

< JPIC NEWS PROVINCE OF ST BARBARA >

ISSUE # 8- FEBRUARY 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION OFFICE

1112 26TH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

JPICSACRAMENTO@YAHOO.COM

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"Both charity and justice are required by our faith. As citizens in the most powerful democracy on earth, we have unique opportunities to use our voices and votes to shape a more caring community, a more just nation, and a more peaceful world."

-U.S. Catholic Bishops, A Place at the Table

Larry Dunphy, OFM Commissioner of the Franciscan Action Network

Larry Dunphy, OFM was asked by our Province to be our Commissioner for FAN. He will be participating in a national Commission of all Franciscans in the U.S., (OFM, Con, Cap, TOR, Seculars, and Ecumenical) to be a recognizable *Franciscan* voice in Washington DC at Congress, White House, IMF, etc. It's hope is, not to have a professional lobbyist there, *but through contacts with us*, to reach out into people we serve in our ministries, work with, know, etc. By developing a louder and stronger Franciscan voice, and taking advantage of our rootedness in the experience of people with whom we minister to, we are hoping to speak to our members of Congress and other officials with a far more effective voice.

As Commissioner, Larry will try to develop the contacts that might in turn be able to reach out to 20 or more other like-hearted persons who together join in to serve as a *single Franciscan voice*. Larry is seeking out those friars and associated lay folks who might be interested in being one of those "twenty contacts" in our Province.

If you might be interested in specifically being part of this national Franciscan voice, please write or call Larry Dunphy, OFM (email: dunlaphy@yahoo.com, 1112 26th St, Sacramento, CA 95816, tel: 916-448 8924) Larry is currently working as supply priest, hospital chaplin and detention chaplin in the Diocese of Sacramento.

Franciscan Action Network Office, Washington, D.C.

A Message from Russ Testa, Interim FAN Coordinator

The **Franciscan Action Network** (FAN) continues to move rapidly towards its public launch. Thus, on behalf of the FAN Steering Committee and the newly formed Action Commission, I am thrilled to invite you to our first FAN-sponsored event.

The Franciscan Action Network Steering Committee and Action Commission determined that the first public action of FAN should be one that represents who we hope to be as an organization. To this end, they discerned and have worked to make the *Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice 2008* part of our launch event, and our first official action of advocacy.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days is a gathering of more than 40 national and regional organizations spanning the Christian spectrum. The event gathers together more than 1000 persons to advocate on common issues where they collectively can help build the Common Good. This is a most appropriate backdrop for the launch of the FAN. Although we may not agree with all the stances that other sponsors hold, we as Franciscans seek to find common ground and engage in dialogue, as does the larger Catholic and Christian Tradition for public action. We are called to add to the mix our particular message to live out the Gospel values. This bridge-building activity is itself an action of Franciscan Peacemaking.

This year's theme, *2008: Claiming a Vision of True Security*, speaks to the urgent need for peace in our nation and world. As Franciscans, our deep peacemaking tradition and message can help make this effort, during this pivotal election year, all the more possible.

The program for **Ecumenical Advocacy Days** is better than ever. The sponsors are working not only at having an advocacy day on Capitol Hill that will help the U.S. have better tools for domestic and international peace, but also at getting the 2008 Presidential Candidates to come for a public forum. In this way, the more than 1000 participants can help shape the possibility of a more peace-filled future. Franciscans must be a part of this dynamic if we are to be true to our charism.

For more information on Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice, please go to the conference's website www.advocacydays.org. This site will provide you with the most current details of the event and allow you to register.

During the **Ecumenical Advocacy Days** gathering, we officially will launch the Franciscan Action Network as an organization seeking to transform our world in the Spirit of St. Francis' and St. Clare's example of following the Gospel. The launch will take place on Saturday evening, March 8, 2008, and promises to be an exciting, spirit-filled event of prayer, formation and solidarity-building. You won't want to miss it!

So, we want to invite you and other members of your provinces, congregations, regions, fraternities, etc. to participate in this important moment in Franciscan history. If Franciscans are to fulfill their call to be peacemakers and workers for justice, the first step surely is to show up and participate. This group certainly can include lay persons in the ministries that we serve. For we know it will take many persons to build the FAN network and, more importantly, to bring the Franciscan message of transformation to our weary world.

(Go to the **Ecumenical Advocacy Days** website for more information www.advocacydays.org)

FAN WEBSITE: <http://www.franciscanaction.org/>

We are pleased to welcome you to our new online portal (see above) for the activities of FAN as we begin this new and exciting ministry for the Franciscan family throughout the U.S. In the coming weeks, we will be adding more features to our site, but for now, we wanted to provide you with some information about this new endeavor, its hopes, and its sponsors.

