



Holy Spirit Catholic Church Social Ministry Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

JANUARY, 2012

Committed to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Dates to Remember

January

- 7-8 Fair Trade sales
- 15 KC Pancake breakfast in support of the Giving Tree
- 17 IHN Training
- 18 Immigration talk at Resurrection
- 27 Friday assistance
- 29 Sunday noon lunch
- 29—Feb 5 IHN Host week

February

- 2 SJ Commission
- 4-5 Fair Trade sales
- 9 IHN Training
- 24 Friday assistance

March

- 1 SJ Commission
- 1 IHN Training
- 3-4 Fair Trade sales
- 11 Sunday noon lunch
- 20 Day on the Hill
- 30 Friday assistance
- 31 Fair Trade

April

- 1 Fair Trade
- 5 SJ Commission
- 16-17 Fair Trade sales
- 27 Friday assistance
- 29 Margaret Regan—2 pm presentation at St. Francis
- 29 Sunday noon lunch

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK 2012 Welcoming Christ in the Migrant

In December, 2011, the Catholic bishops in the USA expressed support for immigrants in several ways.

On December 8, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) announced that National Migration Week 2012 will be celebrated January 8-14. The 2012 theme is **Welcoming Christ in the Migrant**.

“Just as on the road to Emmaus, Christ’s disciples met him in the guise of a stranger, this year’s theme helps remind us that Christ makes himself present to each of us in the lonesome traveler, the newcomer, and the migrant,” said Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration. “We are called to open our hearts and provide hospitality to those in need, especially for migrants who find themselves far away from home and in vulnerable situations.” (See <http://mncc.org/news/> for the highlights of his recent address to the Knights of Columbus.)

Simultaneously, the MN Catholic Bishops announced that the great feast of Epiphany on January 8, 2012, will also be commemorated as Immigration Sunday in MN. The 2012 theme is **Remembering Our American Inheritance**.

As in past years, this Sunday is dedicated to “reflecting upon the plight of those who have fled their native lands and come to us looking for sanctuary, economic opportunity, religious liberty or many of the other blessings of American life,” said MN Catholic Conference (MNCC) Communications Associate

Jessica Zittlow. “Immigration Sunday gives MN Catholics an opportunity to push political debates aside and do exactly as Archbishop Gomez suggests: take time to not only welcome the stranger, but to acknowledge his or her value — as mother, father, son or daughter, as family and community member. ... We also will be working more effectively for just solutions to our broken immigration system.” (<http://mncc.org/news/>)

On December 12, the Wisconsin Catholic Bishops published a **pastoral letter on immigration** that began:

“Over the course of two thousand years, the Catholic Church has developed a special expertise in the area of immigration. Our universal Church has observed and participated in migrations all across the globe. We have helped millions of immigrants – Catholic and non-Catholic – to prosper in new lands. We have done so and will continue to do so because we see the image and likeness of God in every human being. From the Prophets to recent papal teaching, the Church has a consistent message: welcome the stranger (Mt 25:35).

“We recognize that Catholics, all in good conscience, hold differing views about U.S. immigration policy. We also know that many are dissatisfied with the status quo and are looking for a workable solution. Our Catholic teaching provides important principles to guide us.” (The complete letter is posted on the parish website: www.holyspiritrochester.org/justice/whatsnew.html).

IN SUPPORT OF JUSTICE

National Migration Week cont. from page 1

On December 14, 33 Latino Bishops in the USA published a **pastoral letter to undocumented immigrants** that began:

“We the undersigned Hispanic/Latino Bishops of the United States wish to let those of you who lack proper authorization to live and work in our country know that you are not alone, or forgotten. We recognize that every human being, authorized or not, is an image of God and therefore possesses infinite value and dignity. We open our arms and hearts to you, and we receive you as members of our Catholic family. As pastors, we direct these words to you from the depths of our heart.

