

# *Tidings of Hope: The Social Concerns Newsletter of the Diocese of Green Bay*

Volume 14, Issue 3  
March 2009

Dear social concerns ministers:

Our thoughts and prayers are undoubtedly pointed toward those affected by the recession, including the unemployed and underemployed and those suffering from falling retirement and student aid funds.

The recession can encourage several growth opportunities for us that can nourish us during the recession and beyond:

1. Consider committing yourself to becoming more conversant in Catholic social teaching, especially our option for the poor and belief in the dignity of work and the rights of workers. When we live and breathe these principles, we are more effective in reaching out to those impacted by the recession.
2. Examine simplicity of life. It can be very liberating to live with less, whether it means borrowing materials from the library instead of buying them, making your own food more often than going out to eat, walking or bicycling instead of driving, and substituting personal visits for commercial entertainment.
3. Become more dependent on each other. We can build a greater sense of community in our families, parishes, schools, neighborhoods, and work places by asking for help and sharing more of our time and available resources for the benefit of the common good.

The Spring 2009 Catholic Charities USA Parish Social Ministry newsletter *Koinonia* will include reflections, resources, best practices, and other materials to guide parish social ministers in meeting this challenge head on. I will try to post a copy of the newsletter on the social concerns Website, [sites.google.com/site/cdgb/home/file-cabinet](http://sites.google.com/site/cdgb/home/file-cabinet), as soon as it becomes available. The Diocese of Green Bay, with the help of staff from Stewardship and Pastoral Services, Catholic Charities, Evangelization and Worship, and Ministry Formation, is producing a packet of resources for our parishes. For information about receiving a copy of this packet, please contact Patty Young, Stewardship and Pastoral Services, [pastserv@gbdioc.org](mailto:pastserv@gbdioc.org), 272-8295/877-500-3580 x8295.

Cardinal Maida, the retired Archbishop of Detroit, wrote in his pastoral letter *Christ our Hope*: "...Each person—no matter what—has the power to make a difference, the power to build up, affirm, and strengthen. Alone, we cannot do it. But together, we can proclaim, even at this time of darkness, that Christ is our light and Christ is our hope..."

May God bless and strengthen us in order that we may become true leaven to those severely impacted by today's recession.

Peace,

*Steve Herro, O. Praem.*

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## What's new from national Catholic offices?



**Catholic Relief Services (CRS)** and the **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)** launched the much-anticipated Catholics Confront Global Poverty initiative.

Introduced at the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering on Capitol Hill on February 23, 2009, the two-year nationwide effort calls upon one million Catholics to confront global poverty by defending the life and dignity of people living in poverty throughout the world and to urge our nation to act and advocate. Background information, sign-up instructions, action alerts, podcasts and other information is all available on the new Catholics Confront Global Poverty Website: [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty) or [www.crs.org/globalpoverty](http://www.crs.org/globalpoverty). The new site allows visitors to take action and access real stories of people harmed by global poverty. The site also includes a variety of resources for use by families, parish youth groups, college campuses, religious communities, catechists and other groups that wish to participate in the initiative.

The **Catholic Coalition on Climate Change**, with support from many Catholic organizations, including **National Catholic Rural Conference**, has launched the St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor ([www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/coalition\\_activities/](http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/coalition_activities/)

[covenant.html](http://covenant.html)). The pledge is an opportunity for Catholic parishes, schools, and other organizations to pray, learn, assess, act, and advocate. The diocese will be providing a resource packet for parishes on environmental justice and caring for God's creation; look for a copy of the packet on [sites.google.com/site/cdgbpsm/Home/file-cabinet](http://sites.google.com/site/cdgbpsm/Home/file-cabinet).

**JustFaith Ministries** ([justfaith.org](http://justfaith.org)) has launched a new JustMatters module, "Crossing Borders: Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey," [www.justfaith.org/JF1252b.html](http://www.justfaith.org/JF1252b.html). Diocesan subsidy is available to help defray video and book costs. The module is a great way to pray, study, and discuss the immigration issue with other committed Christians.



**Catholic Charities USA** has unleashed a new resource as part of its Campaign Against Poverty. CCUSA's "E Pluribus Unum" parish dialogue program aims to educate and to form enlightened consciences on the connection between poverty and racism. The outcome of these spiritual exercises is to raise up voices which will advocate for programs and policies that promote the common good through the elimination of racism and the reduction of poverty in our nation. For more information about this opportunity, please see [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1317](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1317)

## Volunteer Opportunities

- ☆ Lakeland Chapter, American Red Cross  
Volunteer drivers are needed at the American Red Cross in Green Bay. Drivers transport elderly and disabled individuals to their appointments in the Green Bay and Pulaski areas.  
  
