

Catholics for Peace and Justice

AUGUST 2009 Newsletter

I need to apologize in advance for the length of this newsletter, but there are so many great people in our community doing good things in faith toward bringing change to this world.

As we all continue to ramp up for fall, I'd like to challenge each one of us this year to take a risk by inviting and bringing new faces - new people – even just one - to every action, presentation and prayer service we attend. There are numerous opportunities to expand our ministries.

Let's commit ourselves to reach and teach beyond the choir – “the usual suspects” who we see on either side of us at each event. Through faith, prayer, education, and especially the grace of God, we can by reaching out beyond our comfort zone “Make a Difference”.

Reminder: Our next prayer service will be in September. In August, we are asking that you join in collaboration with other justice groups in our area and the nation for an **Immigration Summit** sponsored by MICAH that will take place on **August 6 at Ascension Lutheran Church**. More information on the National Campaign to “Reform Immigration for America” and the Summit are below.

Peace and blessings
Debra



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Campaign To Reform Immigration For America – August 6

The Campaign to Reform Immigration for America is a united national effort that brings together individuals and grassroots organizations with the mission to build support for workable comprehensive immigration reform. The campaign connects people from communities across the country who are ready to work together towards achieving the 279 votes needed to win just and humane comprehensive immigration reform legislation: 218 votes in the House of Representatives, 60 votes in the Senate, and one signature from the President.

Catholics for Peace and Justice is supporting advocates and leaders from our community to work toward reforming immigration law in our country. We ask that you read about the national Campaign to Reform Immigration for America at their website www.reformimmigrationforamerica.org.

A statement of their "Principles of Immigration Reform" can be found here
<http://www.immigrationforum.org/images/uploads/Campaign/Cabbott/PrinciplesCampaignLaunchFinal.pdf>

Catholics for Peace and Justice asks that you plan to participate in Micah's **Immigration Summit on Thursday, August 6 at 7pm at Ascension Lutheran Church** located at 1236 S Layton Blvd in Milwaukee

Go to www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org for links to important information about immigration and immigration reform.

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Each Small Act of Peace – Vets for Peace

From Dennis Johnson

It is not given to us to know which acts, or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good. What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take "everyone on Earth" to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale.

Clarissa Pinkola Estes

Believing we as a people had learned something from the sins of Viet Nam was a naive mistake on my part. After I came home from the war I wanted nothing more than to forget the horror I experienced and to live a normal life. Buying my cars and TVs like I was told to do, I hid from the ghosts who pleaded with me to pay attention. Then once again mothers were told to send their sons and daughters off to be sacrificed and once

again another generation of veterans are coming back to face the same guilt, nightmares and self doubt that I have lived.

The men and women of the military volunteer to defend their country, community and loved ones. Most of us were taught the difference between right and wrong, but in the insanity of war, things happen that will test your obedience to conscience and bring you to question your own soul. Veterans who without any mental or spiritual healing come back to this country to the faded yellow ribbons, unemployment, broken family and social support which can lead to the frustration, anger and isolation that bring many veterans over time to disconnect with society and leads to a life of homelessness.

After forty years I am beginning to find peace within myself. In so doing I can give of my time and resources to help the homeless and returning veterans of these conflicts. By advocating, mentoring and helping them deal with their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual wounds, just maybe peace can begin spreading from the bottom up, one person at a time.

Veterans for Peace has a Volunteer Program that assists homeless and returning veterans with transportation needs. If you would like to make an impact on the life of a single veteran and start building a peaceful world one person at a time, please contact me. **We are putting together a pool of volunteers who would be available to take veterans to scheduled appointments.** The number of returning veterans is rising and the Department of Veterans Affairs is stretched to the limit. The need to help veterans find a meaningful place in society is ever growing.

Insignificant as this small act of helping someone get to a doctors appointment may seem to be, for the veteran just knowing there is another person in this world that cares makes it easier facing another day.