In the Hope of Peace,
Russ Testa, Interim FAN Coordinator

PS: Franklin Fong, OFM and Larry Dunphy, OFM will be attending these EAD meetings

FAN VISION STATEMENT

The Franciscan movement was born at a time of reform and change in its society. This same spirit of reform and transformation inspires the creation of the Franciscan Action Network.

The Franciscan Action Network seeks a world that reflects the balanced and just society that the founders of the Franciscan movement, St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, believed that God invites all of creation to accept. This is a society that understands that the transformation of relationships is to occur in the multiple realities of created experience: local, national and global settings. Through the proper ordering of relations using the Christian Social Teaching principles of solidarity and the common good, we envision a world where all have what they need to reach the fullest of their individuated humanity, that is lived in healthy communities, which God created them to achieve. In such a world as this,

creation, and humanity as part of it, would live in balance and peace with social justice. Our vision is encapsulated in the phrase--"Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis & St. Clare of Assisi."

FAN MISSION STATEMENT

The Franciscan Action Network is a network of U.S.-based ministries, institutions and persons following in the spiritual and social movement begun by St Francis and St. Clare of Assisi more than 800 years ago. Together, we seek to amplify our public voice and use our collective power to humbly advocate and act for transformed social policy and social structures arising out the U.S. Federal Government and related WDC institutions. Through our work we hope to help build a society rooted in social justice, peace and care for all of creation.

AGAPE Foundation GRANTS

(I know that this deadline is too close for anyone to apply for this year. But, if your ministry fits the program's objectives, you should try to get to know this foundation for possible funding in next year's cycle. Franklin)

A New Grant Opportunity:

The Agape Foundation Fund for Nonviolent Social Change is seeking proposals from small, California-based, grassroots organizations working for nonviolent social change. Agape funds organizations that are addressing the following issues: peace, human rights, environmental protection, economic justice, progressive arts & media, and grassroots organizing.

Organizations must be five years old or younger, with annual budgets under \$100,000.

Letter of intent forms must be submitted prior to 5p.m., Friday, February 1st, 2008. Applicants must use Agape's LOI form. Copies may be obtained by visiting their website, www.agapefdn.org or by calling 415-701-8707. Copies of application materials can also be obtained at the Nonprofit Resource Center.

Once they have received your LOI, Agape Foundation staff will review and inform applicants of request for full proposal or rejection within 72 hours. If requested, deadline for receipt of full proposals is 5p.m., Monday, March 3rd, 2008. For more information, visit Agape's website, www.agapefdn.org or call 415-701-8707

RELIGION & ETHICS Website and Newsletter

(I have found this email newsletter to be one of the most interestingly presented and thoroughly researched summaries of 'new' ethical issues facing all of us. I recommend it highly for your reading. Franklin)

RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY has been breaking ground in news reporting since its national debut on PBS in September 1997. Hosted by veteran journalist Bob Abernethy, this one-of-a-kind television newsmagazine provides insightful coverage and analysis of the news, people, events and trends behind the headlines in the rich world of religion and ethics. Jane Lampman of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR says the program's "succinct coverage of the week's religion news and feature stories that get to the nub of trends with a human touch make it always-valuable viewing." John Railey with the WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL notes, "The work is top rate, with good writing and a deep understanding of the complex quilt that is American religious life." And the Religion Newswriters Association credits the show for setting "a national standard for balanced and fair coverage of religious topics."

Through live reports from the show's studios in Washington, D.C., and taped reports from an experienced team of correspondents, including Phil Jones, Fred de Sam Lazaro, Tim O'Brien, Deborah Potter, Betty Rollin, Lucky Severson and Judy Valente, along with managing editor Kim Lawton, the program explores how religion shapes both national and international events, and examines the challenges raised by difficult ethical issues. Newsmakers, scholars, and historians also provide insightful perspectives in roundtable discussions. In addition to the program's primary task of reporting the news, it

also serves as a resource for viewers searching for ways to explore the spiritual experience and enhance their understanding of American religious life.

RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY has been recognized for its commitment to outstanding news coverage, receiving more than 55 broadcast industry awards, including the prestigious Sigma Delta Chi award from the Society of Professional Journalists, two Gracie Allen awards from American Women in Radio and Television, five CINE Golden Eagle awards, seven New York Festival awards, two Chicago TV Fest and Clarion awards and a Gabriel award, among others.