Volunteers need a valid WI license, a good driving record, and to pass a background check. Drive our fully insured vehicles - either a van or a car. Retired individuals, homemakers, college students, shift workers, those looking to re-enter workforce and need some skills and experience. Call Jody in Green Bay at 920/227-4287 for a volunteer application.
- ☆ Hotline telephone support to victims of immigration raids. Bi-lingual (Spanish-English) adults, with their ability to drive their own car, are needed to answer

a hotline with calls from individuals and families who might be affected by an immigration raid in Brown County. For more information, please contact Steve Herro, 272-8299/1-877-500-3580 x8299.

- ☆ Greater Green Bay Habitat for Humanity is opening a Restore in Ashwaubenon. The store will sell used building supplies and appliances. The store will provide additional revenue for Greater Green Bay Habitat for Humanity. If you would like to volunteer to help staff the store, serve as a volunteer builder, office helper, meal provider, or family advocate, please contact Jessica Diederich, Volunteer Coordinator, 920-920-593-3921, [volunteer@greenbayhabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@greenbayhabitat.org).

# Catholics at the Capitol 2009

## Catholics *at the* Capitol

### Hope in Action

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Madison

9:15 am - 4:00 pm



#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8:15 am Registration with Continental Breakfast
- 9:15 am Opening Prayer Service
- 9:45 am Introduction and Keynote Address
- 11:00 am Breakout Sessions A
- A1. **Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching:** Review the principles that are the basis for the Church's public policy advocacy.
  - A2. **Promoting the Socially Conscious Parish:** Learn how to advance social concerns within your parish and increase parish involvement in public policy development.
  - A3. **Nurturing Life:** Discuss public policy efforts regarding abortion and learn about alternatives to abortion.
  - A4. **A Call for Health Care Reform:** Review the Church's principles for health care reform and learn about efforts to expand access to health care.
  - A5. **Lending Limits:** Assess how payday lending and other credit programs affect borrowers. Learn how vulnerable populations access lending assistance.
  - A6. **Walking through the Revolving Door:** Examine the obstacles offenders, advocates, and others face in the current corrections system.
  - A7. **Loving Our Neighbors:** Discuss Catholic teaching on immigration and learn how developing immigration policies will affect immigrants and their families.
- 12:00 pm Luncheon
- 1:10 pm Breakout Sessions B
- B1. **Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching:** See A1. above.
  - B2. **Living in a Brave New Scientific World:** Examine the ethical, moral, and legal implications of emerging medical research and procedures.
  - B3. **Advocating for Families:** Learn about programs that aid families in need and examine initiatives designed to bolster families in a time of economic downturn.
  - B4. **A Matter of Conscience:** Examine laws affecting the expression of conscience and track policy efforts to delineate conscience rights.
  - B5. **St. Vincent de Paul Society presents "Voices of the Poor"**
  - B6. **Building a Bridge to Employment:** Learn how Wisconsin's workforce is faring and examine public and private efforts to help the unemployed.
  - B7. **Environmental Justice for All:** Discuss how properly structured public policies can address the needs of those most impacted by environmental degradation.
- 2:25 pm General Session: Panel Discussion
- 3:30 pm Leave for Capitol visits

Registration deadline: March 12, 2009

Because the registration is handled through the Wisconsin Catholic Conference we are unable to print the actual form. The registration form can be found at <http://www.gbdioc.org/pdf/SandPS/2009CatholicsattheCapitalregistration.pdf>. Or call 920-272-8295 and it will be sent to you.

## How one parish got serious about genocide

*(Earlier this winter, I received an email from a member of St. Bernard Parish, Appleton, Social Justice Committee asking what the diocese could do/would do to raise consciousness about the Darfur genocide. Pam Mullins and Dave Cooley, members of the Committee, agreed to describe how a single committee of a single parish came to the realization that we can make a difference, thousands of miles away. Below is their story.)*

### From the pen of Pam Mullins

For months I was driving by a sign that said “Not on Our Watch...Save Darfur”. Every time I drove by and noticed it, I kept wondering what this was about. I would tell myself when I got home I would go on the Website and see what this was about. Then I started constantly hearing things on the news about women and children being raped. Somehow the Holy Spirit finally got my attention and I checked out the Website SaveDarfur.org. When I got on the Website, I am embarrassed to say that I didn’t know the magnitude of what was happening in Darfur. This situation has been going on since 2003, where have I been...over 2.5 million people displaced and up to 400,000 killed.

