

Catholics for Peace and Justice

JUNE 2009 Newsletter

Welcome Summer!

This month we are placing some focus on topics that arose from our Word Café meeting in May. In particular Milwaukee Veterans for Peace begins a series on the issue of homeless Veterans in our community and in the coming months, what we can do to assist.

A synopsis of the World Café outcomes is included below. All feedback is welcome.

If you have ever been curious about Common Ground, now is your opportunity to learn more by attending the Delegates Assembly on June 8. Information is below.

Details on our June Prayer Service will be announced soon.

In the meantime, it's a great time to plant some food and support our local farmers.

Blessings on your work for peace and justice



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June Prayer Service for Peace

Yes there will be a June Prayer Service for Peace. Our planners are in the process of finalizing the details. A notice on date, location and speaker will be sent out soon.

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World Café General Meeting – Next Steps

Thanks again to those who attended our World Café general meeting in May. If you missed seeing the full synopsis of our discussion, [you can find it here](#) and on our website at www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org.

As a result of our discernment and feedback, we will be making some changes to our website over the next month to include pages for networking on Immigration and Environment/Cosmology and expanding our discussion and actions on the issue of war to include Afghanistan and the Middle East as well as Iraq. We also will offer ways to assist the veterans in our local and wider community through Veterans for Peace [\[see article in this newsletter\]](#).

When CPJ first began, we created two designations for participation – newsletter subscriber and member. Over the last year and more these designations have lost meaning so going forward we will be dropping these designations, asking people to participate in CPJ and other community actions and events as they feel called to do so. We will continue to be judicious about the number of emails we send out to our list.

Through the World Café process some common ideas about CPJ surfaced:

CPJ currently provides through its newsletter, and should provide, a means of linking, networking and uniting people and groups who are both interested in and passionately pursuing issues of social justice through social and legislative action.

CPJ should provide means to empower people to be peace and work for peace in our communities, our nation and the world through prayer, spirituality, and education which includes reaching out to younger generations as well as a variety of cultures in our community

In our ministries, we all need to stand in solidarity, face to face with those who are struggling.

The final outcome of the “World Café” was that members connected with others around similar concerns. The role of CPJ as an organization providing networking, support and communication about Peace and Justice activities in the community was confirmed. Leaders stepped forward to work on newly surfaced concerns.

We welcome feedback to djschneider@wi.rr.com

[Full Synopsis of the World Café](#)

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Local Homeless Veteran Initiative

From Dennis Johnson

Over the past year members of **Milwaukee Veterans For Peace** have been working on an initiative to end homelessness among veterans in the Milwaukee area.

We understand how frustrating and humiliating it is for any veteran to seek help from the Veterans Administration. With that understanding we knew there was a need in the area for our personal way of advocating for the homeless population of veterans. We navigate the VA system in the most efficient and productive way for the veterans because it is a confusing process with a tremendous amount of red tape.

In the past year over 60 veterans have been interviewed by us, with many not knowing they were eligible for VA benefits such as health care, housing, disability and VA pensions. We have helped many get their claims filed. Although it is a slow process there are now some veterans receiving a pension that a year ago didn't have any income at all.

Each veteran, just like all of us, has a different story and unique problems that require someone to care enough to help. Some just need help with the basic necessities of life. We hope to bring each veteran to whatever level of independence that they are capable of.

Millions of veterans have served and protected our country. While most veterans are doing well and living in stable housing, a small subset are sleeping on streets and in shelters or other places that no one should have to endure. We are indebted to those who served our country, and at minimum our public policies should ensure that veterans have access to stable housing and the necessary supports needed to avoid homelessness.

In the coming months I will share with you in this newsletter some of the different obstacles and problems facing us, and some ways we can all help. To learn more about us you can view our website at www.milwaukeevfp.org

Contact Dennis Johnson at dennis@milwaukeevfp.org

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Common Ground Delegates Assembly – June 8

On Monday, June 8 Common Ground will be holding a Delegates Assembly at Mount Mary College at 7pm. This Delegates Assembly is an excellent opportunity for anyone who receives this newsletter to learn about Common Ground in general and about current Common Ground campaigns – focus will be on communicating the community strengthening efforts taking place in the Sherman Park, Amani and Bay View neighborhoods. These campaigns have received less publicity than the efforts around the health care co-op and youth jobs. We will walk through how a Common Ground campaign works and also talk about Common Ground core teams. Finally, opportunities for involvement in actions will be offered for those who want to get involved.

Want to attend to learn more about Common Ground or want more information? Please contact Debra Schneider at djschneider@wi.rr.com

Common Ground Delegates' Assembly: Monday, June 8th at Mt. Mary College from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the North Dining Room. Enter the college off of 92nd St. south of Burleigh and park in the large parking lot on the left.