To complement the program's weekly broadcast, **RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY** offers a Web Site and a companion Viewers Guide. The Web site features individual show transcripts, an audio archive of past programs, full transcripts of interviews with notable guests, related articles dealing with significant issues in religion and ethics news, a list of related resources and an online pressroom featuring downloadable versions of the program press kit and quarterly newsletter as well as detailed summaries of individual stories. The Viewers Guide, which includes essays, discussion questions and resources, may be ordered free of charge by writing "Religion & Ethics Guide," P.O. Box 245, Little Falls, NJ 07424-0245.

R&E's weekly e-mail newsletter, distributed Wednesdays or Fridays depending on the subscriber's preference, provides detailed summaries of stories appearing in the upcoming week's program along with a sneak preview of what's ahead. The Friday edition also includes links to the transcript and streaming video for each of that week's stories.

Register online to receive the email newsletter:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/email.html>

Ken Butigan and Judith Kelly Protest Cuban Prisons . .

From: Ken Butigan, Pace e Bene

Dear Pace e Bene community,

Pace e Bene Associate [Judith Kelly](#) and I were among 82 people arrested at the US Supreme Court on Friday, January 11, the sixth anniversary of the opening of the Guantanamo Bay prison. [This event was one of many nonviolent actions that took place in the US and around the world.](#) We called on the United States to close this facility and we urged the US Supreme Court to guarantee due process for the 275 men who have been held there for years without being charged. Many have been subject to torture.

In the spirit of our Pace e Bene community, I took this action in honor of [Fr. Louie Vitale](#), Fr. Steve Kelly, Betsy Lamb and Fr. Jerry Zwada (all who are being held for their nonviolent witness to call for an end to torture training at Ft. Huachuca), as well as in honor of Pace e Bene trainer [Diane Lopez Hughes](#) and others who have recently taken nonviolent action at Ft. Benning (School of the Americas) and are now awaiting trial.

Most of all, I was mindful of the prisoners at Guantanamo. Nearly all of us who were arrested at the Supreme Court chose to withhold our names until we were brought before a judge (which is allowable under the law). We explained to the officers processing us that we were acting on behalf of an individual Guantanamo prisoner who had been denied due process.

We were clear with these officers that we were not giving a false name or alias, and that we would be happy to give our legal names once we were in court. Until then, we were asking that the police and legal system to hear and engage with the names of these prisoners.

We sought through this action to bring the names of these men into a US courtroom. I represented a 37-year-old Afghani man who has been held without due process for years at Guantanamo. By engaging in this witness, I was not arguing for his guilt or innocence. Instead, I was urging that he and all the Guantanamo prisoners be allowed to hear the charges against them and to be able to contest them. I was also calling on the Supreme Court to prohibit the practice of torture.

Because we withheld our name, we were held overnight. Late on Saturday, we were brought before Judge Robert I. Richter. One after another, each of us shared that we were representing a specific prisoner — asking that this individual being given legal due process — and then we gave him

our legal name. Most of us pled not guilty. Most powerfully, 82 names of Guantanamo prisoners were brought into a US court and legal proceeding for the first time, according to the organizers.

Being linked with a specific fellow human being languishing in prison (who deserves the chance to hear the charges and evidence against him and to be able to contest those charges in a court of law) was an enormously prayerful and sobering experience.

Peace and goodness,

Ken Butigan

(For more information on this letter, go to the following website:

<http://paceebene.org/peb-update/pace-e-bene-participates-witness-against-torture-us-supreme-court>)

Cardinal Mahony Speaks Out On Immigration Issues

In letters to all Presidential candidates December 12, Cardinal Roger Mahony urged all the candidates to "show leadership on the issue of immigration" and to "work with your fellow candidates and the American people to find a humane and comprehensive solution to our broken immigration system."

Expressing disappointment at the tone of the debate on immigration, Cardinal Mahony urged the candidates to abandon attacks on immigrants and to focus upon policy solutions. "I am deeply disturbed that, to date, the discussion on immigration has failed to significantly focus upon policy solutions to illegal immigration," he wrote. "Rather, the debate has been characterized by verbal assaults on undocumented immigrants, assaults which have had the effect of alienating immigrants to our country -- not only the undocumented but also legal immigrants and newly naturalized citizens."

Cardinal Mahony reminded the Presidential candidates that they have a responsibility to outline a vision for the future of the nation and that, on immigration, a positive vision has not been forthcoming.

"The vision emerging from the Presidential campaign paints an America that is no longer open to the vitality of newcomers and to the contributions they make to our communities. It is my belief that this emerging vision is incompatible with the views of the majority of the American people, who understand the importance of embracing our heritage as a nation of immigrants."