More information on Volunteer Program www.milwaukeevfp.org

Dennis Johnson
Director Homeless Veterans Program
dennis@milwaukeevfp.org
414-810-0655



'Freedom IS Free', for it's a Gift Within! Find It, Feel It, Use It!!

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Check Here for Your Legislator's Statements on Healthcare Reform

Below are opinions expressed by your legislators on healthcare reform. Some statements are responses to direct inquiries, others are from representatives websites. If you have a direct response you'd like to share, send it to us and we will post it to our website. And don't forget to contact your legislators to express your opinion!!!

Senator Kohl/ [Direct response](#)

Senator Feingold/ [Direct response](#)

Congresswoman Moore/ Website: http://www.house.gov/list/press/wi04_moore/pr090714healthcare.html

Congressman Petri/ Website: <http://petri.house.gov/issues/health.shtml>

Congressman Ryan/ Website

<http://www.ryanforcongress.com/site/Viewer.aspx?iid=23128&mname=Article&rpId=3846>

Congressman Sensenbrenner/ [Direct response](#)

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New Rule: Not Everything in America Has to Make a Profit

An article from Bill Maher. <http://informationclearinghouse.info/article23135.htm> on war and healthcare reform. [Thanks to Tom Moore for passing this article on]

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An Environmental Challenge – 350.org – October 24

What is the challenge? To reduce carbon emissions to 350--as in parts per million, the level scientists have identified as the safe upper limit for CO₂ in our atmosphere. But 350 is more than a number--it's a symbol of where we need to head as a planet. This December, world leaders will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark to craft a new global treaty on cutting emissions. The problem is, the treaty currently on the table doesn't meet the severity of the climate crisis--it doesn't pass the 350 test.

350.org is an international campaign dedicated to building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis--the solutions that justice demand - to inspire the world to rise to the challenge of the climate crisis--to create a new sense of urgency and of possibility for our planet. In order to unite the public, media, and our political leaders behind the 350 goal, 350.org is coordinating a planetary day of action on October 24, 2009 to send a clear message to world leaders: the solutions to climate change must be equitable, they must be grounded in science, and they must meet the scale of the crisis.

Consider what actions your environmental group can take on October 24 to educate the public and our leaders on climate change. Go to www.350.org for more information and a list of actions that are planned around the world.

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Common Ground U and Buy A Shirt - Make A Difference

From CPJ Common Ground

Common Ground is a broad-based organization of organizations in Southeast Wisconsin whose leaders and members come from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural and political backgrounds. What they share in common is the desire to achieve positive changes in our community. It exists to build and support an organization to address Greater Milwaukee's critical social issues in an effective, non-partisan way. By listening to over 1,400 people discuss their concerns including health care, education, jobs and economic development, crime, mental health, youth activities, immigration and housing Common Ground has prioritized areas of concern and developed initial action campaigns to address various aspects of these issues.

Common Ground U - Leadership Institutes teach volunteers the basics of organizing. Next Common Ground U classes: Track 1: Tuesdays, October 6, 13 and 20 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at St. Anthony on the Lake in Pewaukee. Track 2: Saturdays, November 7 and 14 from 8:15 am to 1:00 pm at Greater New Birth Church in Milwaukee.

To get involved in Common Ground contact us at info@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org Common Ground Website: www.commongroundwi.org

By buying a shirt, you are helping fund future OnRamp programs.

This Spring Hanson Dodge Creative, one of our active cohorts in the Youth Jobs Campaign of Common Ground, hosted a student internship program in creative design called OnRamp for students from Milwaukee's Community High School. As a part of the program the youth created t-shirt designs focused around life here in Milwaukee. These creatively designed T-shirts are now available for purchase

Visit the OnRamp site and buy your favorites: http://www.onrampmke.org/buy_a_shirt/ or If bricks and mortar stores are more your thing, you can buy them @ Brew City Apparel at Grand Avenue Mall in Milwaukee starting Monday, July 27th. Here's where they're located: <http://maps.google.com/maps?oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&q=brew+city+store&near=Milwaukee,+WI&fb=1&split=1&gl=us&view=text&latlng=5653876217324344787>