Then I started to wonder, if God had put this on my heart, maybe there were others like me who didn’t know about the Darfur genocide and that we needed to start with awareness. So I dug further into the Website and found that there was a **Darfur: A Call to Action** DVD and Congregation packet for \$7.50. Yes, only \$7.50, so I ordered it. The packet contained everything that is needed to have an awareness event about Darfur in only an hour’s time. There were bulletin announcements, an outline for the evening, discussion questions for different types of congregations or for differing faith groups, postcards to send to the president, prayer examples, but most of all the video showed the human side of what is happening to the disrespect for life in Darfur. There were real faces and real stories from people who had gotten out of Darfur, the lucky ones.

A quote from the video, “If women, children and old people were murdered a hundred miles from here, wouldn’t you run to help? Then why do you stop when the distance is 3000 miles instead of a

hundred?” Raphael Lemkin, 1941 Father of the word “Genocide”. This quote does not leave me and reminds me of how we are all God’s people no matter our location or color. We can say “what can we do?” But we need to realize that our voice is needed to end the violence in Darfur.

I took the video and issue to our Social Justice Committee...

### From the pen of Dave Cooley

When Pam brought us the DVD on Darfur I thought, “what are we going to do with this... we really don’t have enough people on our committee to start another project”. But, my wife and I watched the DVD and thought, we really need to do *SOMETHING*. So, with Pam’s support our Committee hosted an informative night of discussion and prayer to highlight the indignity and pain the people of Darfur are suffering. I hope we accomplished the “something” that needed to be started. We put it into the hands of God and those who attended, what will happen next....

The night of our event, January 22, we had 30 people come and of those, five people came up and asked “how can we take this back to our parish?” We also had people write prayers from their heart to God about the Darfur genocide. For further awareness we are putting a different prayer in the bulletin each week. Awareness and our voices can make a difference. So I encourage you to change the world one action at a time.

At the next Social Justice Committee meeting we struggled a bit with what was to happen next. As discussion unfolded we knew that we needed to

get the information about Darfur to a larger parish viewing. So we set the weekend of March 8 to show the Darfur DVD after two Sunday morning liturgies. We are a small group, but we are trusting that God will touch more people in our parish, and perhaps with their concern, and God's grace, we will find that *SOMETHING* more will happen. Perhaps we will register as a Congregation of Conscience (by getting at least

100 postcards to the president) or St. Bernard's will be the beginning parish in a larger community awareness of the injustice and anguish in Darfur. As long as we remain open to listen to the cry of the people in Darfur, and God's speaking with them, we trust that something will happen; another step; perhaps, you are part of that step with us.

## What is new in fair trade?

Globally Sound ([globallysound.com](http://globallysound.com)), the first fair trade store to serve the Fox Cities, has moved to a new location, 604 W. College Ave., Appleton.

Globally Sound is now partnering with nonprofit organizations in order to promote the sale and consumption of organic, fair trade coffee. Register your nonprofit organization at Globally Sound and your organization will receive \$1 for every one pound of organic, fair trade coffee purchased at the store when the shopper states your organization's name. Sure is a lot easier than selling fair trade coffee door to door! For more information, please see <http://globallysound.com/coffeefund.html>.

A Better Footprint ([abetterfootprint.org](http://abetterfootprint.org)), 1228 Main St., Suite 1, Green Bay is helping to lead Green Bay toward an official designation as a Fair Trade Town. Does your Green Bay area church, school, or work place promote or sell fair trade products? If so, your organization is invited to endorse Green Bay's application as an officially designated Fair Trade Town. If you or someone from your organization would like to join the committee and help make Fair Trade a household name in the Green Bay area, please call A Better Footprint at 920-569-6332 or email [abetterfootprint@gmail.com](mailto:abetterfootprint@gmail.com).



Looking for a more socially just Easter basket? A Better Footprint is willing to host Fair Trade Easter Basket sales after Masses beginning on Saturday, February 28 through Holy Saturday. Churches have an easy, no-cost opportunity to join the mission of alleviating poverty through fair trade while earning needed funds for their own projects. Participating churches will receive a selection of fair trade handcrafted baskets made by village women from several poor countries, most of which are affordably priced between \$5-\$20. A Better Footprint representative will help conduct sales after masses and 20 percent of proceeds will be donated to the hosting parish, organization, or your charity, such as Operation Rice Bowl. Please call A Better Footprint, 920-569-6332, to reserve your date and Mass times. Representatives of A Better Footprint are also available to speak about fair trade at your Fair Trade Easter Basket Sunday.

## New resources available on Parish Social Ministry Website

As reported in the last issue of Tidings of Hope, I have established a Website for our diocesan parish social ministry, [sites.google.com/site/cdgbpsm](http://sites.google.com/site/cdgbpsm). Check the site often for important meeting dates and educational opportunities, legislative alerts, and other updates in parish social ministry and Catholic social action. And remember, email me ([sherro@gbdioc.org](mailto:sherro@gbdioc.org)) in order to help me keep the Website current and relevant to your needs.



