

## Catholics for Peace and Justice

### March 2010 Newsletter

Lent is a time for fasting. Fasting from complaint, negative comments, excess, privilege, violence, fear and the impossible expectations we place on ourselves and others. Lent is also a time for transformation. Transformation of our hearts, our minds and our spirits toward the enlightening love of God.

This month I'd like to personally invite each of you to the Archdiocese wide Immigration Vigil which will take place on Sunday, March 28 [yes that is Palm Sunday] at 4 pm at the St. Joseph Center Chapel [details below]. Justice for Immigrants is part of a nation wide campaign to bring focus to the injustice of our current immigration system. Catholics for Peace and Justice is working with the Archdiocese and other local area groups on this campaign to increase awareness with Catholics and to move Congress to take action. We need your participation to make this Vigil a meaningful event.

Blessings on your ministry,  
Debra

Thank you to S. Lillia, Tim Dewane and the School Sisters of Notre Dame for a beautiful and spiritually moving service on reverencing life this past week.



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### **Taizé Prayer Service for Peace – Friday, March 26**

This month we ask you to join us on Friday, March 26 at 7 pm at St. Catherine on 51<sup>st</sup> and Center for their monthly Taizé prayer service for peace. This service is a wonderful opportunity for meditation and prayer as we move into Holy Week. It is also an opportunity to continue to pray for peace for people living in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and for all people who live daily in situations of violence. Please mark your calendars and join us.

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### **Justice for Immigrants Prayer Vigil – Sunday, March 28**

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Justice for Immigrants postcard campaign to bring awareness to Catholics and Congress of the need for Immigration Reform will culminate in a Prayer Vigil to be held on Sunday, March 28 at 4 pm to 5 pm at the St. Joseph Center Chapel, 1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee.

Bishop Sklba will provide the opening welcome. The press and legislators also have been invited by the archdiocese to attend. We need your participation to bring focus to the need for Immigration Reform in our country. Please plan to attend and bring others who are concerned about bringing focus to this important issue. Read more about the Justice for Immigrants Campaign below.

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### **JUST Books Blog Site – A Monk in the Inner City**

**From Jim Gill**

**The JUSTBooks Blog Site is Now Available! Go to <http://www.justbooks-catholicsforpeaceandjustice.blogspot.com/>**

### **A Monk in the Inner City, by Mary Lou Kownacki OSB**

Many centuries ago the ancient Desert Fathers and Mothers moved into the wilderness, leaving behind the compulsions of the world in order to draw near to God. For Mary Lou Kownacki, a Benedictine nun and long-time peacemaker, her wilderness is the inner city of Erie, Pennsylvania, surrounded by poor families trying to survive and keep hope alive amidst drugs, violence, and despair. From this outpost on the margins, she observes the world in poetic meditations, written with the

passion of a prophet and the heart of a mystic. "I write about days when spiritual security, not fear, was a neighborhood's gift to children. It is one way of trying to stretch my monk's robe until it embraces the suffering world.



These searing, insightful, and painfully honest meditations by an urban monk allow each of us to look more deeply into our own hearts and experiences.

--Paul Wilkes, author, of *Beyond the Walls: Monastic Wisdom for Everyday Life*

### What is "JUST" BOOKS?

JUST Books is a book discussion group focusing on social justice themes and spirituality based on the successful "Seattle Reads" or "Oprah's Book Club", where large numbers of people read the same book at the same time. CPJ has started its own similar club to get a large number of folks reading a peace/justice related book in order to raise consciousness on the topic. Our hope is that JUSTBooks will offer all of us an avenue to share and learn from each other and in the process be re-energized for our mission.

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### Milwaukee Justice for Immigrants Campaign – Update and Actions

On January 6, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops officially re-launched its Justice for Immigrants Campaign to support comprehensive immigration reform. This effort is designed to educate and engage Catholics around the country on this critical issue.

**The postcard to legislators' campaign is currently taking place within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.** Over 25,000 postcards have been requested by and distributed to parishes throughout the archdiocese. These postcards will be addressed to legislators by Catholics asking them to take up the issue of Immigration Reform in Congress this year.

#### You can participate in the campaign for Immigration Reform by

1. **Signing a "Justice for Immigrants" postcard** at your parish or on-line to show your Senators and Representative that Catholics want our elected officials to enact meaningful and compassionate immigration reform.

