

## Catholics for Peace and Justice

### OCTOBER 2009 Newsletter

We pass into the ninth year of the war in Afghanistan this month and the discussion continues to heat up about sending more troops. At a recent Feingold listening session a man – Vietnam Veteran – in anguish described his son's 5<sup>th</sup> deployment overseas. We need to understand the issues. There are multiple opportunities for education in the coming weeks surrounding the war and troop deployment. Education is important not only for ourselves, but to give us the ability to spread the word to others.

Please take the time to again [yes again!] email your representatives this month on this topic and on the continuing development of health care legislation. I am personally confused, outraged and disheartened about the turning direction of the health care discussion and legislation in Congress. Are we really providing for the common good, using our resources wisely and concerned for the dignity of those who are doing without?

Hope to see you at the prayer service at St. Therese at 7 pm on Thursday evening.

Blessings on your ministry



## Table of Contents

### General

[Prayer Service for Peace with St. Therese Parish – Thursday, October 1](#)

[November Prayer Service for Peace – Tuesday, November 17](#)

### Actions

[Rethink Afghanistan – Film Screenings and Discussion – Friday, October 9](#)

[Phyllis Bennis: 8 Years in Afghanistan: Why We Need to Leave – Wednesday, October 21](#)

[Bring Home the National Guard – WI State Assembly Bill 203 – Act Now](#)

[Israeli/Palestine Update from PA Mideast Lobby Group](#)

[Shelter and Housing for Veterans](#)

[A Moral Foundation for Health Care](#)

[Update on Common Ground Campaigns](#)

### Presentations and Education

[Conference: Faith Encounters the Energy Crisis – Sunday, October 25](#)

[Natural Step Discussion Circle Downtown Location – October 7](#)

[Justice for Immigration Training on Immigration Issues – Saturday, October 17](#)  
[Four Corners Fair Trade Film Festival and Celebration of Fair Trade](#)  
[Helen Prejean Keynote Speaker – Thursday, October 8, 2009](#)

### Other Events

[A Mass in Celebration of the Birth of Mahatma Gandhi – Friday, October 2](#)  
[Exploring the Power of Nonviolence PJSA Conference – October 8-10](#)  
[Call to Action National Conference - Nov 6 - 8, 2009](#)  
[SOA/WHINSEC - November 20-22, 2009](#)  
[Taste of Uganda – October 24](#)

### Prayer Reflections

[A Re-Write of the Beatitudes to Live By](#)

### Prayer Service for Peace with St. Therese Parish – Thursday, October 1

On **Thursday, October 1, at 7 pm**, Catholics for Peace and Justice will join St. Therese Parish who is hosting its third annual Peace Prayer Service. The service will feature the combined choirs and musicians of Sacred Heart Croatian, St. Vincent Palloti, St. Catherine and St. Therese. Everyone is invited to join us in prayer with fellowship to follow the service. Please come and pray for peace in our families, our community and our world. We would be honored by your presence.

St. Therese Parish located at 9525 W Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee

[Back to top](#)

### November Prayer Service for Peace – Tuesday, November 17

#### Mark your calendars for our November Prayer Service for Peace with Father Ken Mich.

Something's been missing from all the rhetoric about all the issues of the day. We're not hearing anyone speaking about that which should be the utmost priority in public policy - the dignity of the human person. A primary and critical principle of Catholic Social Teaching and our faith in general, human dignity, does not seem to be a talking point as we hear and read those speaking for and against the issues of the day. Why?

**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 7pm

**Location** St. Matthias Catholic Church 9306 W. Beloit Rd. Milwaukee

[Back to top](#)

### Rethink Afghanistan – Film Screenings and Discussion

Rethink Afghanistan is a ground-breaking documentary in 6 parts focusing on the key issues surrounding the war - What military escalation will achieve, The effect on the stability of Pakistan, Cost of the war, Civilian Casualties and US Airstrikes, The impact on women, and a discussion by former CIA agents on victory in Afghanistan. The war in Afghanistan is at a critical juncture. It is important that we educate ourselves on the issues and direct our opinions and the facts to the policy makers of our country. October 8 marks the 8<sup>th</sup> year of war. .

