



# Seeds of Justice

Sowers of Justice Newsletter

NOVEMBER, 2006

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## CHORUS OF CATHOLICS NEEDED FOR CCHD

Justice work is tough. It often takes generations. And, when we are engaged in the work of justice, it is often difficult to witness the immediate fruits of our labor. But our faith promises that there is a better, more equitable way of existing.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the Church’s promise that social change and a more just society are possible. We see this hope living among us in hundreds of low-income led social change organizations across our country. Justice is heard in the prophetic voices that rise out of the mouths of community organizers and low-income leaders. They are charting new territory, where dignity and self-sufficiency abound within their communities. CCHD makes it possible for this work of justice to be more than a whisper when a chorus of Catholics get involved and invest in the campaign.

In 1970, the Catholic Bishops launched CCHD in response to the growing economic disparities and racial tension. These visionary leaders intrinsically understood that it was impossible, and unwise, to solely concentrate on meeting the immediate needs of those on the fringes of society. CCHD was created by those who knew that low-income people themselves can best solve the systemic breakdowns that act as a barrier towards reaching their full human potential.

Locally, CCHD funds eleven social change organizations that are bettering

our metro area through community organizing, economic development and building the capacity of emerging leaders with the skills necessary to effect change. The reach of CCHD is broad, from workers to small business owners, immigrants and tenants, to youth and seniors.

To be eligible for funding, projects must meet three criteria:

- ◆ Organizations must be working to bring about institutional change by attacking basic social, economic, and political causes of poverty. The goal is permanent, sustainable change.
- ◆ The principal beneficiaries of the project must be economically poor people.
- ◆ Low-income people must have the dominant voice in the project. At least 50 percent of those who plan and implement the projects, e.g., the board of directors, must be persons who are involuntarily poor.

**CCHD was created by those who knew that low-income people can best solve the systemic breakdowns that act as a barrier towards reaching their full human potential.**

*The MN Immigrant Freedom Network organizes new Americans in rural Minnesota to work for comprehensive immigration reform.*

*(Continued on page 2)*

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They are also building extensive leadership capacity in hundreds of high school students from across the Archdiocese in combining policy advocacy and the arts. *The Youth Farm and Market Project* is equipping inner-city youth with farming and business skills, while teaching environmental sustainability, cultural pride, and leadership development. *The Twin Cities Religion & Labor Network* helps protect the dignity and safety of workers unrepresented by unions. *The African Development Center* provides micro-lending and technical assistance to hopeful small business owners, thereby creating jobs, building equity and revitalizing our communities.

The *Somali Action Alliance* teaches the basics of democracy and citizen engagement to a population that for so many years lived under dictatorship. Saeiido, a volunteer with the organization, is working to create leadership in Somali women as they adjust to different social expectations and opportunities in the United States. She is also facilitating conversations on depression caused by the severe isolation Somalis face in this country. Saeiido recently shared her story and work before a mass in Minneapolis. This is a prime example of CCHD promoting solidarity between the Church and the greater community. Through understanding comes love.

My years working in low-income communities and homeless shelters left me pondering the wisdom of dividing our efforts to combat poverty. Our shelter housed nearly one hundred families; it was an endless parade of broken hopes, hearts and homes. We wiped tears, filled bellies and created a sense of stability. It was God's work.

After a few years, however, I began to see the same families over and over again. If not the same families, I

saw the same stories. Teen pregnancy *resulted in* dropping out of high school which, in turn, *resulted in* minimum wage work. Low wages *resulted in* falling behind on rent which *resulted in* homelessness. Lack of stable housing *resulted in* the loss of a job, a shoddy employment history and difficulty finding new work. The end *result for many was* being stuck in a shelter, a turbulent, stressful and disjointed environment for every child.