Go to <http://www.capwiz.com/justiceforimmigrants/issues/alert/?alertid=14503781&type=CO> to sign the postcard on line.

2. **Act as a liaison for the Justice for Immigrants Campaign at your parish** by insuring that announcements are placed in your parish bulletin, petitions are offered for immigrants, and postcards are distributed for signature between now and March 28. All written materials are supplied by the Justice for Immigrants Campaign. Please contact S. Joseph Marie Flynn, SSND [jflynn@ssnd-milw.org](mailto:jflynn@ssnd-milw.org) NOW!
3. **On Sunday, March 28 at 4 pm to 5 pm attend the Archdiocesan Immigration Vigil and Collection of Postcards to Legislators** at the St. Joseph Center Chapel 1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee. [See announcement above.](#)

#### 4. **Continue to educate yourself on Immigration Reform**

Check out the **NEW USCCB Justice for Immigrants Website** at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

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#### **Homeless Heroes: Milwaukee Magazine Article on the Veterans for Peace Homeless Vets Initiative**

Please check out the Insider section of Milwaukee Magazine's March issue for an excellent article on Dennis Johnson and Mark Foreman's Milwaukee Homeless Veteran Initiative. You can learn more about Vets for Peace and support this initiative with your donation at <http://www.milwaukeevfp.org/>

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#### **Sign a Petition to Gwen Moore to Say: No More Money For War! From Peace Action**

The administration is requesting a \$33 billion supplemental appropriation for the escalation and occupation in Afghanistan. Please sign our petition asking Rep. Gwen Moore to take a stand against this waste of funds.

Many people in the peace and progressive community know Gwen Moore, helped her get elected, and expected her to vote for peace. We're confused and disappointed by her recent votes (6/10/09 and 12/16/09) for war funding. We'd like to know: what changed? These billions of dollars could be better used for programs in Milwaukee such as healthcare and jobs.

As in Vietnam, no military victory is possible in Afghanistan, but diplomacy and development deserve a try. Just because a Democratic president asks for war escalation doesn't make it right.

This petition is sponsored by a variety of progressive organizations, including Peace Action Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee Green Party, Veterans for Peace, and the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking. We need a large number of signers to show that the peace issue can't be ignored. [Click here](#) to sign our petition to Gwen Moore. Your voice is important! Please tell your friends to sign our petition as well, we need as many signatures as we can get.

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#### **Bring Home the Guard Committee Hearing – March 9**

The Bring Home the Guard campaign is supporting AB 203. This bill requires the governor to examine every federal order that places the Wisconsin national guard on federal active duty to determine if that order is lawful and valid. If the governor determines that the federal order is not lawful or valid, the bill requires the governor to take appropriate action, which may include commencing legal action in state or federal court, to prevent the Wisconsin national guard from being placed on federal active duty. The bill also requires the governor to submit to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature a summary of the governor's review of every federal order that places the Wisconsin national guard on federal active duty and any action he or she takes in response to that review.

To find out more go to <http://www.wnpj.org/node/1627> To get involved contact Jim Draeger at [info@peoplesbookscoop.org](mailto:info@peoplesbookscoop.org)

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## Common Ground Delegates Assembly – March 23

The next Common Ground Delegates' Assembly will be held at **Mount Mary College on Tuesday, March 23 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm** in the North Dining Room. Mount Mary College is located south of Burleigh off of 92nd Street.

There will be updates on the Faces of Foreclosure Campaign, Health Care Insurance Co-op and election of new members to the Strategy Team (bios to be posted on the website soon). Please contact Debra Schneider to attend as a member of Catholics for Peace and Justice.

[djschneider@wi.rr.com](mailto:djschneider@wi.rr.com)

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## Common Ground - Looking Back to Look Forward: A 'State of the Organization' Update

**Looking Back:** 2009 Accomplishments

**Sherman Park/North Milwaukee:** Common Ground members St. Catherine's Parish, Mt. Calvary Lutheran LCMS, and Congregation Beth Jehudah worked with St. Joseph's Hospital. In August, 175 Common Ground leaders met to launch a campaign in Sherman Park/North Milwaukee to improve safety, signage and lighting.

