currently with Project RETURN (Returning Ex-offenders To Urban Realities and Neighborhoods), an interfaith ministry which exists to help men and women who have experienced incarceration make a positive, permanent return to community, family and friend; and was formerly with the [Archdiocese of Milwaukee](#) department of Social Concerns.

St. Alphonsus is located at 5960 W. Loomis Rd. in Greendale

[Map](#)

**May Prayer Service date and location will be announced soon.**

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

### **2009 Peace Conference: “Cultivating Global Peace: Nurturing the Seeds Within” – Sunday, April 19**

**Save the Date for Sunday, April 19th, 2pm - 5:30 pm** for the annual greater Milwaukee peace conference to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church West at 13001 W. North Ave. Brookfield. The conference is free and all are invited to attend. Catholics for Peace and Justice is co-sponsoring this event.

#### **Featured Speakers:**

**Philip Chard**, Psychotherapist & Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel columnist, will speak on “War's Unseen Wounds: The Impact on Psyche and Soul”. Chard will examine the psychological and spiritual wounds that war inflicts on both individuals and our collective psyche and culture.

**Dr. Robert Ricigliano**, Director of the UWM Institute of World Affairs and UWM Peace Studies Program, will share his experience with international conflict mediation and creating conditions for peace.

**Plus**, we will have speakers on local efforts to empower people to act collectively for peace and justice.

**Major Sponsors:** Candlelight Coalition, Unitarian Universalist Church West, and Catholics for Peace and Justice [Flyer for the Conference](#)

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

## **Catholics for Peace and Justice General Meeting – Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Catholics for Peace and Justice** will be holding a **General Meeting** on **Saturday morning, May 2nd from 9 am until 12 noon** at the Sacred Heart Center, Room 203 at 1545 S. Layton Blvd. [the south end of the St. Joseph Center at 27<sup>th</sup> and Layton].

The purpose of this meeting is to engage in **Networking, Discussion and to Set Focus for our organization**. All are invited and needed to make this meeting a success.

Please reserve the date and join us.

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

## **Soldier's Angels**

### **From Jim Gill**

Looking for a way to support individuals in the military while still holding your convictions to be peacemakers? Soldier's Angels is a program that allows you to "adopt" someone on active duty. Your commitment is to send letters, cards, emails and "care packages" a couple of times a month. My current "adoptee", my fourth, upon seeing my email address from St. Mary, Waukesha, where I serve as DRE, has asked about becoming a Catholic, and is now a long-distance RCIA Inquirer! You never know how you may influence someone in small, or big, ways. For more information, visit [www.soldiersangels.org](http://www.soldiersangels.org) or contact me at 262-547-6555 x306 or [jgill@stmarywk.org](mailto:jgill@stmarywk.org).

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

## **Fast and Prayer for Peace**

### **From MU Peace**

Dear Peace Makers,

If you believe that to make peace we must first stop teaching war in our schools, please join us on Wednesday during Lent as we silently witness and pray for Marquette to "[Teach War No More](#)". Marquette University is the only school in the greater Milwaukee Metro area to teach war and all the values, principles, tactics and methods that come with war in its curriculum. Marquette teaches war for students from 14 local colleges and universities. For location contact [MUPeace@nonviolentcow.org](mailto:MUPeace@nonviolentcow.org). After Easter there will be other actions to stop teaching war in our schools.

Contrary to some of our supports and detractors we are NOT trying to eliminate the ROTC programs at Marquette any more than we are trying to eliminate the ROTC programs at UWM, Harvard, Alverno, MSOE and Concordia University, all of which have ROTC programs but do not teach war on campus. We simply believe that before we can make peace we must stop teaching war in our schools. For a more detailed explanation please see the draft of the essay [To Make Peace Stop Teaching War](#).