Tod Tamberg, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, stated that the letter was a "collective message" to all the candidates, but acknowledged that their positions on immigration reform are varied. "The Cardinal understands that some of the candidates have addressed the issue responsibly and courageously, while others have used attacks against immigrants as a campaign tactic," said Tamberg. "The latter group knows who they are," he said.

http://us.f621.mail.yahoo.com/ym/ShowLetter?MsgId=3368_2042401_351002_1760_23158_0_2384_67_013_1863591639&Idx=9&YY=67607&y5beta=yes&y5beta=yes&inc=25&order=down&sort=date&pos=0&view=a&head=b&box=Inbox

Ignatian Family Plans A 'Teach-In' on Immigration

(For those in the Southern California area, this looks like it will be an excellent program of self-education. The presentation is based on the Jesuits' program at the School of the Americas. FF)

March 7-9, 2008, Loyola High School, Los Angeles

This March the Ignatian family will move the "Big Tent" from Georgia to Los Angeles where we will gather in response to the prophetic call of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in their Justice for Immigrants Campaign in which they state:

We stand in solidarity with you, our migrant brothers and sisters, and we will continue to advocate on your behalf for just and fair migration policies. We commit ourselves to animate communities of Christ's disciples on both sides of the border to accompany you and your journey so that yours will truly be a journey of hope, not of despair, and so that, at the point of arrival, you will experience that you are strangers no longer and instead members of God's household.

INVITED GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

- Ruben Garcia, Executive Director of Annunciation House
- Amalia Molina, author of the Power of Love, a personal account of her incarceration in a federal immigration detention facility.
- Edward J.W. Park, Ph.D. Director and Associate Professor of the Asian Pacific American Studies Program at Loyola Marymount University
- Mark McGregor, S.J., Posada Project, Santa Clara University
- Bishop Gabino Zavala, Auxiliary Bishop for Los Angeles and current Bishop President of PAX Christi USA
- William Rickle, S.J., Latino Migration and Ministry Consultant for the Maryland Province
- High school and college student representatives from the Jesuit sponsored, Universidad Iberoamericana in Tijuana, Mexico

Registration Fee: \$50.00

For more information visit our website at www.ignatiansolidarity.net or contact the ISN office at 415-422-2408 or info@ignatiansolidarity.net.

Pax Christi USA : Convention For the Common Good...

Pax Christi USA is pleased to announce that this summer we will join with NETWORK: A Catholic Social Justice Lobby, Catholics in Alliance, the Center of Concern and a number of other national Catholic organizations to host the "Convention for the Common Good" in Philadelphia. The convention itself will take place from July 11-13, but Pax Christi USA will also be hosting a special lead-in event on July 10 which will include worship, music, speakers and more. **So please save the dates, July 10-13, for this summer's event** and keep an eye on the Pax Christi USA website and elsewhere for more information as it is available. Please see item #1 in this email for more information on this exciting undertaking!

Updates from our Parishes. . . Scottsdale, Sacramento, Huntington Beach

The Casa, Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ

The Franciscan Renewal Center over the past three years has embraced this period with a combination of prayer services, liturgies and programs involving both ecumenical and interfaith organizations. It is a time to reflect upon nonviolence as a spiritual practice and way of being in the world. The Casa events and rituals are held to remind us how we can create peace. Join us as we start our New Year of new peace.

A Season for Nonviolence, January 30 — April 4, 2008 is an international 64-day educational, media, and grassroots campaign dedicated to demonstrating that nonviolence is a powerful way to heal, transform, and empower our lives and our communities. Inspired by the memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this international event honors their vision for an empowered, nonviolent world.

Before God the Creator and the Sanctifying Spirit, I vow to carry out in my life the love and example of Jesus: by striving for peace within myself and seeking to be a peacemaker in my daily life; . . .

For the complete Vow of Nonviolence and further information contact Pat Julian at 480.948.7460 ext. 160, or visit us at www.thecasa.org. for a complete schedule visit the web page: <http://thecasa.org/SONVSchedule.pdf>

St Francis Parish, Sacramento, CA

The Adult Faith Formation Committee of the parish is using a film series to break open the discussion topics of various areas of social justice. They started the 2008 season with a viewing of the DVD entitled "Thirst". About 35 parishioners met in Brunsmann Hall to watch this 62 min video. Larry Dunphy, James Swan and I greatly enjoyed this video and strongly recommend it for viewing by the friars of our province. Some of the other comments from the background materials for this film were as follows:

"Is water part of a shared 'commons,' a human right for all people? Or is it a commodity to be bought, sold, and traded in a global marketplace? 'Thirst' tells the stories of communities in Bolivia, India, and the United States that are asking these fundamental questions." – www.thirstthemovie.org.

