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NEWSLETTER OF THE JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION OFFICE
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Protest Pretrial Continued For Oral Arguments In August

A pretrial hearing today for **Louie Vitale, OFM and Steve Kelly, SJ**, arrested during a demonstration at Ft. Huachuca last November, has been continued until August 13, when U.S. Magistrate Hector Estrada will hear oral arguments on multiple motions. The defendants were ordered to be present for the hearing. No date for trial has been set.

Let us keep **Louie and Steve** in our prayers as they continue in their protest ministries. For the latest updates on this trial and more background on this protest against official torture go the Pace e Bene sponsored website: <http://tortureontrial.org/>

Lamentation on Immigration Legislation

**Statement of the Executive Directors
of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and
the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)
on the failure of Congress to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform
July 5, 2007**

In the name of the **Leadership Conference of Women Religious** and the **Conference of Major Superiors of Men**, we express deep regret that the Congress has failed to approve comprehensive immigration reform legislation. The status quo is morally unacceptable, as millions of immigrants are relegated again to the shadows in our nation. We acknowledge the need to protect our borders, but insist that comprehensive immigration reform must also include a path to citizenship, family reunification, and protection of workers' rights, as called for by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. While the bill in the Senate was flawed, we regret that the process of coming to just and moral immigration reform was interrupted. We urge the Congress of the United States to take up much-needed immigration reform at the earliest possible date. Waiting until after the 2008 elections is not an option.

Sister Carole Shinnick, SSND
Executive Director
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Rev. Paul Lininger, OFM Conv.
Executive Director
Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Faith and Values - Program on CNN

CNN recently broadcast a program where they interviewed former **Senator John Edwards, Senator Barack Obama and Senator Hilary Clinton**. If you missed this program in its original broadcast, you can go to this website for a video streaming of the entire interview. Go to this website and click the appropriate button:

<http://blog.beliefnet.com/godspolitics/2007/06/video-candidates-forum-full-co.html>

Farm Workers in San Diego County

The *Invisible Mexicans of Deer Canyon* is a look at what life is like for millions of undocumented immigrants living in the shadows of American society. This full-length documentary film portrays intimate details of several individual day laborers who live in sub-human conditions amongst multi-million dollar homes.

Raul, Jose and Jesus work general construction. Pedro works in the local tomato and strawberry fields as a farm worker while Carlos works as a grounds-keeper at a world-famous five star resort. All of the men earn minimum wage and work part time or seasonally. Their meager weekly salaries are saved and sent to family members back home in Mexico. The men cut back on expenses by living outdoors in shacks constructed of plastic tarps, cardboard and scrap lumber.

Filmmaker, **John Carlos Frey** captures the daily struggles, triumphs and spirit of the undocumented Mexican immigrants living and working quietly amongst some of the wealthiest regions of America. The *Invisible Mexicans of Deer Canyon* is a never before seen expose of migrant life and the untold side of the immigration debate. Length: 73 mins.

Mark Schroeder, Larry Dunphy and I have viewed this film and we all strongly recommend it to anyone interested in issues around farm workers within our province boundaries. You may purchase a DVD from the listed website below or you may borrow our copy for viewing in your local friary and ministry group. Since this film was made, the local response has forced the farm workers to leave their place of worship for the past 20 years. A second documentary entitled: **The Invisible Chapel**, was recently released as well. This DVD is also available through their website: www.invisiblechapel.com

The Invisible Chapel is a powerful look at the issue of immigration from the perspective of undocumented immigrants and their resounding sense of faith. It is also an unflinching look at the escalating unease and growing tensions Americans face as we battle through the immigration debate. For over twenty years a migrant chapel remained invisible to the wealthy residents of a San Diego, CA neighborhood. Every Sunday, parish volunteers provided humanitarian assistance and held a church service for over one hundred impoverished agricultural, construction, and service industry workers from Mexico. Local neighbors, along with the San Diego Minutemen and a Talk-Radio host clashed with the mostly undocumented immigrant congregation. The ensuing conflict forced the migrants and volunteers out of their sacred space and ultimately caused the demolition of their long-standing place of worship. Filmmaker John Carlos Frey captures the enduring story of faith and perseverance pitted against fear and the heated immigration debate in this beautiful 31 minute documentary film, **The Invisible Chapel**.

DVD extras also include expert interviews with **Bishop Gerald Barnes (Diocese of San Bernardino, CA)**, Amanda Susskind (Anti-Defamation League), Attorney Claudia Smith (California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation), Daniel Groody, CSC (University of Notre Dame), & Migrant Healthcare Advocate Michael Akong.