Green Peace, Bob Graf 414 379 4162 [www.nonviolentcow.org](http://www.nonviolentcow.org)

"I have long since come to believe that people never mean half of what they say, and it is best to disregard their talk and judge only their actions." — Dorothy Day, 1952

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

## **St. Sebastian's Human Concerns Book Discussion – Blessed Unrest by Paul Hawken**

### **From Dorothy Bunke**

"Blessed Unrest: How the largest movement in the world came into being and why no one saw it coming." by Paul Hawken. "Blessed Unrest is the story of what is going right in this world, an account of how people use imagination, conviction, and resilience to perform daily miracles of redefining our relationship to the environment and to one another." This seems a fitting follow-up to Margaret Swedish's book "Living Beyond the End of the World."

St. Sebastian Parish House, 5400 W. Washington Blvd., Milwaukee

**Thursdays April 16 and May 21 at 7:00 P.M.**

Discussion Leader - Mary Carian

If more details are needed call 414-771-2972.

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

### **The Green Habit Campaign – April 18**

**From S. Lillia Langreck**

“Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.”

- The Earth Charter: “The Way Forward”

Mark your calendars for a Green Habit Campaign you won't want to miss - **Saturday, April 18th in Blessed Savior Hall** (8607 W. Villard) **2:30 - 3:45.PM** It will be a way to celebrate the new life of Easter and think spring. The presentation will be given by Tim Dewane, coordinator of SSND Global Justice and Peace Commission.

The Green Habit Campaign is an initiative of the School Sisters of Notre Dame Green Team to recognize and promote sustainable living practices. The basics of the campaign are very simple – to identify our existing green habits, hold them up so we may inspire each other, and see what a difference we can make together!

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

### **Live Stations of the Cross in the North Side – April 10**

Via Crucis Viviente en el Lado Norte y en el Lado Sur

Live Stations of the Cross, are sponsored annually by the Hispanic Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

In the North Side,

This year, they will begin at 12:00 p.m. at St. Casimir, 2600 N. Bremen St. and end at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1927 N. 4th St.

In the South Side

This year, they will begin at 3:15 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 2114 W. Mitchell St. and end at St. Josaphat Basilica, 2333 S. 6th St.

For more information visit the Archdiocese website at

<http://www.archmil.org/events/ShowEvent.asp?ID=6507&date=4/10/2009> or

<http://www.archmil.org/events/ShowEvent.asp?ID=1067&date=4/10/2009>

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

### **Thomas Awiapo – Catholic Relief Services – April 1 and April 2**

**From Michael Stratton**

Catholic Relief Services [CRS] - the real story behind the Rice Bowls - on **April 1st at 7:15 pm at Mother of Good Council, Church Hall, 6924 West Lisbon Ave**, the UC Cluster Social Acton Committee will be hosting Thomas Awiapo (Ah-wee-ah-po). Thomas is from Ghana and works for CRS. He will share his story of life in his home country, being orphaned, barely surviving and how CRS helped him to become educated and able to give back to society. His inspirational story and profound message is worth hearing and sharing.

#### **Thursday, April 2 - St. Joseph Center, San Damiano Room, 1501 S. Layton Blvd.**

Meet the Face of Operation Rice Bowl - Join us for a social and light refreshments from 5:00 - 5:30 pm  
5:30 - 6:30 pm, presentation by Thomas Awiapo, from Catholic Relief Services in Ghana.

A repeat of the presentation from will take place 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm

A wonderful opportunity to learn first hand how CRS transforms lives - especially for parishes participating in the Rice Bowl program.