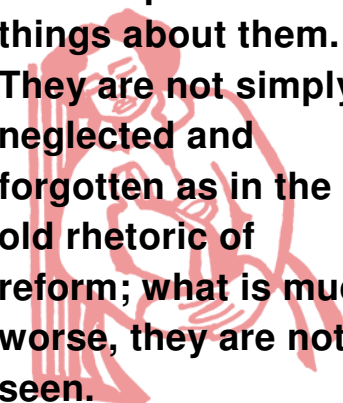
The mission of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is to break the cycle of poverty, not for a day, but for a lifetime. We aim to put an end to the "resulting in" hole by supporting the empowerment of low-income communities to put their experience, knowledge and skills towards the work of eradicating poverty.

The Office for Social Justice, along with the local CCHD Advisory Committee and Parish Liaisons from across the Archdiocese, invite you to join us in supporting the mission of the Campaign through your time, talent and treasure. In the short-term, please give generously at mass this November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> during our annual collection, which supplies 100% of the funding we are able to pass on to our beneficiaries.

Just as important, we invite you to join us as a volunteer Parish Liaison, part of a new program aimed at bringing CCHD into the local parish and building solidarity between Catholics and our low-income neighbors. Your voice is all we need to move our mission from a prophetic whisper to a resounding chorus lifting up faith, dignity, and the common good as the best response to systemic poverty.

For further information, contact Patrick Ness: 651-291-4484, [nessp@archspm.org](mailto:nessp@archspm.org) or [www.osjspm.org/cchd](http://www.osjspm.org/cchd)

**That the poor are invisible is one of the most important things about them. They are not simply neglected and forgotten as in the old rhetoric of reform; what is much worse, they are not seen.**



Michael Harrington

**WAR AND PEACE:  
SEARCHING OUR CONSCIENCE**

Johns Hopkins University recently published its research indicating that there were between 400,000 and 750,000 civilians killed in Iraq since 2003.

Many critics of this finding suggest that the creators of the study have exaggerated the numbers and that their research process was flawed.

Whether you agree or disagree with the exact numbers, this study should give all of us pause. Pausing is exactly what members of both political parties are doing through a bipartisan commission co-chaired by former Secretary of State James Baker. They are assessing the Iraq war in hopes of recommending a new course of action. Most agree that this commission will find a transition course somewhere between immediate withdrawal and a long-haul commitment over many years.

The toll that this war is taking on Iraqis and on our own military and their families is evidenced in the number of calls our office has received in recent days. Teens, young adults and their parents are asking what young people can do to clearly state their objection to fighting in this war. They want to know how they can “register” as a conscientious objector.

When I asked about their interest in this issue, the callers all had very thought provoking responses. In summary, this is what they had to say:

- ◆ Given how poorly things are going for our troops in Iraq and the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan, I am fearful that the draft will be reinstated and that I will be called to serve in the military.
- ◆ Given the changing role of women in the military, I am afraid that my daughter will be called to serve if the draft is reinstated.
- ◆ I am a parent and a pacifist. My whole life has been devoted to teaching my children how important it is to work for peace. I cannot and will not see my children swallowed up by so much violence.
- ◆ What is the Catholic Church doing to let people know that it is clearly acceptable to disagree with this war. We need to create a space for our children to discuss the moral dimensions of war and to accept a clearly reasoned decision not to join the military.

Making war is a grave business and those who are serving our country deserve our thanks and respect. Those who may come to another conclusion after serious reflection also deserve our respect.

You can find more information on conscientious objection and a list of church statements on war and peace at Catholic Peace Fellowship at:  
**[catholicpeacefellowship.org](http://catholicpeacefellowship.org)**

Kathleen Tomlin  
Director



**We look forward  
to the day when  
the Power of  
Love will replace  
the Love of  
Power.**

**Then will our  
world know the  
blessings of  
peace.**

William Gladstone

## PEOPLE AND PARISHES AT WORK

### Social Change on the Move

A.A. Milne, author of Winnie the Pooh books, wrote “**Organizing is what you do before you do something, so that when you do it, it is not all mixed up.**” I think he has something there.

In our process of working with parishes, the staff at OSJ help social justice teams create plans in order to realize their vision of integrating social justice into the life of the parish, and to implement their activities on a year by year basis so that “it is not all mixed up.”