#### Two opportunities to view the film and engage in discussion;

Friday, October 9th, 7pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Ave, Brookfield – sponsored by UUCW

Tuesday, October 27, 7pm, Location to be Announced – sponsored by CPJ

[Back to top](#)

### Phyllis Bennis: 8 Years in Afghanistan: Why We Need to Leave – Wednesday, October 21

A Public Meeting on Afghanistan with Phyllis Bennis. Phyllis Bennis is a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. and a brilliant political analyst. She specializes in U.S. foreign policy regarding Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Palestine/Israel. The presentation will be followed by community respondents and audience

questions and comments. Wednesday, October 21 at 7 pm at UW-Milwaukee Student Union, Rm. 191, 2200 E. Kenwood. Sponsored by Peace Action Milwaukee, Progressive Students of Milwaukee and the Milw. Coalition for a Just Peace. Contact: 414-964-5158 [Flyer for the Event](#)

[Back to top](#)

## **Bring Home the National Guard – WI State Assembly Bill 203 – Act Now**

### **Catholics for Peace and Justice working together with Peace Action**

This fall the Wisconsin State Legislature will be voting on [Assembly Bill 203](#) to bring home the Wisconsin National Guard. People are needed from all over the state to call on their State Representatives and State Senators. Ask them to support Assembly Bill 203 which requires the governor to review and authorize federal call-ups of the Guard to insure they are legal. Lead sponsors of the legislation are Rep. Spencer Black and Senator Jon Erpenbach. Other Assembly sponsors are Berceau, Grigsby, Milroy, Parisi, Pocan, Pope-Roberts, Polly Williams and Richards. "Bring the Guard Home!" is a national movement of dozens of states organizing to pass legislation to stop illegal deployments of the National Guard. The authority under which the WI Guard was deployed to Iraq is no longer in effect; and thus, there is no legal basis for the Guard to remain there.

[Assembly Bill 203](#)

### **Take Action**

Contact your State Representative and State Senator today and ask them to support [Assembly Bill 203](#). Don't know who your reps are? Go to <http://www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org/21.html> for a link to find your WI state legislators.

[Back to top](#)

## **Israeli/Palestine Update from PA Mideast Lobby Group**

### **From S. Virgine Lawinger**

During October we would like to exert pressure on our Senators and Representatives as well as Sec. Clinton to support and enforce the recommendations of the Goldstone Report on the "Cast Lead" war in Gaza. For a Summary of the Report, Google 'Goldstone Report on Gaza.' We want to encourage our Congress people and the State Department to take an active role in holding Israel and Hamas (if breaches of International Law occurred from within Hamas) accountable for their actions. Go to

<http://www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org/21.html> for legislators and presidential contact information.

Roane Carey's article in the Oct. 12 edition of The Nation describes Goldstone's Report as "devastating in its critique of Israel's actions: indiscriminate use of firepower; deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian structures, including hospitals, schools, mosques, and water plants; use of human shields; abusive treatment of detainees; imposition of a blockade on Gaza before and after the attack itself.

Goldstone's background: He is Jewish and loves Israel. He is on the Board of Governors of Hebrew University. He insisted that the mandate include Palestinian acts which violated International Law and reported that Hamas attacks on civilian populations were war crimes. More information please contact Sr. Virgine [svirgine@earthlink.net](mailto:svirgine@earthlink.net)

[Back to top](#)

## **Shelter and Housing for Veterans**

### **By Dennis Johnson, Veterans for Peace**

In almost every community in America there is an inadequate supply of safe, affordable housing for persons with low incomes. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and community-based service providers offer emergency assistance and transitional housing programs for homeless veterans, but in most cases these reach only about 60 percent of the veterans who need assistance and, in most cases, provide assistance for a limited time. Because of limited resources, these programs often have enrollment criteria that embrace veterans with mental health issues, substance abuse histories, or co-occurring disorders at the exclusion of veterans whose homelessness is caused by economic or other short-term crises.

