

# Love Thy Neighbor

## Catholic Social Teaching

*The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. In "Love Thy Neighbor," we highlight themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.*



Loving God and neighbor in ways that bear fruit in the life of society.



The ability to vote exists as one of the most cherished Constitutional Rights that many fought for, marched for, and died for over the centuries.

## Decisions, Decisions by Rob Shelledy

Wisconsin Primary – Sept 14  
General Election – Nov 2

To vote, by definition, is to make a decision and as the bishops have written, "Decisions about political life are complex and require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence." In many public issues, our Church's "both/and" teaching clashes with our "either/or" political system. So, what is a Catholic to do?

The obvious answer is to prayerfully form our

consciences in light of Church teaching. The less obvious answer is to become engaged in the political process both before and after the election.

In an effort to do both, I encourage everyone to use the bishops' statement **Fforming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility** available at [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org) and the resources at the Wisconsin Catholic Conference website

[www.wisconsinatholic.org](http://www.wisconsinatholic.org) to prepare for the election and beyond.

In addition, I suggest that we all try to cultivate what St. Ignatius called spiritual detachment or indifference. Being indifferent to our economic situation, our political party, our social status, etc. allows one the freedom to make a choice that "leads to the deepening of God's life in me."



## The Pathway by Deanna Boland, Pius High School

Congratulations to Deanna Boland, second place winner (Literature) for her poem "Pathway" in this year's CCHD Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest. Jose Sanchez, earned honorable mention for his pencil drawing (right) titled "Repairers of the Breach." Both students listened to a guest speaker as they learned about a locally funded CCHD group. More winners are posted online at: <http://www.archmil.org/offices/CCHD/News.htm>

**Empowered.**  
Moving forward. Finding solutions. A way out.

**Pride.**  
New strides every day. Education, support groups. Learning to believe in myself.

Finding strength and courage.

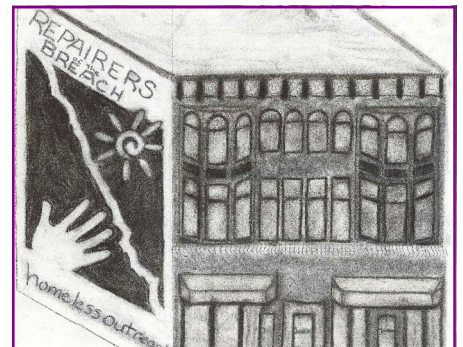
**United.**  
Knowing my voice is heard. Understanding that I have value. As a child of God, I have worth and dignity.

**Community.**  
Impoverished people connecting. Helping others, while helping myself. In transition to the mainstream.

**Possibilities.**  
Free services and programs, aimed at my needs. Grief Counseling. GED programs. Mail services, a phone. Prayer.

**Power with.**  
Having food, a home, health-care. Creating a support system. Changing my own conditions. Direct action for permanent solutions.

**Repairers of the Breach.**  
Giving out maps. Leading the way. I have found the pathway. The pathway to empowerment.



## Inside this Issue:

\$35,000 to Fight Poverty	2
Crossing Borders at St. Bruno's in Dousman	2
Guest House	3
Haiti: Post Earthquake	3
Catholics at the Capitol	3
Calendar of Events	4
New Contest Theme	4

## \$35,000 Awarded to Local Organizations to Fight Poverty

"Let us love one another,  
for love comes from God."  
1 John 4:7

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee's committee for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) distributed over \$35,000 in June 2010 to support local projects that work to eliminate the root causes of poverty. CCHD, the anti-poverty initiative of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, is one of the largest private funders of anti-poverty programs controlled by the poor.

Grants in the amount of \$10,000 were awarded to:

The Dominican Center for Women to support their 24th Street Neighborhood Revitalization Project;

Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Inc. (LBWN) to develop a project which Empowers Neighbors through a Targeted Investment Neighborhood; and

Stewards of Prophetic, Hopeful, Intentional Action (SOPHIA) to support the work of the Treatment Instead of Prison Task Force.

Casa Romero Renewal Center also received a grant just over \$7,500 to support its ISE Leadership Development Program. Southeast Wisconsin Common Ground and Racine Interfaith Coalition (RIC)

should receive grants later this summer from the national CCHD office.

During its history, the local CCHD committee has supported organizations including People First Wisconsin, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (Friendship Corner), Repairers of the Breach, the Adult Learning Center, Hope House of Milwaukee, Racine Vocation Ministry, Congregations United to Serve Humanity (CUSH), Pan-African Community Association (PACA), Project Return, and Sherman Park Community Association.

