

Catholics for Peace and Justice

MAY 2009 Newsletter

This **Saturday, May 2nd at 8:30 am**, we invite you to join us at the Sacred Heart Center at 1545 S. Layton Blvd for a World Café discussion. Even if you did not RSVP – you are still welcome and encouraged to come.

The last time we gathered together for a general meeting was in September of 2007 – a year and ½ ago. Many great ideas were generated from that discussion, many encouraging connections were made, ideas exchanged and actions taken. This Saturday we gather once again to look at where we have been and reassess our future – to discern what we as a community are called to be and do.

What is God calling you to do?

Our Prayer Services for Peace in April and May are focusing on issues of peace and violence in our own community. Last week, David Field's stories touched us emotionally and brought us to a new level of understanding of the plight of our neighbors who are returning from prison to community. This month on Tuesday, May 19 we will hear from Deacon Steve Przedpelski from the Franciscan Peacemakers. All are invited to join together to pray for peace in our community as we seek to stand in solidarity with the least among us.

Blessings on your ministry.



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Catholics for Peace and Justice General Meeting - “World Café”– Saturday, May 2nd

Catholics for Peace and Justice will be hosting a World Café program on Saturday Morning May 2nd to engage in Networking, Discussion and to Set Focus for Our Ministry.

All are needed and invited to make this program a success.

Free Food - Fellowship – Prayer – Unity – Renewal - Friends Seeking Common Interests – Hearing Our Call to Make a Difference

Please “hop off the fence” and join us. We need your participation.

Date: Saturday morning, May 2nd.

Time: Continental Breakfast and Networking at 8:30 am - World Café Program from 9 am until 12 noon

Location: Sacred Heart Center: Room 203

The Sacred Heart Center is located at 1545 S. Layton Blvd. [the south end of the St. Joseph Center].

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Prayer Service for Peace with Deacon Steve Przedpelski, Franciscan Peacemakers – Tuesday, May 19

Our prayer service for peace this month continues to focus on issues of violence and peace in our own community. As a part of this service, Deacon Steve Przedpelski of Franciscan Peacemakers will share stories of the people who live in situations of violence in our midst. Franciscan Peacemakers ministers directly to victims and perpetrators of violence: women engaged in prostitution, homeless people addicted to drugs and alcohol, parentless children . . . the people of the Beatitudes. The Gospel of Jesus and the lives of Francis and Clare of Assisi are their guides.

Please join us to pray for and learn about the unseen violence that exists in our community.

Date: Tuesday, May 19 at 7 pm. Location will be announced shortly.

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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 jgill@stmarywk.org.

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Earn and Learn Summer Youth Jobs – Youth Jobs Available

From Debra Schneider

If your daughter, son, granddaughter/son or other youth between the ages of 14 and 24 and live in Milwaukee County are looking for a job this summer you may want to quickly steer them to the Milwaukee Earn and Learn Summer Youth Jobs program. Application for employment has been extended to May 15. Application, employment requirements, and contact information can be found at <http://www.mkedcd.org/earnlearn/CWEP.html> . Common Ground has been working with the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board and the GMC to increase the number of summer youth jobs available in Milwaukee. Over 2000 jobs will be available for youth this summer in community based organizations. We are still looking for private businesses to provide youth jobs at their organization. For more information on providing a job or applying for a job contact Debra Schneider at djschneider@wi.rr.com

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Common Ground Action – Lobby for a Health Care Cooperative

From Common Ground

Common Ground **Health Care Reform Committee** is engaged in a campaign to make health insurance more accessible for those who are self employed or work for small businesses or non-profit organizations through the use of a health care cooperative. A health care cooperative would allow small business and non-profits to organize under state of Wisconsin law to join together to increase their purchasing power to procure health insurance coverage for themselves and their employees.

The Health Care Cooperative needs \$2.5 million in seed money to begin operation. Common Ground is working with State Assembly Representatives Jason Fields and Pedro Colon to introduce a budget amendment for the \$2.5 million in seed money. Gaining the seed money will require Common Ground members to meet with members of the Joint Finance committee to explain our cause.

Lobbying Effort: Details

Common Ground is in the process of setting up meetings with all members of the Joint Finance committee. Our first LOBBY DAY IN MADISON WILL BE WEDNESDAY MAY 6TH beginning at 9:00 AM with an internal briefing on the meetings and our objectives. We need 20 to 30 people to attend these meetings. Depending on the final schedule, we may need to split into two groups to meet with all committee members. We expect the meetings to take place during the morning and possibly into the early afternoon.

Please contact Bob Connolly at bconnolly@jamescompany.com if you can attend. Car pooling will be arranged. An information sheet and agenda will be sent out in advance of the lobby day the talking points.

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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.

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Day of Remembrance and Action Concerning Immigration - May 12

Presentation and Prayer Service (3 pm – 4:15 pm)

From S. Lillia Langreck

On May 12, 2008 Immigration and Customs enforcement came to Postville Iowa and conducted one of the largest raids in United States history, arresting over 389 undocumented persons and forever changing the town of Postville. To some the raid ended a year ago, but to those involved, the raid is still not over and never will be. As the one year anniversary of the raid approaches people from across the nation are standing in solidarity with the Postville community as they remember what happened and that it is a consequence of a broken immigration system that has yet to be fixed.