Learn more about OnRamp: <http://www.onrampmke.org/>

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Marquette University Peace Action Letter on Hosting Military Departments and Response

From Bob Graf

Dear Friends of Peace,

In our forty plus years of resistance to the military at Marquette University we have landed a response from a renowned moral theologian at Marquette to the moral issue of Marquette hosting military departments. In response to the [Letter to Teachers of Morality and Ethics at Marquette University](#) Professor Dan Maguire has responded. His statement of can found at

<http://www.nonviolentworm.org/NonviolentActions/StatementAboutMilitaryOnTheMarquetteUniversityCampusByDrDanielMaguire> .

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Parish Education: Engage! Putting Social Teaching to Action

From CPJ Education Group

Our Catholics for Peace and Justice mission continues to include spreading the social teaching of the church to local parishes. The Catholics for Peace and Justice workshop called "Engage! Putting Your Faith into Action" is designed for parish councils, human concerns committees, Christian formation teams and other adult groups seeking to understand and engage the social teaching of the Church.

Through presentation, discussion, and application this interactive workshop educates and challenges parish members to understand the foundation of our social teaching and opens them to the process of integrating social justice into every aspect of parish and community life. The program is provided by CPJ, tailored to the needs of your parish, and is offered at no cost – however donations are welcomed!

Contact Barb Schultz at cpi@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org for more information. We encourage you to spread the word about the program to your parish community and staff.

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"Caritas in Veritate" - Webinar on Pope Benedict's Encyclical – August 12

Sponsored by Archdiocese

The Archdiocese Social Justice Ministry and John Paul II Center are hosting a free webinar on Pope Benedict's XVI's Encyclical, Caritas in Veritate. What is its message and how can we live Charity in Truth in our parishes?

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 10:00 am – 11:30 pm

The Webinar will be facilitated by Rob Shelledy, Coordinator of Social Justice Ministry. **Register in advance** at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/821818986> Then on August 12, watch the webinar from your work or home computer. (After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining

the Webinar.) Participate using a PC with speakers/mic or with PC and telephone connection for the audio portion.

Pope Benedict XVI's third encyclical, Caritas in Veritate ("Charity in Truth"), was issued on July 7 and addresses social and economic challenges of today including the current economic crisis, poverty, globalization, personal and corporate ethics, the environment, and technology. The webinar has two parts. The first is a summary and analysis of the pope's latest encyclical message presented by Rob Shelledy. The second part is a panel discussion on how to use Caritas in Veritate in individual reflection, religious formation, and Catholic Social Action. The session's goal is to assist parish staff and leaders in their promotion of "courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace."

Programs for all parish leaders and the general public will be held on the evenings of Tuesday, October 13 and Thursday, October 15. Locations and presenters for these programs have not been finalized.

The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops also has information on this encyclical which you might find helpful: <http://www.usccb.org/caritasinveritate/> and at <http://www.usccb.org/jphd/caritasinveritate/>. The encyclical can be found at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html. A more print friendly version can be found on our website at <http://www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org/22.html>.

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Marquette Center for Peacemaking Nonviolence Retreat – August 30

From Fr. Simon

The Center's beginning-of-the-year Nonviolence Day-Long Retreat will be held on Sunday, August 30th at the Alumni Memorial Union Chapel at Marquette, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. At 4:45 there'll be the Mass for that Sunday.

The Retreat will be directed by Kathy Coffey-Gunther from the Marquette University Faber Center. Ms. Coffey-Gunther will offer, and invite us to reflect on, the spiritual resources and insights we need to overcome structural and personal violence toward women. All are invited.

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The Natural Step Discussion Circles Begin September

Natural Step discussion circles are now forming to begin in fall. The Natural Step [TNS] is a model for sustainable practices used by countries, communities and businesses in developing policies and practices towards sustainability. Well over a dozen communities in Wisconsin have adopted The Natural Step as their model.