This assistance network is now only beginning to receive requests for help from veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF). Research shows there is likely to be a significant increase in demand for homeless assistance from these new combat veterans, the largest deployment of troops since the Vietnam War. The current level of homeless services is also being strained by the advancing age of Vietnam-era veterans, and a new veteran subpopulation – women veterans, both with and without dependent children. For the first time in American history, women comprise nearly 14 percent of the nation’s combat forces in Iraq, and women currently represent the fastest growing segment of the homeless veteran population... [Read More...](#)

**Side Note to Dennis’ Important Article...** This past week members and friends of Sophia, Cooperating Churches of Waukesha and Common Ground filled the council chambers at Waukesha City Hall for the city’s Planning Commission meeting. The issue at vote – to once again open St. Matthias as a Temporary Overflow Homeless Shelter for men from November through April. This past winter Berni Junu at Hebron House of Hospitality, the Salvation Army and St. Matthias Episcopal church with the help of volunteers from area churches accommodated an additional 131 men who otherwise would have been left in the cold on the streets. 77 of these men were assisted in finding housing and/or employment and ongoing support services as needed. 20% of them were Veterans. 26% had college degrees. Loss of jobs and homes is beginning to bring the great need for affordable housing into public view. To learn more about and/or get involved with the Affordable Housing Task Force in Waukesha County go to [www.affordablehousingtaskforce.org](http://www.affordablehousingtaskforce.org) .

[Back to top](#)

## **A Moral Foundation for Health Care From CPJ Leadership Council**

Its human nature to resist change and that is especially true when it comes to health care. There is a lot at stake, company profits, personal coverage, a fear that we will personally have less than we have now, or worse we will be forced to give more of our own to help others. The information here is meant to help try to put elements of this debate into perspective. It starts where all our moral decision should start, with our own moral foundation. We ask that you consider the content here. Share it with others. Contact your legislators and ask others to do the same. Now is the time to act!

### **Our Moral Foundation**

As the health care debate roars on, we are struck by the rhetoric of who and what we as the “good citizens” should pay for and what we should not. We shouldn’t have to pay for neighbors, who take advantage of the system, or strangers who are immigrants or fellow workers who smoke, or community members who don’t work or family members who are obese, you know “those people” who just aren’t as healthy or deserving as we are – right now anyway.

Thank goodness, God doesn’t choose to see us in the same light we choose to see our sisters and brothers or we’d ALL be in the same deep dark fiery trouble. After all the rhetoric the answer is simple Christ in Scripture tells us simply to love our neighbor as our self, and more, to love others as Christ loves us [Luke 10, John 15]. Our Church teaches that at its very core the foundation of Catholic Social Justice is human dignity. “Society as a whole must respect, defend, and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person’s life.” [*The Gospel of Life, #181*] In short we must attend to the common good of all as Christ tends to us.

[Religious Values Supporting Universal Health](#) Care provides a Judeo-Christian perspective on why we should care for each other. Please share with others.

### **The Stories**

We all know someone who has a crisis story. Stories help us understand the reality of our current system, in what ways it is broke, and to help us understand the need to fix what is broke.

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good has set up a web page of Health Care Stories at <http://www.catholicsinalliance.org/storymap> . Here you can read submitted stories and submit your own story. Share these stories with others.

## Take Action

Contact your legislators. Share your stories. Don't have their contact information? Go to [www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org](http://www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org) and choose menu item "Legislators" or click here <http://www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org/21.html>

[Back to top](#)

## Update on Common Ground Campaigns

Beginning in September Common Ground has begun a new campaign – a concerted effort to keep our community updated on Common Ground campaigns. The Common Ground website is currently up to date with news on CG campaigns [www.commongroundwi.org](http://www.commongroundwi.org). Campaign information and actions will continue to be updated monthly on the site.