Interesting Article

How David Beat Goliath from the New Yorker Magazine,
http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/05/11/090511fa_fact_gladwell?currentPage=all

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Just Books: Letters from Abu Ghraib - By Joshua Casteel
From Jim Gill

Our current JUST BOOKS selection is Letters from Abu Ghraib, a collection of email messages sent by Joshua Casteel to his friends and family during his service as a US Army interrogator and Arabic linguist in the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, is the raw and intimate record of a soldier in moral conflict with his duties. Once a cadet at the US Military Academy at West Point and raised in an Evangelical Christian home, Casteel finds himself stationed at Abu Ghraib prison in the wake of the prisoner abuse scandal. He is troubled by what he is asked to do there, although it is, as he writes, miles within the bounds of what CNN and the BBC care about. Forced to confront the nature of fundamentalism, both religious and political, Casteel asks himself a fundamental question: How should I then live?

[Letters from Abu Ghraib Flyer](#)

About "Just Books"

Just books is a project of the spirituality committee of Catholics for Peace and Justice. Periodically a common spirituality book is read by a group of people in an effort to raise our communal conscience, leading to a "conversion of heart". Optional, one meeting discussion opportunities are then offered. Soon we hope to offer an "e-conversation" option too. Watch our website, www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org for more information, or subscribe to our newsletter at this address to receive updates on "just books"

For more information contact Jim Gill at cardinalcourt5699@gmail.com or 414-421-4626

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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 or contact me at 262-547-6555 x306 or jqill@stmarywk.org.

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"And God Said It Was Good" – Online Videos from Conference on Cosmology

From Elizabeth Martorell

Last October the Ignatian Associates and Friends along with the Casa Romero Renewal Center presented a conference on cosmology at Marquette University entitled "And God Said It Was Good". Videos of the October conference are on line at http://web.me.com/elizmart/Site/Home_.html. The site contains complete videos of the plenary sessions (Michael Dowd's three presentations and Bob Dufford's meditations) and audio recordings of the eight workshops given by John Dear, SJ, Bert Thelen, SJ, Jim Hug, SJ, Connie Barlow, Susan Boehme, Andrea Lawse, Daniel Lawse, and Laura Weber.

From the October Conference:

We, the organizers of this conference, find ourselves drawn to respond to the signs of the times, particularly the new science, the destruction of God's marvelous creation through devastating war and pollution, and rampant social injustice. After studying the new cosmology for over three years, we chose to embark on this endeavor. We felt compelled to share the insights that have enriched our lives and our faith in the hope that those who attend will find information, inspiration, and impetus to press for change. Acting together we can collaborate with God's own Spirit in the great work of continuing creation.

Also there is going to be an excellent conference in CA this summer called The Cosmology of Convergence. http://uniquewebdesignandprinting.com/sophia/summer_file/summer09.html

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Links to Some Interesting Environmental Websites

Will Allen's Growing Power – www.growingpower.com

Urban Farming – mission to end hunger in our cities through urban gardening and vertical gardening – www.urbanfarming.org

SSND SUNSEED Eco-Education Center - http://www.ssnd-milw.org/ministries/supported_programs/sunseed.asp

Margaret Swedish Ecological Hope - www.ecologicalhope.org

The Story of Stuff – www.storyofstuff.com

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The True Cost of Chevron – An Alternative Annual Report

This year the communities impacted by Chevron's operations, Global Exchange, and other allies of those communities are challenging Chevron's glossy annual report. An alternative annual report entitled "The True Cost of Chevron" seeks to tell the truth about Chevron and its activities. View the alternative annual report "[The True Cost of Chevron](#)"

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What's New at Four Corners Fair Trade?

From Mike Howden

Well, the weather is finally getting a bit more pleasant. Everyone seems to be out and about. While you're out, why not stop in and see what's new at Four Corners of the World. Whether you're shopping for a gift for a birthday, wedding, graduation, baby shower, or simply for yourself, we have something for just about everyone. If you have someone in your life that likes to decorate, check out our selection of brightly painted wall hangings made from recycled oil drums in Haiti. For the kid going off to college, how about a recycled metal key holder to put on the wall for his/her new place. We are expanding our collection of recycled items to include greeting cards with wire animals, coasters made from newspaper and magazine, flowery gift boxes made from cotton rags, earrings made from rolled up soda can parts, scrap tin shaker instruments, and even decorative vases made from rolled up magazine. We also carry some glassware that is recycled.

Maggie's tie-dye socks are back in toddler, youth, and adult sizes, along with the ever popular knee-high mantra socks. We now offer adult athletic socks made with organic cotton as well as a material called COOL MAX, which pulls moisture away from the body. Also in the clothing, we have a fun assortment of summery shirts, blouses and skirts.

Our jewelry is ever changing. You will find fabulous new styles of tagua jewelry as well as loose beads. There are bead work pieces from Guatemala to satisfy nearly every color palette. From India, dyed bone necklaces, bracelets, and ohm earrings.

If you'd rather gift something consumable, fair trade coffee, chocolate, and tea are the way to go. You can find jams and chutneys from Swaziland along with dried fruit from Cameroon.

