

September 2010 JustPeace Newsletter

Pastor's Summary

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[Read the full article...](#)

INFORMATION FROM THE WEBSITE: CREATING /SUSTAINING YOUR MINISTRY

The Office of Life, Justice and Peace has created a guide--Guidebook for Creating and Sustaining a Vibrant Social Justice Ministry--to help Social Justice / Respect Life committees through the process of creating and sustaining a vibrant social justice ministry in your parish. This is not meant to be definitive; these are suggestions from successful parish ministries.

[Read the full article...](#)

NEWS AND ISSUES

GEOGRAPHICAL QUIZ: CAN YOU NAME THE FIVE COUNTRIES ENDING IN "ISTAN?"

A Focus on the Following Principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

-Solidarity

Answer: Afghanistan, Tajikistan...

[Read the full article...](#)

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 2010 NATIONAL GRANTS

A Focus on the Following Principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

-Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development has awarded two Oregon programs with its 2010 national grants: Adelante Mujeres for its Forest Grove Farmers' Market and VOZ for its Portland workers' rights project.

[Read the full article...](#)

SCRIPTURE READING: SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

Luke 16:19-31

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[Read the full article...](#)

RECOMMENDED EVENTS AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

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FROM THE OFFICE: WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

A petition is circulating calling on New York officials to take action to stop a mosque from being built on Ground Zero. The proposed 13-story mosque would sit two blocks away from Ground Zero.

The petition mentions the mosque, which is a Muslim temple or house of worship, as too close to the site "where thousands of Americans fell to an Islamic jihadist attack." The authors of the petition conclude that the mosque is intended to symbolize Islamic victory over America and her Western values.

I do not know the real reason why this mosque was proposed for a site this close to Ground Zero. Neither do the petitioners, at least their petition failed to mention any reason except for intended symbolism, for which they offer no inconclusive proof much less circumstantial evidence. Neither did the scores of commentary, which I read, on the proposed mosque offer any reasonable conclusion based on evidence.

(Oh, and it's not really a mosque that's proposed for the site, it's a Muslim community center with a prayer room).

It is this immediate and visceral reaction to the idea of a Muslim community center that offends me.

The petition calls for people to discriminate against a class of individuals, Muslims, who as a whole had nothing to do with 9/11 (a very small group of extremist Muslims had everything to do with it). Proscribing specific extremist Islamists from offensive behavior is one thing. Protesting Muslims from building near or far from Ground Zero merely because of their religious beliefs and the tenuous connection of religion to the Islamist extremists is discrimination.

The U.S. Bishops have consistently and fundamentally opposed discrimination (as of this writing the U.S. Bishops have not publicly commented on this issue). For example, any organization that practices a whiff of discrimination will not be considered for a Catholic Campaign for Human Development grant ("CCHD will not consider organizations which promote or support violence, racism, sexism, or other prejudices, in any form").

Yes, truths, facts and background information would support a rational argument favoring a Muslim community center. Logic and economics, however, must never take priority over Catholics' essential mission to know the truth (attain enlightenment).

The teaching of the Catholic Church calls us to be in relationship with each other, which puts us in relationship with Jesus Christ; Christ is not separate from us but part of us and we are all united in Christ.

In Matthew 25 Jesus says "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

And when we discriminate against a class of people merely because of their religious views (or gender, or skin color, or nationality), we are in turn discriminating against Jesus Christ. And that is not the teaching, the truth, of our faith.

INFORMATION FROM THE WEBSITE:

GUIDE TO CREATING AND SUSTAINING YOUR MINISTRY

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NEWS AND ISSUES

Geographical Quiz: Can you name the five countries ending in "istan?"

A Focus on the Following Principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

-Solidarity

Answer: Afghanistan, Tajikistan...

...Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and **Pakistan**.

Our response in Pakistan has paled in comparison to what we did for Haiti. Perhaps we are weary from global disasters—Haiti earthquake, Russia forest fires, Gulf Oil Spill. Perhaps our own economic plight has caused us to focus inward. In the spirit of Solidarity—"We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences"—we must remember that we are all brothers and sisters

Pakistan, with a population of nearly 150 million people, is the seventh most populous country in the world. The literacy level of Pakistan is one of the lowest in the world. In rural areas, 51 percent of men and 77 percent of women are unable to read and write. These conditions are familiar to Catholic Relief Services; CRS has worked in Pakistan since 1954.

The worst flooding in Pakistan's history has cut a swath of destruction from the northern mountain regions to wheat fields in the south. Government and humanitarian estimates put the number of displaced at 20 million people. At least 1,500 people have been killed, millions have lost their homes, crops and livestock, and heavily trafficked roads and bridges have disappeared.

Information for Church Bulletins:

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States, is bringing critical aid to thousands of people affected by the recent flooding in Pakistan. To donate, please call 1-877-HELP-CRS, donate online at www.crs.org or send a check to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090. In the memo portion of your check, please write: Pakistan Flooding.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT 2010 NATIONAL GRANTS

A Focus on the Following Principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

-Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development has awarded two Oregon programs with its 2010 national grants: Adelante Mujeres for its Forest Grove Farmers' Market and VOZ for its Portland workers' rights project.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the Catholic Church's domestic anti-poverty program. The campaign assists local anti-poverty groups in organizing programs by and for poor and marginalized people. Grant applicants are assessed on their ability to find solutions to local problems and to improve local economic conditions.

The U.S. Bishops created the Catholic Campaign for Human Development 40 years ago as a means to answer Jesus' call for social justice. CCHD is intended to complement direct service, or charity, projects. Charity and social justice are the two sides of the same coin.