Synopsis of current campaigns and efforts

- Health Care Coop for small businesses in Wisconsin is scheduled to launch in the next couple months.
- Youth Jobs is currently working with the GMC and MAWIB to host a session for local businesses on increasing youth jobs through the Earn and Learn program
- Common Ground members participated in a photo survey of foreclosed homes around the Milwaukee area.
- Common Ground Sherman Park organizations and residents are uniting with St. Joes to bolster their neighborhood
- Common Ground will be hosting an Economic & Foreclosure Crisis Workshop on Thursday, October 8 - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1100 N. Astor, Milwaukee
- Common Ground has been holding information meetings for organizations in Waukesha County and helped organize an action to insure a positive vote by the Waukesha Planning Commission to support a temporary homeless shelter in the city.

**Press** – Sherman Park Action <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/62284642.html> - Waukesha Temporary Shelter <http://www.jsonline.com/news/waukesha/60876432.html>

Catholics for Peace and Justice is a member of Common Ground. Want to get involved? Contact Debra Schneider at [djscheider@wi.rr.com](mailto:djscheider@wi.rr.com)

[Back to top](#)

## Conference: Faith Encounters the Energy Crisis – Sunday, October 25

### From Carol Waskovich

In last week's Journal Sentinel, a headline read, "Warming in Arctic affecting wildlife." The researcher said that "the Arctic as we know it may soon be a thing of the past." The signs of climate change are very clear in some places. Maybe we don't care about polar bears and Arctic plants right now, but it's just another step closer to impacting us in the Midwest. Author Margaret Swedish asks, "Can we [act] while there is still time to recreate a world worth living in?"

To give you practical ideas to implement in your life and home, plan to attend the Faith Encounters The Energy Crisis: Transitioning to Reduced Energy Consumption Conference. The event will feature speakers dealing with how to cut electrical and heating usage in your home, how to save on transportation, and climate change issues. You'll be equipped and empowered to reduce energy consumption as well as develop a sustainable energy use ethic based on your faith values.

The keynote address will be by Margaret Swedish, author of Living Beyond the "End of the World"... A Spirituality of Hope. She will outline the values, vision and spiritual resources to nurture a new human community and thus ensure a future for coming generations.

The Conference, sponsored by the Interfaith Earth Network, will be held at the Urban Ecology Center 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee from 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 25. See the IEN website, <http://www.interfaithearthnetwork.org/>, for updated information and registration. The deadline for the \$25 discount registration is October 12; \$35 after. Contact Carol for registration (if you have no computer) or for

more information at the parish office at 414-873-3576. Let's together "recreate a world worth living in!"  
[FLYER for the Conference](#)

[Back to top](#)

### **Natural Step Discussion Circle Downtown Location – October 7**

A Natural Step discussion circle will be held on Wednesday nights, from 7 - 8:30 pm, starting Oct. 7, at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor Street, Milwaukee. 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.

Participants will focus on issues of sustainability including the TNS framework, renewable resources, transportation, green buildings, eco-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. There is no such thing as one sustainable person, business, or community. In order for any of us to reach meaningful sustainability, we all need to. So there is great motivation for working beyond our own lives -- coming together to share and move forward. We've found study circles to be a) worthwhile; b) rich chances to form new friendships; c) great, lively conversations; d) life changing.

**Contact Pat Schroeder 414-379-6661.**

[Back to top](#)

### **Justice for Immigration Training on Immigration Issues – Saturday, October 17**

You are invited to "Equipping the Saints for Ministry: Justice for Immigrants Training" sponsored by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Justice for Immigrants committee and the Social Justice Ministry on Saturday, October 17, 2009, from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. This program will be offered in English with Spanish translation. The training will examine legislative proposals in the light of Catholic teaching and provide instruction of advocacy for comprehensive immigration reform. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 3277 South 58th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53220 is our host for the event. **For registration materials, please contact Rob Shelledy, 414-758-2286 or [shelledyr@archmil.org](mailto:shelledyr@archmil.org).**

[Back to top](#)