Both of these films will greatly assist any of us in seeing and understanding how the current proposed immigration legislation is such a change from previous immigration policies. Both films were produced by Gate Keeper Productions and MACC (Mexican American Culture Center). If your local friary would like a presentation of these two DVD's with a discussion on the questions raised by these films, let me know. I am looking forward to using these DVD's as a way to break open the reflection in our friaries and among our different ministry groups.

FRC Update

*(These two items are submitted by **Christine Dove**, LCSW, Director, Social Action Ministry The Franciscan Renewal Center (480-948-7460 x 130)©*

What's for Lunch?

During the summer kids who are fed thru' the free and reduced cost breakfast and lunch programs at school are at home where the parents have to stretch their income to cover additional meals. Many of these parents turn to our food banks and pantries to supplement food supply. Food banks get lots of day-old bread from grocery stores that they distribute generously.

We at the **Franciscan Renewal Center** during June--World Hunger Month—collect peanut butter to spread on some of that bread. Our donations go to our local food pantry, **Vista del Camino** in south Scottsdale.

NO MORE DEATHS presentation moves the Casa community

David Buer, OFM and Laurie Ilardo brought the migrants' trek to life. They showed excerpts from DYING TO LIVE, a DVD produced by Notre Dame, which documents the economic plight of the migrants and their hopes for at least subsistence for their families at home. Then, on a hand drawn map of Arizona, they described the routes open to crossers now that the urban crossings have been walled off. Only the most desolate terrain with no shade nor water is open to them. It is impossible for them to carry sufficient water for the crossing though they start out with about 3/4 gallons of water. Those who die may be the injured or ill that are left behind by their group.

Both "**Samaritans**" and "**No More Deaths**" patrol the desert between Nogales and Tucson. They offer humanitarian assistance to the migrants--medical care, food and water. Frequently, the crossers are so exhausted and sick that they ask to be turned in to the Border Patrol for deportation to Nogales.

No More Deaths will be holding a half day training for volunteers in Phoenix in the coming months. Information is available at www.nomoredeaths.org

Donations will be used to purchase food, water and to pay for gas in the patrol vehicles. There have been 90 deaths since October 1, 2006 and the roughest and hottest season for migrants is just ahead.

JPIC Reflections by Larry Dunphy, OFM

WALKING THE TALK

Our Franciscan traditions make some special contributions to the foundations of Social Justice. Neither St. Francis nor our principal philosophers and theologians, Bl. John Duns Scotus and St. Bonaventure, spoke or wrote explicitly on the topic. It was not a topic of that day. However, Francis' life and writings lay a foundation for an understanding of reality which has profound applications in Social Justice and Integrity of Creation (JPIC).

The philosophy and theology of Scotus and Bonaventure were shaped by their following of Francis, and, in turn, contribute to the roots of a Franciscan view of Social Justice.

Shortly after his conversion St. Francis moved out of his former way of life and took up residence with the lepers. In his Testament he writes: "I left the world." He left behind a world of privilege and hierarchy to live in a Christ-like way as a servant of the rejects of society. For him lepers were brothers and sisters. The full understanding of Francis' intent in using the words: "Brother" or "Sister" lays the grounds for their application to Social Justice analysis of reality.

Francis called his followers "Friars" or brothers. He lived with them, not as superior, but as brother. He meant that they should be brothers not just among themselves, like some kind of exclusive club, but rather brother was to be their relationship to all men and women.

"Brother" was not meant to be a title, but rather, a description of relationship that was a reality. Friars are to be truly brothers, and a sign and a model of all human and creaturely relationships because the one Father/Mother God is the origin of all these relationships. We all are equal siblings under God; none of us has any greater privilege or worth. All are to share equally of the family inheritance.

Francis did not seek to possess creation but rather he saw it as belonging to God and as a book from which one could read about God. He treated it with great reverence. He picked up a lowly worm from the road lest it get stepped upon. His great understanding of creation and its relation to us is expressed in the "Canticle of Creation," which he wrote shortly before his death. The Canticle, I believe, also provides us with the foundation for a Franciscan approach to JPIC.

In the Canticle he speaks of "Brother Sun," "Sister Moon," "Brother Wind," and "Sister Water." For us as Franciscans, this is not poetical language, but a description of real relationships that exist between us humans and all of creation. So we humans and all creatures are equal children of God. Creatures share in the same worth and dignity and deserve the same respect.