The Forest Grove Farmers Market was established in 2005 to help growers and artisans make a living.

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The program combines marketing opportunities with practical training for new farmers.

The campaign grant to VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project will go toward leadership training and operating expenses.

VOZ is a worker-led organization of day laborers that develops leadership and empowers members to build relationships with employers. This happens through educational workshops and dispelling stereotypes about day laborers.

VOZ helped establish a living wage of \$9 per hour for workers, has recovered more than \$80,000 in unpaid wages and has trained workers in computer use and English.

The campaign grant will help fund monthly leadership workshops, a day laborer advocacy and educational campaign; a day labor leadership school and the Day Labor Committee and Action for Immigration Reform

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I used to view social justice as working to change companies, corporations, cultures, societies, systems and laws that perpetuate injustice. These injustices manifested themselves as explicit actions, discriminatory practices or unintended, but still unjust, consequences.

Archbishop John Vlazny espoused a simpler and more mature view, however, of social justice as creating right relationships.

When relationships are unequal and one party has an advantage over another then there is no right relationship. A right relationship does not exist. For example, a corporation that has the power of money unbalanced and unchecked by the power its community derives from its people has an unbalanced or wrong relationship. Social Justice calls us to create right relationships.

In Luke's gospel, Lazarus and the rich man have an unbalanced relationship. That's obvious. But even if the rich man fed Lazarus the scraps from his table and shooed away the dogs, or better, even if the rich man clothed Lazarus and fed him a regular daily meal, Lazarus and the rich man would still be participating in a wrong relationship.

When people are generous they are in control. Even with the best of intentions those who provide charity have an advantage over the recipients of their charity. Minimizing or eliminating this advantage requires moving from direct service to social justice. It requires empowering the poor and the vulnerable. It requires giving a voice to those who are not heard. It requires eliminating injustices.

It requires right relationships.

RECOMMENDED EVENTS AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Wednesday September 1: OPAL's Rally for the Bus. 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Portland City Hall.
Click here for flyer **OPAL is a local-CCHD sponsored organization**

Why You Want to Attend: Environmental Justice is defined as the search for a just solution to the disproportionate burdens of environmental degradation borne by the poor and people of color. U.S.

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Catholic Bishops, Environmental Justice Public Policy Framework For example, this would include cuts in mass transportation where the poor and low-income, which rely on mass transportation, will bear the brunt of the cuts. TriMet's mission is to provide affordable and reliable bus service for working people, yet fares have risen 70% and on September 1st, TriMet is cutting 70,000 hours of service.

FOOD JUSTICE

Friday September 10 - Sunday September 12: 5th Annual Muddy Boot Organic Festival: Nourishing Spirit: City to Farm. [Click here for flyer www.muddyboot.org](http://www.muddyboot.org)

-Keynote Speech

at 7:00 p.m., Friday: filmmakers Curt Ellis and Ian Cheney, food and agriculture policy advocates, and makers of the films King Corn, Big River and Truck Farm

-Panel Discussion at 4:30 p.m., Saturday: Panelists, including the Director of the Office of Life, Justice and Peace, will discuss Food Justice in Our Portland Community

-Events from 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. on Saturday and 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Sunday

Why You Want to Attend: Catholic social teaching insists that all workers-including farmers-deserve wages and benefits sufficient to support a family and live a decent life. Farmers and their employees receive less and less of every dollar spent on food. This is a matter of justice that should be addressed.

Catholic social teaching insists that the poor and vulnerable deserve a preferential option. Children today are especially vulnerable. There are 17 million homes where children suffer the most from hunger because their families do not have sufficient food. In the 2009-2010 academic year, 50 percent of Catholic schools participated in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs. The Child Nutrition Reauthorization provides an opportunity to strengthen the nutrition programs critical to the well-being of our nation's children, particularly Child Nutrition programs provide millions of children with nutritious meals. This is a matter of justice that should be addressed.

BEGINNING OF LIFE

Wednesday September 22: 40 Days for Life. This fall, from September 22 - October 31, several communities in our area will join more than 150 cities around the country and world for the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history-- the 40 Days for Life campaign.

40 Days for Life is a focused respect-life effort that consists of

- 40 days of prayer and fasting
- 40 days of peaceful vigils
- 40 days of community outreach

Sunday Sept 19: 40 Days for Life Kick-off. 12:30 p.m. at Planned Parenthood, Beech & Martin Luther King Blvd., Portland. Contact: Therese Ruesink at www.40daysforlife.com/portland

[Click here for more information on 40 Days for Life and specific locations within the Archdiocese](#)

KBVM will air "**40 days for life DAILY REFLECTIONS**" daily from Sept 22 - Oct 31st at 7:30 am & 1 pm, heard locally at 88.3 FM and online at www.kbvm.fm

Why You Want to Attend: Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person-among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life... Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law. Catechism of the Catholic Church 2270, 2271, 227

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HOMELESSNESS

Saturday September 25th: Human Rights Festival. 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 1175G Street, Springfield. Co-sponsored by the St. Alice Catholic Church. **[Click here for flyer](#)**

Why You Want to Attend: The Festival is organized by Springfield Shelter Rights Alliance (SSRA), a coalition of social service agencies, congregations, public institutions, and grassroots organizations which works to improve conditions for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

As Americans and believers, we are haunted by the tragic reality of so many without decent housing in our land. It is a sign of serious social neglect and moral failure. We ask everyone to join in a sustained and urgent effort to find creative and effective responses to this national tragedy. A great and good nation cannot turn away as people wander our streets looking for a decent home. *U.S. Bishops Statement on Homelessness*

[See All Events...](#)