One parish with a plan is **Holy Name of Jesus** in Medina. Their plan includes education about the social mission with a goal: “to help us better understand and implement our parish mission statement: KNOW – SEE – BE.” The strength of this plan is that it places social justice in the middle of the parish mission to “KNOW the heart of Christ, SEE the face of Christ, BE the hands of Christ.”

How do they do it? First, there is an overarching theme of integrating the principles of Catholic Social Teaching into parish life. These principles are lifted up in three ways.

1. Issues that are timely and related to both the parish and the larger community are inserted into the calendar: poverty, early childhood education, immigration, housing, and racism are some of the issues.
2. Throughout the year, some parishioners will be involved in *JustFaith*.
3. The parish social justice committee is hosting a series of discussion forums on several topics.

Another parish with a plan is **St. Thomas Beckett** in Eagan. They introduce Catholic social teaching principles through “Focus Sundays.” Each month, immediately preceding the mass, there is a 3 – 5 minute talk in the sanctuary on a justice theme or issue, such as environmental justice, hunger, and racism, to name a few.

Opportunities to delve deeper into the issues are also offered. For example, with the environmental justice presentation there were opportunities to view and discuss any of the three global warming films, and an invitation to participate in *Global Warming, A Catholic Perspective*, at Pax Christi. Other topics offer more in depth scripture reflection, more detailed presentations between masses, along with information on how to take action for social change.

These plans consist of events, but the events are not one-shot deals. They are a part of a whole. Making a calendar for the year is an effective way to maximize the time and effort of a volunteer group of people who are interested in assisting their parish become more aware of the social mission and more involved in the work of justice.



When involved in justice work, social analysis is essential. A group from **St. Olaf Parish in Minneapolis** did their analysis up close and personal:

- ◆ They inserted themselves into the culture of Kenya on the continent of Africa.
- ◆ They asked the social justice question of *why*. Why is there such disparity in wealth?

**Work tirelessly so that the Gospel will penetrate ever more profoundly in the heart and life of believers, inviting the faithful to assume increasingly their responsibility in society, in particular in the field of the economy and politics, with a moral sense nourished by the Gospel and the social doctrine of the Church.**

Pope Benedict XVI  
Address to the Bishops of  
Rwanda, May 22, 2005

PARISHES AT WORK (continued)

The first question which the priest asked the Levite was: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But the good Samaritan reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Why is education such a difficulty to obtain?

- ◆ They discovered some of the theological foundations of the people, such as their awareness of God's presence and learning to live well for God and for others; partaking of the goodness of God in all things created.
- ◆ And finally, they are now reflecting on their experience in order to learn how it will affect their pastoral practice.

Does your social justice team want help creating a plan? Contact Sr. Kerry O'Reilly or Cheryl Peterson for assistance.

Cheryl Peterson & S. Kerry O'Reilly, Parish Organizing

On Friday, October 20, the Archdiocesan OSJ **Immigration Action Team** organized a Border Crossing with homeless Hmong refugees living at Mary's Place. The Issue Action Team's (IAT) main goal was to give participants a glimpse into the hard realities new Americans face when coming here. The IAT dined on a traditional Hmong meal while personal stories were told by some of the Hmong families. They spoke about their struggles with many of the obstacles placed in their path by our governmental systems. Lack of affordable housing and adequate job opportunities became the two central themes running throughout the evening.

Charlotte Kinzley, a Mary's Place family advocate, shared some Hmong history, including their help in fighting the Vietnam War and hardships they faced in Thailand. Afterwards, two Hmong men, both fathers of families, spoke to the group. Both talked about how hard it is to find jobs that pay enough to

support their families and stressed their willingness to work hard. One Hmong mother spoke about the infestation of rats in her first apartment here. She even showed the scars on her fingers from being bitten several times.

The systems that have failed these Hmong families are the very systems the Immigration Action Team is trying to educate people about in hopes of providing dignity for all.

Lori Radecki  
Immigration Action Team  
Risen Savior, Burnsville

On September 30th, CCHD hosted an inaugural training for the Parish Liaison program. CCHD Liaisons have the focused responsibility of coordinating the CCHD national appeal in their parish community. Their tasks include coordinating guest speakers, arranging bulletin announcements and communicating with pastors and lay parish leadership.