“In a very special way we want to thank you for the Christian values you manifest to us with your lives—your sacrifice for the well-being of your families, your determination and perseverance, your joy of life, your profound faith and fidelity despite your insecurity and many difficulties. You contribute much to the welfare of our nation in the economic, cultural and spiritual arenas.” (The complete letter is also posted at www.holyspiritrochester.org/justice/whatsnew.html)



Special Speaking Event on Immigration

On Wednesday, January 18, the Church of the Resurrection will host Fr. James Callahan and Fr. Jose Morales, as they speak about immigration. Fr. James and Fr. Jose come to us from Worthington, MN. They will share their unique experiences and the Church’s teaching on this important issue that concerns all of us today. Come and learn more about this hot topic. We will meet in the main church from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. It is part of our Generations of Faith Going Deeper session, but is open to everyone.



JRLC- DAY ON THE HILL

The annual Day on the Hill sponsored by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) brings together nearly 1,000 Minnesotans of diverse faiths (Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims) who share JRLC’s vision for the common good, social justice, and democracy to meet with their legislators to discuss key social justice issues in Minnesota. JRLC is the largest, most inclusive interfaith public policy body in Minnesota.

There will be opportunities for carpooling for this event. If you are interested contact Margie Hake (margiehake5@gmail.com or 202-3223) or Judy O’Fallon (ofallon.judy@gmail.com or 269-7494).

ROCHESTER CATHOLICS READ

The difficult issue of immigration will be explored when Margaret Regan visits Rochester in April. She is the author of *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands*. Ms. Regan writes for the *Tucson Weekly* and has won a dozen journalism awards for border reporting, including two national prizes.

On April 27 there will be a potluck dinner and book discussion at the Unitarian Church in Rochester. On April 28th there will be a presentation at the public library and finally on Sunday, April 29th at 2 PM there will be a bilingual presentation at St. Francis of Assisi Church.



Book discussions will be taking place prior to her visit. Find your copy of her book now and stay tuned for further information.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Theme 4: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

In *Communities of Salt and Light* the U.S. bishops restated the option for the poor and claimed it is a way to test for justice within the community.

“At a time when the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, we insist the moral test of our society is how we treat and care for the weakest among us.”

Later in the document the bishops state that “Our parish communities are measured by how they serve ‘the least of these’ in our parish and beyond its boundaries—the hungry, the homeless, the sick, those in prison, the stranger”.

Pope John Paul II characterized the preferential option for the poor as a “call to have a special openness with the small and the weak, those who suffer and weep, those that are humiliated and left on the margin of society, so as to help them with their dignity as human persons and children of God.”¹

The Catholic Church’s social doctrine highlights this preference for the poor in dealing with “the immense multitudes

of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care, and above all, those without hope for a better future. Our daily lives, as well as our decisions in the political and economic fields, must be marked by these realities. Likewise, leaders of nations and the heads of international bodies must keep in mind the true human dimension as a priority in development plans.”²

Millions still live in extreme poverty yet the world has enough money, resources and technology to end poverty forever.

Question to ponder: What is my response to and support for efforts to reduce poverty?

References

1. Marvin L. Krier Mich, *The Challenge and Spirituality of Catholic Social Teaching* (Louisville, KY: JustFaith, 2005), page 104.
2. Kevin E. McKenna, *A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching* (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2002), page 73.

For Hospitality of the Heart

Welcoming God, teach us to be generous in offering hospitality.

Help us to be welcoming as you are welcoming, with reverence and care, mindfulness and respect.

May our greetings be marked by sincerity and our actions be marked by tenderness.

May all that we do for ourselves and others invite happiness and promise delight, seek peace and offer healing, encourage simplicity and share affection, acknowledge faith and extend friendship.

Enlarge our hearts to embrace all people with love and bless our efforts to be hospitable.