Contact our office if you are interested in being on the local CCHD team that reviews and awards local grants.



Artwork created by Katie Ley of St. John the Evangelist was recognized at the CCHD Multi-Media Arts Showcase in March 2010. The paintbrush and hammer symbolize the physical changes made to create a beautiful and safe neighborhood.

Everything  
is possible  
for him  
who believes.

Mark 9:23

## Crossing Borders at St. Bruno's in Dousman: A Study of Immigration Issues by Carol Pinter

At the urging of Fr. Ralph Grossman, St. Bruno Parish in Dousman started a **JUST FAITH** series based on the national social justice program in September 2009. The parish offered an 8-week course, **Crossing Borders: Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey**, to area churches. 29 people participated in the course.

As a follow-up to the program, a committee of Just Faith participants initiated an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of the violation of human rights of immigrants around the world. The committee has worked on four specific projects to date.

1. Development of a letter to President Obama and to our state senators and district representative to ask for their support of human rights of immigrants and refugees, including their safety and well-being. Parish mem-

bers signed 125 copies of the letters in January. Responses were received from all four public officials and have been made into an advocacy packet to share with interested parishes and individuals.

2. This past Lent, a five week "mini-course" on immigration was offered by the committee. The course used the five DVDs from the Crossing Borders course and was facilitated by Crossing Borders "graduates".

3. The committee also provides a monthly educational focus for bulletin and kiosk articles on different aspects of the complex issue of immigration.

For example, our first monthly focus in January 2010 was on the Bishops' teachings on immigration. The August focus is on the Guest Worker program and

the impact of immigration reform on Wisconsin farms.

4. On July 20, the committee sponsored a 2-hour non-partisan interfaith workshop on Immigration Reform and Catholic Social Teaching. Immigration Attorney Joseph Rivas and Sister Josephe Marie Flynn presented the legal and social justice aspects of immigration and pointed to the need to "fix" a very broken immigration system in the US. A DVD was made of the workshop by one of the Crossing Borders participant-leaders and is being used to further explore the many subtleties of this complex issue of immigration and immigration reform.

Future activities will include ongoing education and advocacy as well as reaching out to children and adolescents in our schools and faith formation programs with information about Immigration and Catholic Social Teaching.

JustFaith offers eight different JustMatters programs, including: Faith Encounters the Ecological Crisis, Prison Reform, Government and the Common Good, and an Exploration of Nonviolent Peacemaking.



If your parish is interested in the Just Matters series from Just Faith, visit:  
[http://www.justfaith.org/programs/justmatters-m\\_crossingborders.html](http://www.justfaith.org/programs/justmatters-m_crossingborders.html)



The Guest House's primary goal is that every person they serve obtains and maintains independence, meaning permanent housing, a family-sustaining income, sobriety, and stable mental health.

Ultimately, their purpose is to reduce homelessness and poverty in our community.

## Reducing Homelessness and Poverty in Milwaukee by Jo Ann Kuenn

Since 1982, the Guest House has been creating solutions to homelessness in Milwaukee. What began as an emergency response to homelessness has grown into a multi faceted effort to help people recover from the trauma of homelessness and regain independence. The Guest House is considered one of Milwaukee's leading homeless service providers with a reputation of high quality service.

Their mission is to provide shelter, housing, education, and services for Milwaukee's

homeless who seek to transform their lives with dignity and purpose. They have an interest and expertise in assisting the hardest-to-serve homeless—those who are mentally ill, disabled, substance abusers, recently released from the criminal justice system, and/or chronically homeless. Their comprehensive range of programs and services include:

- L.E.A.D.S. Program (86 beds emergency shelter and transitional housing; 600 served annually)

- Permanent supportive housing for homeless men, women, and families with disabilities (231 units)
- On-site treatment for substance abuse and mental health disorders
- Employment Specialist training for resume writing, interviewing, and employment placement
- Job readiness including the award winning Resident Manager Training Program

Learn more at [www.guesthouseofmilwaukee.org](http://www.guesthouseofmilwaukee.org)

## More Help for Haiti through Operation Rice Bowl

Many of us find ourselves preoccupied with hardships as we see the signs of stress placed upon our families and friends – the stress of dealing with home foreclosures, layoffs and increased costs of living. These growing needs are not only evident in our own communities. They exist and manifest themselves many times over and with greater intensity in poor countries around the world.