### **Four Corners Fair Trade Film Festival and Celebration of Fair Trade**

#### **October Film Festival at Four Corners of the World**

Four Corners of the World, 5401 West Vliet St., will celebrate World Fair Trade Month by showing films followed by discussion on the five Thursdays in October from 6:30-8:30. Each film session will end with an uplifting selection from the *Playing for Change* DVD. Snacks will be served. The films will be shown at the store. The schedule is as follows:

Oct. 1: *King Corn*, a documentary about how the corn kernel has conquered America

Oct. 8: *Fresh*, a documentary about people who are re-inventing our food system-features local farmer Will Allen

Oct. 15: *Flow*, a film about the global water crisis

Oct. 22: *Mardi Gras*, a documentary critique of globalization that looks at conditions in a Chinese factory

Oct. 29: *Stolen Childhoods*, a documentary about the exploitation of children as laborers- narrated by Meryl Streep

Other Fair Trade Month events can be found at [www.milwfairtrade.org](http://www.milwfairtrade.org).

#### **Celebration of Fair Trade on Vliet Street on October 17 at 6:30 pm**

Place: 5050 West Vliet Street - Art Exhibit: Post Cards of Solidarity: Indian Tea Growers and Guatemalan Coffee Growers, Speaker: Mike Miller from the JUST Coffee Co-op, World Music by St. Michael's Choir  
Sponsored by Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store

[Back to top](#)

## **A Mass in Celebration of the Birth of Mahatma Gandhi – Friday, October 2**

### **From Marquette Center for Peacemaking**

Father Cedric Prakash is a human rights activist and a Jesuit Priest based in the city of Ahmedabad in western India. He is the director of Prashant, the Ahmedabad-based Jesuit Centre for Human Rights, Justice and Peace. He will be doing the mass at the Chapel, followed by a volunteer pledge to practice Nonviolence. When: Friday, October 2, 2009 at Noon at the Marquette University, St. Joan of Arc Chapel

[Back to top](#)

## **Helen Prejean Keynote Speaker – Thursday, October 8, 2009**

Sister Helen Prejean will receive an honorary degree at the Varsity Theatre and present her talk called: *Dead Man Walking—The Journey Continues*, followed by a reception and book signing. Free tickets are available in the Brooks Lounge at Marquette University. When: Thursday, October 8, 2009, 7:00 pm. at Marquette University, Varsity Theatre on Wisconsin Avenue.

[Back to top](#)

## **Exploring the Power of Nonviolence PJSA Conference – October 8-10**

### **Plenary Speaker Helen Prejean**

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, Milwaukee. 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 and registration go to: <http://www.peacejusticestudies.org/conference/schedule.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.

[Back to top](#)

## **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.

[Back to top](#)

## **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](http://www.SOAW.org/november)

[Back to top](#)

### **Taste of Uganda – October 24**

**From Barb Schultz**

The fourth annual Taste of Uganda sponsored by Grandmothers Beyond Borders will be on Oct. 24th at Christ King Church Hall- 92nd and Center. It starts with a social hour from 5-6:00 followed by the dinner- a sampling of Uganda food. There will be a silent auction and at 8:00. The All Saints Choir will perform. The cost is \$25 per person - a table for eight cost \$160. The cash bar is \$3 for wine and beer. Special guest- Fr. Peter Ntege from the village of Kangulumira in Uganda. Reservations need to be in by October 15. For further information contact Marilyn Nelsen at 262-244-0846.

[Back to top](#)

### **Prayer Reflection**

**A Re-Write of the Beatitudes to Live By**

by 10<sup>th</sup> grade youth at St. James

Blessed are those who give without expecting anything in return  
Blessed are those who appreciate things that they have.  
Blessed are those who put their faith in God  
Blessed are those who say positive things to others  
Blessed are those who are truthful  
Blessed are those who pray to Jesus daily  
Blessed are those who keep an open mind  
Blessed are those who care for others as themselves  
Blessed are those who are not afraid to stand up for what they believe  
Blessed are those who accept those who are different  
Blessed are those who follow the Bible's teachings closely

[Back to top](#)