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

### **The US and the Changing Global Order - April 2**

George F. Kennan Forum on International Issues. Institute of World Affairs - UWM Center for International Education

#### **Pabst Theater - April 2, 2009, 4 - 6 pm.**

Join the Live Broadcast on Wisconsin Public Radio - 90.7 FM (WHAD)

#### **Featured Panelists:**

Thomas Donnelly - Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute

Nina Hachigian - Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress

Moderated by: Ben Merens - Wisconsin Public Radio

Admission: Free for Institute of World Affairs Members, UWM Faculty & Staff, WPR Member, MPTV Members, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Members, and ALL area students

\$5 for the General Public. For more information and registration: <http://www.iwa.uwm.edu> 414-229-3220

Co-Sponsored by: Brady Corporation, Ideas 90.7 WHAD – Wisconsin Public Radio, Midwest Airlines, MPTV – Milwaukee Public Television, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Stanley Foundation, US Bank

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

### **Alverno College Discussions on the Middle East**

#### **"Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran" – Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**

Lively discussion of Roya Hakakian's best-selling book "Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran." Hakakian's moving memoir recounts her past as a girl growing up in the second largest Jewish community in the Middle East -- Tehran -- during the takeover by the Ayatollah Khomeini. She vividly paints pictures of a changing Iran -- from what at first seemed like an exciting liberating revolution in 1979 to what evolved as a reign of religious persecution, censorship and political strife. Alverno College professors Zohreh Emami and Amy Shapiro will facilitate the discussion. This event is offered by the Institute for Educational Outreach. This book is available in the Alverno Bookstore (414-382-6334). Fee: \$25. Call 414-382-6200 for information.

#### **Alverno Debate, "Our" Middle East/Whose Middle East? Official Versions/Historical Perspectives, Thursday, April 23, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

No part of the world seems to bewitch or bewilder us Americans as much as the Middle East. Arguably, there are probably more divergent perceptions and misperceptions about this part of the world than any other geographic area. The one thing many of us agree on is the need to better understand the people, politics, history and culture of a region that has become so intertwined in our own fate and fortune. Join us for an intriguing and engaging evening of discussion among panelists who have exceptional expertise and familiarity with the Middle East. Program is free and open to the public.

Alverno Event Calendar [http://www.alverno.edu/news\\_events/calendar.html](http://www.alverno.edu/news_events/calendar.html)

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

### **Creating Communities – Waukesha County Affordable Housing Panel Discussion – April 22**

Panel discussion on current affordable housing efforts and what more could be done with a Waukesha County Housing Trust Fund. Panelists will be:

- Bernie Juno Executive Director, Hebron House of Hospitality

- Bill Perkins Executive Director, WI Partnership for Housing Development
- Ted Romberg President, Community Land Development Association
- David Weiss CEO, General Capital Group

Light snacks will be provided

### Wednesday, April 22, 2009

5:30-7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

300 Carroll St., Waukesha (additional parking available at the Library)

Please preregister with Heather Dummer Combs, [heatherdc@interfaithconference.org](mailto:heatherdc@interfaithconference.org) or 414-276-9050. [Flyer for Event](#)

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

### No Private Armies - Stop Blackwater Conference – April 24-27

The following information was provided last month at a presentation on Blackwater (Xe) at Marquette U "No Private Armies" website [http://www.noprivatearmies.org/take\\_action.html](http://www.noprivatearmies.org/take_action.html)

Catholic Worker and Clearwater Conference With Keynote by Jeremy Scahill Author of the NY Times Bestseller "Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army." He is also a journalist with "The Nation" and with Democracy NOW! This new Blackwater (Xe) location is at the Wisconsin border near the Mississippi.

We have been aware of the School of the Americas and now the rise of private armies [mercenary forces] as another threat.

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

### Prayer Reflection

#### A prayer based on the writings of *Archbishop Oscar Romero*

God did not make us for suffering.

If we fast or do penance or pray during Lent,  
it is for a very positive end:

By recognizing our own fear and greed,

By overcoming self,

One achieves the Easter Resurrection.

We do not just celebrate a risen Christ distinct from us,

But during Lent we prepare ourselves

To rise with Him to a new life

And become new persons.

Let us not just talk about new structures—

New structures will be worthless

Without new persons to shape and direct them,

And without new persons

To live out the dynamic of peace and

To embody the energy of love in their communities

And in the global community.

Lord, Renew us.

Amen.

by Jane Deren

[www.educationforjustice.org](http://www.educationforjustice.org)

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



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