The discussion circles will begin in September and run for 10 weeks. Participants will focus on issues of sustainability including the TNS framework, renewable resources, transportation, green buildings, economic development, food, waste, land use, and working with government to effect change. Circles will use the book The Natural Step for Communities and use a discussion format similar to Northwest Earth Institute programs.

Circles will take place in the following locations

Greendale – Contact Carole Engel at 414-423-0632 or carolegeddes@gmail.com

City of Waukesha – Contact Deb Schneider at 414-550-2167 or djschneider@wi.rr.com

Oconomowoc – Contact Deb Schneider at 414-550-2167 or djschneider@wi.rr.com

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“Frontline: Ghana: Digital Dumping Ground”

As last months digital television conversion made tens of millions of analog TV's obsolete, and Americans continue to trash computers and cell phones at alarming rates, Frontline/World presents a global investigation into the dirty secret of the digital age – the dumping and dangerous recycling of hundreds of millions of pounds of electronic waste across the developing world. The report also uncovers another byproduct of our disposable culture – data fraud, as thousands of old hard drives are finding their way into criminal hands. Read about the ecological and ethical issues of Electronic waste and Watch the entire program at <http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/ghana804/>

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Four Corners Fair Trade - New for Summer

From Mike Howden

If you haven't been to the Four Corners of the World recently, it is the perfect time to stop in and see what's new. We have all sorts of items to decorate your home, your party, your patio, or even yourself! Treat yourself to a piece or two of summery clothing. Newly arrived retro dresses in two different patterns from Global Mamas in Ghana.

Accessorize with a natural fiber bag or purse. We have quite a selection of coin purses made from all sorts of materials including trash from strawberry ice cream.

Check our new selection of clothes and toys for our youngest customers: a rainbow of dresses for little girls, Monkey T's, baby carriers and bibs made of hand blocked prints by Global Mamas in Ghana, and cute sock critters from Maggie's Organics.

We have great gifts for many occasions. Stone sculptures are perfect for the wedding or anniversary couple or choose from our many unique home accents. This is a great place to pick up presents for your wedding party as well. Looking for a little thank you gift for someone wonderful? You will find something fantastic here. Whether it's a birthday, hostess, or housewarming gift, you can know that your purchase will help people all over the world. As always, we carry coffee, chocolate, teas and jams. We now offer dried fruit from Cameroon, and green olives and olive oil from Palestine.

If you're out for a walk or running some errands, stop in and check us out. We can offer you a visual overload and fun conversation.

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St. Vincent de Paul Society 2nd Annual Friends of the Poor Walk – September 26

From Michael S. and Barb S.

Please join us for a one or three mile walk along scenic Oak Leaf Trail. Location: St. Francis Seminary at 3257 South Lake Drive. Date: Saturday, Sep. 26, 2009 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Check in begins at 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. (optional) Open air mass celebrating the feast of St. Vincent de Paul 10:15 a.m. Opening Ceremonies with Joyce Garbaciak 10:30 a.m. Walk begins. A light lunch will be served after the walk. Register at <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=185451>

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“The Challenge of Leadership in Today’s Church” – September 26

From Thelma Walker

Richard McBrien will be speaking on Saturday, September 26, 2009 at the First Congregational Church, 1511 Church Street, Wauwatosa at 9:00 A.M. McBrien's topic is "The Challenge of Leadership in Today's Church". Donation: \$10. Sponsored by Voices of the Faithful.

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Exploring the Power of Nonviolence Conference – October 8-10

Exploring the Power of Nonviolence, the 7th Annual Conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association, will be held October 8-10, 2009 at Marquette University/ Keynote speakers include Helen Prejean, Robert Enright, Jonathan Schell, James Douglas, Will Allen, and Janine Geske. On Friday night, October 9, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. there will be a concert-Emma's Revolution. This year's conference theme is "Exploring the Power of Nonviolence," and it will be on October 8-10, 2009 to mark the 140th anniversary of Gandhi's birth.