Some reviewers' comments:

*"In many ways, the Bolivian city of Cochabamba, India's Rajasthan state, and **Stockton, California**, occupy very different rungs of the global economic ladder. But in one respect at least, these communities are strikingly similar. They each found themselves threatened with losing public control of their water resources to multinational corporations. And they each fought long odds in resisting the juggernaut of globalization, which is driving the worldwide privatization of public resources, utilities, and services".* – **PBS Television**

Further information about "Thirst" is available online at www.thirstthemovie.org and can be purchased through the distributor Bulldog Productions: <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/thirst.html>

The Deluxe Edition DVD is now available with Special Features and translations into French, Spanish and Portuguese! We will have copy for you to borrow from our JPIC office. This would be a great program for parish social action group or for any group interested in looking at a case study of how a purely economic perspective to a societal problem does not by itself provide any sustainable resolution.

62 minutes, color The new Special Edition DVD of THIRST includes the following features:

- Original 62 minute Directors' Version of THIRST
- Translations into Spanish, French, and Portuguese
- Closed Captions for Hearing Impaired
- Spoken Word - Poetry on Film - Contemporary Readings of 10 World Poets On Rivers, Memory, Love, Death, and Desire
- "Bottle This!" - a humorous Graphic Audio Essay about bottled water by public radio producer Gregory Warner
- Speech by Maude Barlow, Chair of the Council of Canadians, on two visions of the future of water: one corporate, and one representing the global commons.
- Filmmakers' Commentary with Editor Kenji Yamamoto
- Scene Selections
- Conversation with Directors
- Activists Tool Kit with Study Guide, Posters, Informational Flyers, and more!

Sts. Simon and Jude Church, Huntington Beach, CA

The JPIC Commission at **Sts. Simon and Jude Church in Huntington Beach** has been focusing on integrating social justice in all areas of parish life and working to engage the whole parish in JPIC events/activities. Ideally, before each event there is multi-generational catechesis; the event itself includes all ages with an opportunity to reflect on the experience afterward.

In the last 18 months, the JPIC Commission has sponsored:

- a Fish Bowl Liturgy on Immigration,
- two Advent Alternative Gift Fairs with teaching on consumerism,

- a Lenten feature on Healthcare for Children,
- Faithful Citizenship education,
- forums on the California initiatives, JustFaith, and several Respect Life events.

This Lent the Commission is promoting a “Walk Out of Poverty” connecting the event with Solidarity. One JPIC Committee is in the process of giving a presentation about JPIC to all boards, councils, commissions and ministries.

Future events we are planning include:

- An Earth Day (April 20);
- Preparations for elections in November;
- a Peace Vigil.

As part of our ongoing self-education, a weekly social justice column is published in the parish bulletin. This year’s theme for the column is: *Live Simply – That Others May Simply Live*.

(If you have any JPIC news update or JPIC program you want to share with others in our province, please send them to me via email mail or snail mail.)

Catholic Lobby Day in Sacramento, CA

Join us in Sacramento on April 22, 2008 (Tuesday) for the Tenth Anniversary of the Catholic Lobby Day. There will be special speakers, a special Mass, and more than 600 people from the various California dioceses. Following the Mass we will gather for a march to the State Capitol building to call for justice, dignity, food security and respect for life. The march will be led by several of our California bishops. I am hoping that there will be a delegation from some of our Franciscan parishes. If your parishioners are planning on attending, let us know in Sacramento. We’ll try to plan something to do as a sub-group of the large gathering.

NETWORK: Legislation in Congress Needing Your Support -

NETWORK is the National Catholic social justice lobby. They have released the following legislative update - January 22, 2008. You can go to their fantastic website: <http://capwiz.com/networklobby/home/> to read about more of their different lobbying efforts at the national level. Congress is back to work, and we’re depending on you to help us be successful in our legislative advocacy in 2008.

Tip for sending effective messages to your members of Congress:

One of the best ways to get your point across to an elected official is to personalize it. Give an example that shows how the issue has affected you and why it is important to you and your organization or community.

Who is your Representative and how do you reach them?

You can go to: <http://capwiz.com/networklobby/callalert/index.tt?alertid=10842811&type=CO> and enter your zip code to get your Representative's telephone number, and some additional talking points for your call.

If you do not use the web, give me a call and I’ll find out who your Representative is and how to reach them.