This training celebrated the work of two CCHD funded organizations, the African Development Center (ADC) and the MN Immigrant Freedom Network. Liaisons also learned of the deep roots of the campaign and its' mission to break the cycle of poverty. After the training, the liaison's shared stories and lunch at the Midtown Global Market.

Liaisons commit 15 hours per year to help build the relationship between CCHD and the local parish. If you are interested in joining this program, please contact Patrick Ness at (651) 291-4484 or [nessp@archspm.org](mailto:nessp@archspm.org).

Patrick Ness  
Issue and Advocacy

### SPECIFIC STEPS TO CURB GLOBAL WARMING

The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis took its first steps toward addressing global warming on October 29<sup>th</sup> at *Global Warming: A Catholic Perspective*. 750 people from 95 parishes attended this event, which took place at Pax Christi Parish in Eden Prairie. The purpose was to proclaim the Church's stance on global warming and kick-off OSJ's new Global Warming Action Team.

The Global Warming Action Team will be the "leading edge" of a coordinated and strategic Catholic effort to measurably reduce the carbon that is emitted in the metro area and in the state. Many organizations, faith communities, and individuals have already started this work. The Global Warming Action Team brings two unique assets to the table: the moral motivation of the Catholic faith, and the capacity for broad-based grassroots action through Catholic parishes.

The Global Warming Action Team will consider actions at home, in the parish, and through public policy. The team will benefit from several existing tools developed by Minnesota's strong environmental advocacy community. One important resource will be [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org). This free website helps citizens estimate their carbon emissions, suggests simple, customized steps for reducing emissions, and tracks the results. Individuals can "assign" their reductions to specific organizations, allowing parishes to track their collective efforts. Our hope is that the Global Warming Action Team will become a leading reducer of carbon emissions in the 12-county metro area.

The team will then turn its attention to carbon-reduction plans for parish facilities. Energy used to fuel buildings is one of the top sources for carbon emissions in the United States. The Global Warming Action Team will learn how parish facilities can become more energy efficient. Just as important, the team will help parishes engage parish leadership, facilities management, and the broader community to actively participate in reducing their energy footprint. The team may also encourage local businesses to adopt similar plans for reducing their facilities' carbon emissions.

Finally, the Global Warming Action Team will help parishioners become effective advocates for public policies that address global warming such as meeting with legislators, testifying before legislative committees, and engaging others in civic participation.

The scope and degree of global warming is astounding. The immensity of the situation is matched only by the extraordinary capacity *that already exists* to solve the problem. The Global Warming Action Team will be a place that Catholics in the Archdiocese can gather to effectively, efficiently, and faithfully be a part of the solutions.

The team's first meeting will take place Thursday, November 16 from 7:00—9:00 p.m. at the Hayden Center in St. Paul (328 West Kellogg Boulevard).

For more information and to R.S.V.P., please contact Matt Rezac at 651-291-4477.

Matt Rezac  
Public Policy



**At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both the "human environment" and the natural environment. It is about our human stewardship of God's creation and our responsibility to those who come after us....**

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Global Climate Change: A Call for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good* (2001)



**November 14,  
2006  
7:00—9:00 p.m.  
How Will We End  
Homelessness in  
Minnesota?**

The forum begins with a snapshot of homelessness in Minnesota today, provided by researcher Greg Owen of the Wilder Foundation and a representative of the X Committee, a community organization “by and for the homeless in Minnesota”. A panel will then discuss what has worked, what hasn’t, and how faith communities can contribute to the next steps.

Featured speakers include:

- ◆ A Member of the X Committee Speakers Bureau
- ◆ Greg Owen, Wilder Research Center
- ◆ John Petroskas, Shelter and Housing Specialist, Catholic Charities
- ◆ Rachel Callanan, Policy Advocate, MN Coalition for the Homeless

**Guest Moderator:** Lynda McDonnell, Journalism Department, University of St. Thomas.

The event is being held at the University of St. Thomas. Free parking is available in Lot H, on the corner of Cretin and Summit Avenue, and a short walk to the forum auditorium.

Look for signs once you’re on campus.