----This just in---- Soaps do make good gifts. We stock soap from the Enterprising Kitchen which is located on the north side of Chicago. Or, if you're yearning for scents from the far reaches of the world, enjoy our soaps from Ghana and India.

And good news to share, Four Corners has been accepted as a member of the Fair Trade Federation. Solidarity, Barb

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Toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons – June 9

When : Tuesday, June 9, 2009 7:00 — 8:30 pm

Where: Founders Hal, St. Agnes Convent at 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac, WI

Contact Sister Ruth Battaglia, General Councilor at the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes for additional information at rbattaglia@csasisters.org or 920-907-2325

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UN Millennium Development Goals E-Learning Materials

- A billion people worldwide survive on less than a dollar a day, in sub-saharan Africa it is nearly 50% of the population.
- Nearly 15% of the world's population suffers from hunger, with 30% of the population under-nourished in SS Africa and 20% in South Asia.
- 10% of children in SS Africa will die before they reach their first birthday.
- If you are a pregnant woman in Sub Saharan Africa there is nearly a 10% chance that you will die in child birth, whilst in Southern Asia there is a 60% chance that you will have to go through childbirth without any assistance from a skilled health care professional.

These are just some of the reasons for the conception of the United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The United Nations continues to work on its Millennium Development Goals, which are meant to address human suffering throughout the world. The unique learning materials offered on this site provide a bit of background about the goals and an increased understanding of the data that the United Nations collects in order to measure progress in these areas. Access this site at

www.esds.ac.uk/international/elearning/unmdg/

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Larry Rosebaugh Priest and member of Milwaukee 14 slain in Guatemala

"Most of us had never been involved in anything like this," Rosebaugh wrote later. "We were going to break the law in a manner we hoped would be truly non-violent." Rosebaugh and other opponents of the Vietnam War made their way into the U.S. Selective Service offices at 135 W. Wells St., seized thousands of draft records and set them ablaze. The men would come to be known as the Milwaukee 14. Rosebaugh's life of opposition to war and service to the poor took him on a journey from Wisconsin to Latin America. It all came to an end Monday when Rosebaugh, 74, was murdered by masked gunmen in northern Guatemala. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel]

Memorial Service for Lorenzo Rosebaugh will be held in Milwaukee at St. Benedict the Moor Church, June 13, 2009 at 2pm.

For more information go to <http://www.jsonline.com/news/obituaries/45452477.html>

For a Tribute and life story of Larry Rosebaugh go to

<http://www.nonviolentworm.org/Milwaukee14Today/MemorialToLorenzoRosebaugh>

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Economic Quiz

Quiz on your understanding of the current economic crisis.

<http://www.educationforjustice.org/interact/EconQuiz/EconQuiz/quiz.html>

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Catechetical Summer Institute 2009 - Advanced Certification

The Catechetical Summer Institute "Called to Teach God's Children" will be held this summer at the St. Joseph Center. Religious Educators, Catholic School Teachers and Parish Catechists are encouraged to attend. The first week of the institute will cover Advanced Certification and will be held June 15 through June 19, 2009. For more information go to <http://www.archmil.org/events/ShowEvent.asp?ID=7378&date=6/15/2009>

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Prayer, Reflection and Resources on Torture

Reflection

The Catholic Church's perspective on torture is shaped by its focus on the human dignity of every person and the sacredness of every human life. The Catechism states that the "dignity of the human person is rooted in his/her creation in the image and likeness of God." (#1700) Because of this dignity "all owe to each other the duty of respect" (#1738). This respect is embodied in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who reminded his followers, "What you do to the least of these, you do to me."

During the last century, the Church spoke out clearly and consistently on torture as always unacceptable because it is "a violation of the integrity of the human person" (from the 1965 encyclical, The Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World (Gaudem and Spes). Pope John XXIII's 1963 encyclical, Peace on Earth, had fully embraced the concept of human rights, and Pope John Paul II became a very vocal supporter of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which includes, in Article 5, the assertion that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Throughout his long papacy, John Paul stressed the "intrinsic worth" of every human life in his affirmation of the dignity of the human person. This tradition has shaped recent Church declarations on torture.

Prayer

Father, forgive us,
for we are learning what we have done.

Only through your mercy and compassion
Can we see how we have followed fear
And wandered from your call to love.

Make us whole again
So we can create a truly just society
That recognizes you in every human face.
Have mercy on us and show us the true
path to peace.

Additional Resources

USCCB study guide on torture: "Torture as a Moral Issue" www.usccb/sdwp/stoptorture/
Catholic University on "Torture, Conscious, and Moral Tradition" webcast www.nrcat.org/
National Religious Campaign Against Torture <http://www.nrcat.org/>
Amnesty International www.amnesty.org
Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org
The Coalition of International NGOs Against Torture www.apr.ch/cinat.htm

From Resource: Education for Justice "The Dignity of the Human Person: "Refusing Torture"" at www.educationforjustice.org

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