**Youth Summer Jobs:** In 2009, Common Ground's Youth Summer Jobs campaign:

1) secured an additional \$250,000 from the Common Council for this program, and 2) helped increase the number of youth (ages 14-20) employed through the City of Milwaukee's Earn & Learn program from 1,200 to nearly 3,000

**Neighborhood Walk:** In an effort to identify concerns and issues requiring work in individual neighborhoods, Common Ground leaders from Community Baptist Church, Greater New Birth Church, Ephesians Baptist Church, and Monumental Baptist Church connected with residents through neighborhood walks.

**Housing Team:** Extensively researched Wells Fargo, U.S. Bank and Deutsche Bank and the foreclosed properties they own in Southeastern Wisconsin; Photographed over 400 foreclosed properties; Met with numerous experts, including city officials, fire and police personnel, realtors, and housing advocates and Conducted a public hearing about foreclosure in the region with over 250 leaders in attendance

**Health Care Coop:** The behind-the-scenes planning for the marketing and administration of the Co-op continued throughout 2009.

**Suburban work:** In an effort to grow the organization, Common Ground conducted listening sessions in Waukesha County and helped to organize turnout to support the establishment of a shelter for the homeless in Waukesha

**Hiring of new staff:** Common Ground hired two part time organizers: the Rev. Bobby Sinclair and Heather Dummer-Combs.

## Looking Forward

**Housing:** The Faces of Foreclosure Report was released at a press conference on January 19. Letters were also delivered requesting meetings with senior leadership of each of the above banks; On January 25, the Faces of Foreclosure campaign was launched with over 325 Common Ground members coming together at Marquette University; A new Faces of Foreclosure website was launched at [www.facesofforeclosurewi.org](http://www.facesofforeclosurewi.org).

**Health Care Coop:** Common Ground aims to "roll out" a Healthcare Insurance Co-op this spring with a series of information sessions throughout the region in May and June to enroll people into the Co-op.

**Suburban work:** In 2010, Common Ground will continue to cultivate and grow its efforts in the suburbs. Each county will have a dedicated staff member assisting in this effort. Common Ground U will be held in Waukesha in April.

More at [www.commongroundwi.org](http://www.commongroundwi.org)

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### **Update on US Immigration Statistics**

#### **Fewer unauthorized immigrants in U.S. in 2009, CNN, Feb 10, 2010**

The number of unauthorized immigrants in the United States decreased by 800,000 from 2008 to 2009, the Department of Homeland Security said in a report released Wednesday. There were 11.6 million unauthorized immigrants in the United States in January 2008 and 10.8 million one year later, DHS said. The decrease in the number of immigrants coincided with the U.S. economic downturn, the report said. Read more at

[http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/02/10/illegal.immigrants/index.html?section=cnn\\_latest](http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/02/10/illegal.immigrants/index.html?section=cnn_latest)

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### **The Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeastern WI – Local Sustainable Food Guide**

The Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeastern WI is regional food guide that include farms, farmers' markets, restaurants, stores and other businesses that sell local food and use sustainable production and business practices. It can be found on line at <http://www.farmfreshatlas.org/southeast/>

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### **Lenten Film Series on Immigration – Next Date Tuesday, March 2**

A series of films on immigration issues will be held at St. Joseph Center 1515 S. Layton Blvd. Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Registration is requested. Films will be screened 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. March 2nd film: "The Invisible Chapel". An immigrant congregation constructs a chapel for Sunday worship. Local neighbors, Minutemen and a talk-radio host clash with this congregation. Sponsored by Sisters of St. Francis. More Information at [http://www.sssf.org/english/documents/justice\\_lentenimmigration\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.sssf.org/english/documents/justice_lentenimmigration_flyer.pdf)

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### **Nonviolent Study Group at Center for Peacemaking - March 4**

Graduate Student and Faculty Nonviolent Study Group will be held at the Center for Peacemaking on 17th Street from 11:30--12:30 p.m. Adult students, staff, faculty, and members of the community are invited to come discuss topics in nonviolence. --for more information please go to the Center for Peacemaking website at [www.mu.edu/peacemaking](http://www.mu.edu/peacemaking) or email us at [Peacemaking@mu.edu](mailto:Peacemaking@mu.edu)

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### **The Migrants: Illegals or God's Ambassadors? – March 10**