Several recent enhancements deserve special attention:

*Parish Local Giving Projects*, a directory of parish initiatives from Appleton to Wautoma, is available at <http://sites.google.com/site/cdgbpsm/Home/file-cabinet>, parish local giving projects. Check the directory to discover how parishes in our diocese are attracting parishioners to help feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and heal the sick. The directory includes a page for parishes to send details about additional projects.

A listing of all diocesan social justice videos available to borrow is posted at <http://sites.google.com/site/cdgbpsm/Home/diocesan-videos>. To borrow or reserve any of these titles, please contact 920-272-8312/1-877-500-3580 x8312, email [pastserv@gbdioc.org](mailto:pastserv@gbdioc.org). Borrowers will be assessed \$5 to cover postage and handling and the usual borrowing period is two weeks. For help in deciding which video might best meet your needs, please contact Steve Herro, 920-272-8299/1-877-500-3580 x8299, email [sherro@gbdioc.org](mailto:sherro@gbdioc.org)

## JOSHUA, ESTHER, and Wisconsin Catholic Conference address Health Care

On February 19th, ESTHER joined JOSHUA in Green Bay in efforts to demonstrate the lack of affordability and accessibility to adequate health care. Local residents read their stories regarding their personal difficulty with our health care system directly to Congressman Steven Kagen. These testimonies, numbering ten in all, included small business owners that are unable to provide health coverage to their employees due to extreme cost, employees that were laid off and lost access to health coverage, and members of unions forced to make the decision between compromised health coverage for increase in salary or adequate insurance and no pay increase. The assembly called for Congressman Kagen to work with fellow legislators in drafting and passing legislation that will bring about positive health care reform. For those unable to attend the event, please see [http://www.ourchurchvideos.com/54301/fumcgb/view\\_video.php?viewkey=a0dd18fb6a08af0923de](http://www.ourchurchvideos.com/54301/fumcgb/view_video.php?viewkey=a0dd18fb6a08af0923de).

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference has also embraced affordable health care as a priority issue. "A Call for Health Care Reform," released in spring 2008, can serve as a great starting point for individual reflection and group discussion. The document is available at [wisconsinatholic.org](http://wisconsinatholic.org), "A Call for Health Care Reform."

# Calendar of events

☆ **Darfur: A Call to Action**

Sunday, March 8, St. Bernard Parish, 1617 Pine St., Appleton  
Viewing and discussion after the 8:30 and 9:15 am Masses

☆ **Option for the Poor Series**—With Fr. Brendan McKeough, O. Praem. Thursdays, March 12, 19, 26,

6:30 - 8:00 pm. Norbertine Center for Spirituality, 337-4315, Freewill offering.

- How to think like a Christian - March 12
- Politics and economics as if people mattered - March 19
- Religion and spirituality as if people mattered - March 26

☆ **Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace in Iraq**

Friday, March 20, 7:00 pm  
West Side Moravian Church, 1707 S. Oneida St., Green Bay.

☆ **Diocesan Collection for the World's Poor**

March 21-22  
Annual second collection benefits Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and Peter's Pence. Please be generous!

☆ **Thomas Awiapo, CRS Global Solidarity Coordinator**

Tuesday, March 31, 8:00 am - 8:50 am,  
Boyle 122, St. Norbert College  
St. Norbert College Peace and Justice Center and Religious Studies discipline invites you to a presentation by Thomas Awiapo, Catholic Relief Service Global Solidarity Coordinator. Free admission, but seats limited. If you are from outside of the St. Norbert College community, please call the Peace and Justice Center to confirm attendance (403-3881).

☆ **Catholics at the Capitol**

Tuesday, March 31, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Monona Terrace, Madison, WI.

☆ **Universal Human Rights, presented by Harry Wu**

Wednesday, April 1, 7:30 pm,  
Fort Howard Theater, Bemis Center, St. Norbert College.

☆ **Fox Valley Parish Social Ministry Network Meeting**

Thursday, April 16, 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
St. Thomas More Parish, 1810 N. McDonald St., Appleton.

☆ **Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace in Iraq**

Friday, April 17, 7:00 pm  
Chapter Room, St. Norbert Abbey.

☆ **Earth Week**

April 19-25  
Contact Steve Herro, 272-8299/877-500-3580 x8299, sherro@gbdioc.org for ideas and local activities!

**Catholic Diocese  
of Green Bay**

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Social Concerns Newsletter

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Tidings of Hope is produced three times a year by the Social Concerns Ministry of the Diocese of Green Bay. Questions or written contributions may be submitted to Steve Herro, O. Praem., Social Concerns Director, sherro@gbdio.org or (920) 272-8299 or 877-500-3580 x 8299 from area code 920 8 715