**To R.S.V.P. or for further information please call 651-291-4477. The forum is free, but space is limited.**

Co-sponsored by the University of St. Thomas and the Office for Social Justice.

**Faith in action to accomplish the historic: ending homelessness!**

## Resources and Events

### Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Unites States Conference of Catholic Bishops: [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd)  
CCHD of the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Mpls.: [www.osjspm.org/cchd](http://www.osjspm.org/cchd)

### Global Warming

Office for Social Justice	<a href="http://www.osjspm.org/globalwarming">www.osjspm.org/globalwarming</a>
Congregations Caring for Creation	<a href="http://www.c3mn.net">www.c3mn.net</a>
Minnesota Energy Challenge	<a href="http://www.mnenergychallenge.org">www.mnenergychallenge.org</a>
Xcel Energy: Energy Audit	<a href="http://www.xcelenergy.com">www.xcelenergy.com</a>
Fresh Energy	<a href="http://www.fresh-energy.org">www.fresh-energy.org</a>
Union of Concerned Scientists	<a href="http://www.ucusa.org">www.ucusa.org</a>
Will Steger Foundation	<a href="http://www.globalwarming101.com">www.globalwarming101.com</a>

### Parish Social Ministry

Building a Social Justice Committee	<a href="http://www.osjspm.org/building_social_justice_committee">www.osjspm.org/building_social_justice_committee</a>
Salt of the Earth Parish Ministry	<a href="http://www.salt.claretianpubs.org/issues/prmin/index.html">www.salt.claretianpubs.org/issues/prmin/index.html</a>

**November 9, 2006  
6:30—8:30 p.m.  
Health Care Action Team Meeting**

The OSJ Health Care Action Team meeting will be held at the Hayden Center, 328 West Kellogg Boulevard in St. Paul. For further information or to r.s.v.p., contact Patrick Ness 651-291-4484.

**November 16, 2006  
6:00—8:30 p.m.  
Immigration Action Team Meeting**

The OSJ Immigration Action Team meeting will be held at the Hayden Center, 328 West Kellogg Boulevard in St. Paul. For further information or to r.s.v.p., contact Patrick Ness 651-291-4484.

**November 16, 2006  
7:00—9:00 p.m.  
Global Warming Action Team**

The Archdiocesan Global Warming Action Team will develop a common, multi-parish strategy for addressing global warming. This will include efforts to educate parishioners and implement ways to make facilities more energy efficient. Help us create this plan!  
To r.s.v.p., please call 651-291-4477.

**December 28, 2006  
6:30 p.m.  
Candlelight Service for the Children of Iraq & Other Child Victims of War**

You are invited to join with others in this candlelight service to remember the children, who are always the first victims of war. The service is being held at St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 Third Avenue South in Minneapolis. Organized by the Twin Cities Peace Campaign—Focus on Iraq.



**Sowers of Justice**  
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*Sow for yourselves justice,  
 reap the fruit of faithful love;*

*Break up for yourselves  
 a new field, for it is  
 time to seek the Lord,  
 until the Lord comes  
 and rains down justice  
 upon you.*

Hosea, 10:12



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### BI—NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IMMIGRATION JANUARY 18—19, 2007

The Office for Social Justice, Hispanic Ministry and the St. Paul Seminary, School of Divinity, University of St. Thomas are co—sponsoring this monumental event being held in January 2007.

#### FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archdiocese of L.A.

Bishop Raul Vera,  
 Bishop of Saltillo, Mexico

Look for further information coming soon!

### LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS 2007

OSJ Legislative Briefings will be held at the end of January 2007! Briefings are in the evening from 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

January 25, 2007 St. John Neumann, Egan  
 January 30, 2007 Transfiguration, Oakdale

Watch for further notice on additional briefings and about how to become informed and get involved in the coming year's legislative advocacy!

### JUSTFAITH JOURNEY TO JUSTICE FEBRUARY 3, 2007

JustFaith participants for 2006—2007 will have the opportunity for a day-long workshop focusing on building understanding of and solidarity with people who are working and organizing to overcome poverty in their lives and communities.

Watch for more information coming soon!