The global economic and food crises have pushed billions of people to the limits of existence. Add a natural disaster to these conditions,

and the needs of the people become more dire. The hope that Catholic Relief Services (CRS) brings to these desperate people is one reason why we promote the use of Operation Rice Bowl during Lent.

CRS recognizes the complex factors faced by victims of natural disasters, with special attention on clean water and food security during the emergency phase.

Two types of short-term food security provide food aid and medical and agricultural supplies to victims and refugees, and safety net



programs distribute basic food and food supplements to vulnerable populations.

In its first week of Operation Rice Bowl 2011, CRS materials will focus on food security – post earthquake – for Haiti. For victims of the January 12 earthquake, where over 230,000 Haitians lost their lives and an estimated 1.6 million are living under tarps and tents months after the quake, the most basic necessities will be provided with your support.

Prayer is not asking for what you think you want, but asking to be changed in ways you can't imagine.

Kathleen Norris

## SAVE THE DATE: April 5, 2011 for Catholics at the Capitol

*"In everything ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge."*

1 Corinthians 1:5

Catholics are invited to attend "Catholics at the Capitol," the biennial event hosted by the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at Monona Terrace Convention Center.

Co-sponsored by numerous Catholic organizations, this one day event features a wide variety of educational opportunities for Catholics seeking to

learn more about the Church's rich social teaching and current issues facing state and federal decision-makers.

A variety of breakout sessions on timely issues are offered throughout the day. Previous topics included immigration, stewardship of creation, criminal justice reform, and education and poverty. Following the sessions, attendees are encouraged to meet with their respective district legislators (and staff) to discuss issues of concern at the state capitol.

To facilitate travel, the Office of Social Justice Ministry will charter a coach bus for the event with pick-up locations at State Fair Park in West Allis (7:15 am) and Goerke's Corners in Waukesha (7:35 am). Return trip will leave the Capitol at 5:10 pm.

Registration fee for the event is expected to be \$30 per person, which includes lunch. There will be an additional fee for transportation. High school and college students are encouraged to participate!



### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

All those interested in learning more about Catholic social teaching and the call to the faithful to advocate for justice.

# Social Justice Ministry



Office Location:  
St. Joseph Center  
1501 South Layton Blvd., Suite 221  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
Southwest Corner of Layton Blvd.  
(27th Street) and Greenfield Ave.

Mailing Address:  
Office of Social Justice Ministry  
P.O. Box 3087  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-3087

For more information about upcoming events or volunteer opportunities, contact:

**Robert Shelledy**  
Director of Social Justice Ministry  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
(414) 758-2286  
catholicsocialaction@archmil.org

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2010 & 2011

- August 9 Immigration Forum, St. Benedict, 137 Dewey Ave., Fontana
- September 14 Wisconsin Primary Election
- September 23 Immigration Forum, St. Charles Borromeo, 5571 S. Marilyn, Milw.
- October Submit new applications for National CCHD Economic Development or Community Organizing Grants
- October 3 Respect Life Sunday
- November 2 Wisconsin General Election
- November 12-13 Showing of the documentary "The Human Experience" UW-Whitewater, Marion College, Fond du Lac and Cardinal Stritch; Watch for more details on website!
- November 17 Br. Booker Ashe Urban Ministry Immigration Forum, 6-9 pm Cardinal Stritch, 6801 N. Yates Road, Milwaukee
- January 29, 2011 Meet Local CCHD Groups & "Journey to Justice" Retreat St. Martin de Porres, 128 W. Burleigh St., Milwaukee
- February 28, 2011 Deadline for entries into Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest
- March 9, 2011 Ash Wednesday, Start of Operation Rice Bowl
- April 5, 2011 Catholics at the Capitol, Madison, WI



"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork." Psalm 19:1

Congratulations to LuzElena Tellez of Prince of Peace Parish and Pius High School. Her entry, "Tree of Empowerment" earned second place for the Visual Arts category in the diocese's 2010 CCHD Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest.

Open our eyes,  
Creator, to see the  
beauty of  
Your creation.

## New Contest Theme for Youth

The national office of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has announced the new theme for the 2011 CCHD Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest. Catholic youth in grades 7 thru 12 are encouraged to learn about an organization supported by CCHD, then create their original artwork to interpret the theme:

**"Our Faith, Our Mission, Our Future:  
Building Community, Overcoming Poverty,  
Defending Human Dignity"**