I think that a basic Franciscan contribution to the grounds out of which we come to an understanding of Social Justice is this insight of all people and all creatures being brothers or sisters. We all share in the same fundamental being which God has created, made of the same stuff. A true understanding of these relationships shows us why we must be in just relationships with all other creatures. If we can grasp this we are well on our way to seeing the reasons why we come to our JPIC teachings.

(Larry wrote this reflection for the St Francis Parish, Sacramento, website.)

JP Reflections by Ray Hardwick, SFO

The power of the world uses force in its own defense. The power of God uses and used love for the salvation of humankind. There is an incident from Blessed John's (John XXIII) life which so fully illustrates this new line of power and authority which God introduced to the world with the mystery of Bethlehem.

John was then the Patriarch of Venice. He learned that one of his priests was leading a rather irregular life and had been frequenting a place where no ecclesiastic should be seen. John could have suspended the priest from his ministry; he could have used all the force of his authority and crushed him with power. But what he did was to one day wait outside the place which the priest was accustomed to frequent. When the priest saw him, he grew pale, but John took him by the arm and, as if nothing was wrong, gently requested him to go with him to his residence. When they reached John's study he knelt down before the priest and asked him, "Please, Father, hear my confession!" And he did it with great humility and kindness.

When the priest had absolved him, John put his arm around his shoulder and said, "My son, I would like you to meditate on the marvelous gift that God has given you of forgiving men's sins, even those of your own Archbishop. May this encourage you to avoid sin as far as possible in your life out of gratitude to Christ."

We do not know what happened afterwards, nor do we need to know. But this whole incident speaks of peace, goodness and understanding, of salvation that does not humiliate, of authority that serves, of the greatest who makes himself the least in order to better reveal the image of Christ in the world.

ACTION

We are also called to be *Breach Menders and Peacemakers*, bringers of **GOOD** News to those whose lives that we touch. Good Pope John is a glowing example of what Francis desired all of his followers to be. Lovers who are loyal to the Church and who call her to be the example of Christ in the world. We can't wait for others to lead us in the renewal of the Church, but to be leaders in bringing the love, compassion, forgiveness and healing Christ to the part of the world in which we live.

Such as a Cardinal speaking, during the Second Vatican Council, simply said that if, during twenty centuries of Christianity, the Church had preached as often about Christ words, "Woe to you rich!" as it had about the primacy of Peter, Communism surely would never have existed." This prompted John to say, "The Gospel has yet to be discovered." Let us seek to discover the truly radical Gospel preached by Jesus.

One last word of wisdom from Blessed John, "See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little. Prudent is he who can keep silent that part of the truth which may be untimely, and by not speaking it, does not spoil the truth of what he said."

Prayer

Almighty God, whose will it is to heal all division and discord among those who call upon the name of your Son. We thank you for the good will shown in your servant John, and we pray that we may always be ready to hear our fellow Christians with humility and a willingness to learn, and may also speak the truth in love, to the healing of faction and the renewed witness of your people; though Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(This is an excerpt of a longer article written by Ray Hardwick, SFO, who wrote this for the June 2007 Newsletter of the SFO Justice and Peace Commission.)

On Peace, A Call from Assisi

"May Weapons be Silenced; May Hate Yield to Love"

ASSISI, Italy, JUNE 17, 2007 (Zenit.org).- Here is a translation of the address **Benedict XVI** gave today to the crowds gathered at the **Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi**, where the Pope led the praying of the midday Angelus.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Eight centuries ago, the city of Assisi would have found it difficult to imagine the role that providence was assigning to it, a role that has made this city well known throughout the world, that has made it an authentic "place of the soul." An event that happened here imprinted on this city an indelible character. I am referring to the conversion of young **Francis**. After 25 years of an aimless and mediocre existence that was centered on seeking worldly pleasures and successes, in a moment of interior recollection, he opened himself to grace and gradually recognized in Christ the ideal for his life. My pilgrimage to Assisi today seeks to recall this event, to live its significance to the fullest.

I have stopped with particular emotion at the small church of San Damiano where **Francis** heard from the crucifix the directive "**Go, Francis, and rebuild my church**" (**2 Cel 1,6,10**). It was a mission that would start with the full conversion of his heart and would, in turn, become Gospel leaven handed in abundance to the Church and society.

I have visited the place in Rivotorto that, according to tradition, housed the lepers who St. Francis approached with mercy, thus beginning his penitent life. I have also visited the sanctuary of the saint's humble dwelling where he lived with the first brothers.

I have been to the Basilica of St. Clare, his "little plant," and this afternoon, after a visit to the Cathedral of Assisi, I will stop at the Porziuncola where Francis, in the shadow of Mary, directed the expansion of his fraternity and where he breathed his last. There, I will meet the youth so that young Francis, converted to Christ, may speak to their hearts.