For more information go to: <http://www.peacejusticestudies.org/conference/call.php>

Jointly sponsored by the Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA), the Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (WISPG), and the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking and is open to the public.

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Interfaith Earth Network Conference, Faith Encounters The Energy Crisis - October 25th

Save the Date. Interfaith Earth Network Conference, "Faith Encounters The Energy Crisis: Transitioning To Reduced Energy Consumption" will be held on Sunday, October 25th at the Urban Ecology Center 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee Time: 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m

Keynote Speaker: Milwaukee Author Margaret Swedish

She will call us to face up to the consequences of abusing our earth home. She asks, "What kind of human beings will we be as we approach this difficult period in human history?" In her book, "Living Beyond the 'End of the World'", she outlines the values, the vision and the spiritual resources that might nurture a new human community and thus ensure a future for coming generations.

Workshops: Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program, the "go to place" for wise energy use; How to decrease electricity and heating use in your home and apply renewable energy; How to decrease consumption of transportation fuels; How to communicate with skeptics about global climate change; Wisconsin Energy and Climate Campaign & Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin

Registration will be on line at <http://www.interfaithearthnetwork.org/>

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Call to Action National Conference - Nov 6 - 8, 2009

For those who want to plan ahead and mark their calendar the Call to Action National Conference: "Everyone at the Table: Rejoicing as People of God!" will be held Nov 6 - 8, 2009, in Milwaukee. Go to <http://www.cta-usa.org/> for more information on the conference.

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SOA/WHINSEC - November 20-22, 2009

From Barb Messerknecht

Converge on Fort Benning, Georgia - Mass Mobilization to Shut Down the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC)

The military coup by SOA graduates in Honduras has once again exposed the destabilizing and deadly effects that the School of the Americas has on Latin America. The actions of the school's graduates are unmasking the Pentagon rhetoric and reveal the anti-democratic results of U.S. policies. It is time for a change towards justice.

From November 20-22, 2009, thousands will vigil at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, to stand up for justice, to shut down the School of the Americas and to end the oppressive U.S. foreign policy that the school

represents. The campaign to close the SOA is in a crucial phase right now. Despite promising comments from President Obama during his election campaign, the SOA/ WHINSEC is still in operation and the Pentagon is moving forward with plans for new U.S. military bases in Colombia. With a Democratic administration in the White House, it appears that some Democrats in Congress are becoming timid when it comes to opposing the Pentagon.

It is up to us to keep up the pressure and to hold them accountable. People power is going to win over Pentagon lobbying! It is tremendously important that we have a strong showing at the gates of Fort Benning for the annual vigil and nonviolent direct action, in order to demonstrate that we won't go away until the SOA is shut down and the U.S. government has stopped turning to "military solutions" (or political-economic interventions) to enforce its oppressive foreign policy in Latin America. Too many people have suffered and died at the hands of SOA graduates.

You can take a stand for solidarity and justice now! Join hundreds of organizers around the country and start planning for the November vigil. Contact your local unions, universities, workers centers, social justice organizations and faith communities and ask them to re-commit to the struggle to close the School of the Americas.

To download the SOA Watch November [organizing packet](#), for a [travel](#) guide and a [hotel](#) listing, as well as information about [accessibility](#) and information for [people without U.S. citizenship](#) and more, visit www.SOAW.org/november

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Prayer Reflection

They Came....

They came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew...
Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.
Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up.

- Martin Niemöller,
German theologian and pastor (1892-1984)

The Matter is Quite Simple....

The matter is quite simple. The Bible is very easy to understand. But we as Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand we are obliged to act accordingly. Take any words in the New Testament and forget everything except pledging yourself to act accordingly. My God, you will say, if I do that my whole life will be ruined.

- Søren Kierkegaard,
Danish philosopher, theologian, and ethicist (1813-1855)

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Catholics for Peace and Justice
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