*Charlotte Zalot, OSB (taken from *The Fire of Peace* published by Pax Christi USA)*

HOLY SPIRIT WANT ADS

WANTED....WANTED....WANTED....WANTED....WANTED....WANTED....WANTED

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is Rochester’s way of supporting homeless families by giving them food and shelter one week at a time at participating churches. Holy Spirit has been involved for many years; currently we support another host church for 4 weeks per year. Now we are in great need of a volunteer coordinator (or better yet, a pair of co-coordinators) to make it possible for us to continue. For more details, to have your questions answered, please write or call John Orbeck at jporbeck3@gmail.com or 507-269-4118 (cell). Also check out the IHN website: <http://www.ihn-greater-rochester.org/>



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WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.HOLYSPIRITROCHESTER.ORG

HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKERS SERIES

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) has often been called our “Best Kept Secret.” In an effort to make this rich part of our tradition better known and understood, Holy Spirit sponsored a series of speakers this past fall.

In **September**, Dr. Susan Windley-Daoust from St. Mary’s University talked about *The Life and Dignity of the Human Person as the Root of Catholic Social Teaching*. The scriptural basis for this principle is obvious in the 25th chapter of Matthew (works of mercy). However, our modern notion of CST began with Pope Leo XIII’s encyclical *On the Condition of Labor* (*Rerum Novarum*, 1891). This document was a response to the excesses of the industrial revolution, which were taking a powerful human toll. Over 100 years old, it still speaks to us today. Through Scripture, tradition, and CST, the Church is meant to be a sign and safeguard of the transcendence of the human person.

The Compendium of CST lists four areas of focus around the life and dignity of the human person:

- 1) Right to Life issues—abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, bioethics;
- 2) Life and Economy—unions for workers’ rights, living wages, excesses in capitalism, profit motives, consumer dignity;
- 3) Immigration—principles of law and process: a) people have a right to migrate, b) countries have the right to regulate their borders, and c) countries must regulate with justice and mercy;
- 4) War/conflict/peace—just war theory, conscientious objection, pacifism, non-violence, dialogue and diplomacy.

So why don’t we know or act on our CST? We may be misinformed or uninformed about what it means to act from our faith; political partisanship may overrule; we may choose to select only one issue and be blind or indifferent to others; the scope of suffering, neglect, and hardship may be too hard to grasp; we may not want to be challenged or to “rock the boat”; we may feel we can’t make a difference. When we understand better what is standing in our way, we have made the first move to act to defend the life and dignity of every human person.

In **October**, Dr. Bernie Evans from St. John’s University talked about *Caring for God’s Creation—Caring for God’s People*.

First he presented biblical foundations of this discussion to make it clear that all of creation is from God and all of creation is good. We humans are part of this creation and we have a special responsibility to respect and care for it, to be stewards. Pro-life must include *all* life and *all* creation, not just human.

He then related this to a particular CST principle—the preferential option for the poor. As we protect creation—the environment and the earth’s resources—we also must protect the weak and the marginalized among us; it’s never a choice between the two. He acknowledged the challenges we are facing in this regard, especially with the current economic woes. We must accept the destructive legacy of overconsumption in developed nations. (The US has 4 % of the earth’s population but uses 25% of the earth’s resources.) And we can do our part personally to combat the greed and consumption of our culture. We begin with ourselves through the power of prayer, reflection, education and action to, as Gandhi said, “Be the change we wish to see.”

Our last speaker was Tom Thibodeau, who came from Viterbo University in **November**. His talk, *Everyday Justice for Everyday Catholics*, addressed the question, “What does life in a parish that tries to live out CST look like?” He proposed 4 guidelines:

- 1) Ours is a communal faith—we can’t be righteous alone (“Where 2 or 3 are gathered...”). We must act together.
- 2) Presence is power—we need to “show up” and stand with those in need, and our presence will be revelatory.
- 3) We need to stay close to the Eucharist. We receive communion and are in communion with a billion others on our planet. We are the church gathered, on Sunday, and then scattered, on Monday, and that brings us to the last point:
- 4) “Bringing Sunday to Monday” to make Christ present in the workplace. We need to make safe places for conversation where injustice will be confronted with honesty and courage. In this Eucharistic community where we can dream out loud and are in solidarity with those in need, the principles of CST come alive.