Wednesday, March 10, 4:00p.m. in Beaumier Suites, in the Raynor Library. on the Marquette Campus Dean Brackley, S.J. (Ph.D., Divinity School, University of Chicago, 1980) will hold the Francis C. Wade, S.J., Chair at Marquette University for the 2010 spring semester. Father Brackley entered the Society of Jesus in 1964 and was ordained a priest in 1976. He has worked in social ministry on Manhattan's Lower East Side and in the South Bronx, and has taught at Fordham University. After his time at Fordham, Father Brackley, a professor of theology and ethics, volunteered to work at the University of Central America in El Salvador following the massacre there by graduates of the School of the Americas in which six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter, were killed. Father Brackley's published works include *The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times: New Perspectives on the Transformative Wisdom of Ignatius Loyola* (Crossroad, 2004) and *Divine Revolution: Salvation and Liberation in Catholic Thought* (Orbis Books, 1996), among many others.

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### **No One Can Kill the Voice of Justice: Romero's Legacy and the Struggle for Human Rights – March 14**

Building a New El Salvador Today: Sponsored by Casa Romero Renewal Center and the SHARE Foundation. Join as we reflect together on Romero's Legacy and how we do business, sustain our environment, and respect human rights. \*We will gather together to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero  
Sunday, March 14, 2010 1:00-4:00 pm Prince of Peace Parish Hall, 1126 S. 25th Street, Milwaukee (With plenty of parking!) Questions? Call Casa Romero at 414-224-7564 (no pre-registration necessary)

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### **Tuesdays in March Lenten Reflection Luncheon and Lecture Series**

The Times, They Are a' Changing: Looking beyond the Headlines is the theme for this year's "Tuesdays in March" Lenten Reflection luncheon and lecture series. Traditionally this is a luncheon series; this year to accommodate other schedules, on the fifth Tuesday it will be a supper and lecture event at 5:30 p.m. All five will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 1342 N Astor Street in Milwaukee. For details and registration please check the Interfaith Website at <http://www.interfaithconference.org> or call 414-276-9050. While "walk ups" are welcome, the food order needs to be made in advance, so please register as soon as possible for one or more of the lectures. **Please check out the FLYER** at <http://www.interfaithconference.org/PIIC10web.pdf> for a detailed listing of the speakers. Sponsored by World Mission Ministries and the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee.

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### **The Israel-Palestine conflict from the perspective of an Israeli Peacemaker. - March 23**

From J Street, Jesse Greenberg will be talking about the Israel-Palestine conflict from the perspective of an Israeli Peacemaker. This event is highly recommended for people that care about the conflict and want to learn more and open up a different Idea and view. It will be in Cudahy Hall at Marquette University on 13th and Wisconsin Ave from 7--8:30 pm --for more information please go to the Center for Peacemaking website at [www.mu.edu/peacemaking](http://www.mu.edu/peacemaking) or email us at [Peacemaking@mu.edu](mailto:Peacemaking@mu.edu)

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### **World Report 2010: Human Rights Watch**

This 20th annual World Report summarizes human rights conditions in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide. It reflects extensive investigative work undertaken in 2009 by Human Rights Watch staff, usually in close partnership with human rights activists in the country in question.

Every government is at times tempted to violate human rights, but the global human rights movement has made sure that abuse carries a price. Check out the World Report 2010 by country via the interactive website at <http://www.hrw.org/world-report-2010>

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### **Prayer**

Lord, we call for Your guidance in bringing light to the darkness. Stir us to actions that spread light and enkindle hope. May the witness of those who have been beacons of hope in our

lives inspire and encourage our own efforts to be a witness of Your light. Bless all those who even in the face of persecution never fail to be light for others.

### **Reflection**

**Excerpt from**

**“What Pro-Life Means To Me”**

**by Sister Lillia Langreck, SSND**

The greatest living witness of reverence for all life was Jesus Christ. He came to be God's love in human form. He came that we might know a God of Compassion. In his life he reached out with understanding and love to the suffering and oppressed, the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the saint and the sinner, to all people. He loved them and showed them the way of nonviolence and love. The night before he died he knelt at the feet of each of his followers and washed their feet, calling them to do as he had done. He spoke of the Father's love saying: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." Then he commanded them to "Love one another as I have loved you." To the fanatics, whose hatred of Jesus' way of living and loving brought them to torture and kill him, Jesus could speak not words of condemnation, judgment or exclusion, but words of forgiveness He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do".

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Catholics for Peace and Justice

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