√ Please mark your calendars - In solidarity, the School Sisters of Notre Dame Global Justice & Peace Commission is sponsoring a presentation and prayer service on **Tuesday, May 12 from 3 pm – 4:15 pm at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove.** Help commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Postville ICE raid by joining us in praying for compassionate comprehensive immigration reform, just labor practices, family unity, and an end to raids. All are welcome!

Two other ways you can stand in solidarity on May 12th and make the call for comprehensive immigration reform include –

1. Sounding a call for justice, e.g., ring a church bell or blow the shofar at 10:00 a.m. CDT, the time the raid began.
2. Wear a red ribbon as a symbol of solidarity with those in Postville on the day of the anniversary

READ the SSND Statement [“A Call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform”](#)

More ideas for observing this anniversary and taking steps to promote comprehensive immigration reform can be found at <http://interfaithimmigration.org/>

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Catholics Respond to Global Warming- The St. Francis Pledge

From Carol Waskovich

“Creation is groaning – we perceive it, we almost hear it – and awaits human beings who will preserve it in accordance with God. The brutal consumption of Creation begins where God is not...[W]e [must] find a new way of living, a discipline of making sacrifices, a discipline of the recognition of others to whom creation belongs as much as it belongs to us...a discipline of

responsibility with regard to the future of others and to our own future, because it is a responsibility in the eyes of the One who is our Judge and Redeemer...” - Pope Benedict XVI

US bishops and other faith leaders have been at the forefront of efforts to ensure that the public policies addressing climate change take into consideration the needs of all of Creation. Why? Because the most vulnerable people among us will suffer the harshest impact of climate change because they possess few resource to adapt or get out of harm’s way.

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change is working to ensure that all Catholics are part of the work for environmental justice, making a priority of sustainable living, promotion of the common good, and protection of people in poverty. Building on these efforts, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change has launched Catholics for Climate Justice: The St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and Poor People.

I invite you to read the St. Francis Pledge and to do what you can, one step at a time, to live it before it is too late. We must make courageous decisions that will restore Creation, that will bring environmental justice along with economic justice to all. Our planet is in peril.

[The St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor](#)

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World Fair Trade Day and Fair Trade Crawl – May 9

From Mike Howden

Dear Fair Trade Supporters

Four Corners of the World, 5401 West Vliet Street, invites you to celebrate World Fair Trade Day on Saturday May 9th by taking part in the second annual Fair Trade Crawl organized by the Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition. More than 30 area businesses will have tastings and special activities between 10am and 4pm that Saturday. This is a great opportunity for people in the Milwaukee area to show support for socially responsible shopping, sample fair trade foods and drink, and have a great time. Prizes will be awarded to people who crawl to the most stores. Nearly all the shops will do the World’s Largest Fair Trade Coffee Break in an attempt to get into the Guinness Book of Records. Milwaukee has special reason to celebrate since it is officially a “Fair Trade City” and part of an international movement insisting that the workers who farm or make our products be treated fairly. The full list of stores and special activities is at www.milwfairtrade.org

Four Corners of the World will feature free coffee from JUST Coffee all day and a visit from two artisans from Peru between 2:15 and 3:15. We are a cosponsor of a Fair Trade delegation on a three week tour of the Midwest. Evangelina Pizarro and Ayde Riveros will leave Peru—and their families—for the first time this spring to travel across the U.S. on a tour sponsored by Green America and Partners for Just Trade. Carrie Hawthorn, director of Partners for Just Trade (PJT) and Yochi Zakai, Fair Trade Program Coordinator for Green America, will accompany the women on this tour. PJT works with Evangelina, Ayde and over 15 other artisan groups through a Peruvian non-profit organization named Bridge of Hope. Bridge of Hope has trained the groups in bookkeeping, computer literacy, design, quality control and much more. Yochi, Fair Trade advocate from Green America, will help make the connection between Fair Trade and sustainability and caring for the environment.

And remember that the next day is Mother's Day. Fair Trade gifts are the most appreciated.

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Muslim-Catholic Dialogue: A Common Word Between Us and You – May 21

In 2007, 138 Muslim scholars representing every Muslim denomination and school of thought and every major Islamic country and region came together to sign an historic document: A Common Word between Us and You. The document is a statement from the Muslim community calling for interreligious dialogue around shared scriptural principles of love of God and love of neighbor. Join us as we explore the origins of the document, its significance from the Catholic and Muslim perspectives and the joys, challenges, and necessity for dialogue between Muslims and Christians.

Speakers: Scott Alexander, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Islam and Director of the Catholic-Muslim Studies program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and Irfan A. Omar, Ph.D. is Assistant Professor of Islam and World Religions in the Department of Theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

The event is sponsored by the Muslim-Catholic Women's Dialogue of Milwaukee, a program of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition and the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Concerns of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and is open to all women and men of good will.

Date: May 21, Location: Islamic Elementary School. Go to <http://www.archmil.org/events/ShowEvent.asp?ID=7453&date=5/21/2009> details on the program and location.

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Prayer Reflections

St. Francis Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master
Grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled, as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.

--St. Francis

On Language

Rumi , 13th century Muslim mystic and poet

To speak the same language is to share the same blood, to be related
To live with strangers is the life of captivity

Many are Hindus and Turks who share the same language
Many are Turks who may be alien to one another

The language of companionship is a unique one
To reach someone through the heart is other than reaching them
through words.

Besides words, allusions and arguments
The heart knows a hundred thousand ways to speak

translation from Rumi's Masnavi by Fatemeh Keshavarz
<http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/programs/2009/rumi/poetry.shtml>

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