At this moment from the Basilica of St. Francis where his mortal remains rest, I wish to make mine his prayer: "O Most High, Almighty God, good Lord, to you, praise, honor and blessing" (Brother Sun Canticle, 1). Francis of Assisi is a great teacher of our faith and our praise. When he fell in love with Jesus Christ, he found the face of God-Love; he became his passionate singer and an authentic "minstrel of God." In light of the beatitudes, we understand the meekness and humility with which he related to others, becoming a witness and agent of peace.

From this city of peace, I want to send my greetings to representatives of Christian communities and other religions who, in 1986, accepted the invitation of my venerable predecessor to come here, to the homeland of St. Francis, for a World Day of Prayer for Peace. I consider it my duty to issue an urgent and heartfelt appeal from this place to stop all armed conflicts that are bloodying the earth. May weapons be silenced and may hate yield to love, offense to pardon, and discord to unity!

We feel here the spiritual presence of all those who weep, suffer and die at war or because of its tragic consequences in any part of the world. Our thoughts are directed in particular to the Holy Land, a place so loved by St. Francis, to Iraq, Lebanon and all the Middle East.

The populations of these places have experienced for too long the horrors of war, terrorism, blind violence, the illusion that force can solve conflicts, and the refusal to listen to the reasoning of others and do them justice. Only a responsible and sincere dialogue, sustained by the generous support of the international community will be able to end so much suffering and give new life and dignity to individuals, institutions and people.

May **St. Francis**, man of peace, obtain for us from the Lord, the grace of an increasing number of people who will agree to become "instruments of peace" through thousands of small gestures in their daily lives. May those who are in positions of power be motivated by a passionate love for peace, an indomitable will to obtain it, and may they choose the adequate means to reach it.

May the Holy Virgin, who the "little brother" loved with such a tender heart and to whom he sang with such inspiration, help us to discover the secret of peace in the miracle of love that took place in her womb with the incarnation of the Son of God.

[Translation by ZENIT]

Vatican Becomes The First *'Carbon Neutral State'* !

Vatican City, Jul 13, 2007 / 10:28 am ([CNA](#)).-

The Vatican is quickly moving to become the first "carbon neutral state" with its recent plans to switch the Paul VI audience hall to solar power and the initiative to plant a forest in Europe it announced yesterday. The Holy See says that it will create a forest that will offset all of its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions for the year, according to the eco-restoration company Planktos that is working to help the Holy See achieve what it calls a "historic goal."

"The Holy See's increasingly creative environmental leadership is both insightful and profound," said Russ George, CEO of Planktos Corp. and managing director of its Hungarian forest subsidiary, KlimaFa, in a news release on Thursday. In recognition of its leadership, the KlimaFa is donating the resources to help the Vatican plant the forest and become the "first carbon neutral sovereign state" in the world. According to the press release from Planktos, the new Vatican Climate Forest will be created in Hungary's Bükk National Park. Its dimensions will be determined by the Vatican's 2007 energy usage and the success of its current emission reduction efforts.

"We believe this climate forest initiative clearly reflects the Vatican's deep commitment to both environmental healing and the welfare of the poor," said David Gazdag, KlimaFa's managing director in Budapest. "Besides their local ecological and global climatic benefits, these projects offer many rewarding new eco-forestry jobs to struggling rural communities and increasing eco-tourism employment opportunities as these beautiful woodlands mature," he stated. George also noted that, "Not only is the Vatican steadily reducing its carbon footprint with energy efficiency and solar power, its choice of new mixed growth forests to offset the balance of its emissions shows a deep commitment to planetary stewardship as well. It eloquently makes the point that eco-restoration is a fitting climate change solution for a culture of life."

In a July 5th ceremony announcing the forest plans, Cardinal Paul Poupard, the head of the Pontifical Council for Culture said, "As the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, had recently stated, the international community needs to respect and encourage a 'Green Culture,' characterized by ethical values." The Pope also gave a biblical reflection on caring for the environment saying, "The Book of Genesis tells us of a beginning in which God placed man as guardian over the earth to make it fruitful. When man forgets that he is a faithful servant of this earth, it becomes a desert that threatens the survival of all creation."

However, not everyone is satisfied with the Vatican's plans to become "more green." Mr. Iain Murray, senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, told Cybercast News Service he doubted the new program would go far enough to satisfy what he called "the environmental ultras," who had recently decided "that trees don't cut it when you're offsetting." "To the Church of Green, the Vatican will remain heretical," Murray added.