

< JPIC NEWS PROVINCE OF ST BARBARA >

CHAPTER ISSUE - JANUARY 2009

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

1112 26TH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

JPICSACRAMENTO@YAHOO.COM

In this January 2009 issue:

- Interview with Jon Sobrino, SJ
- Campaign for Tackling Climate Change
- Theologians Reflect on Economic Crises
- Social Action at Sts Simon & Jude Parish
- FAN Program in Scottsdale, Sacramento, Berkeley, Spokane

Exclusive Video Interview with Jon Sobrino, SJ

A note from Johnny Zokovitch

Director of Communications, Pax Christi USA

Dear friends,

Following our Friday evening event at the SOA honoring **Pax Christi USA 2008 Book Award** recipient **Jon Sobrino, SJ**--which more than 600 people attended--we were fortunate enough to arrange for Marie Dennis, Pax Christi International Co-President, to conduct **an interview with Rev. Sobrino.**(http://www.paxchristiusa.org/news_events_more.asp?id=1486))

That interview in its entirety is now uploaded to the Pax Christi USA website. The video is in 2 parts, so remember to click on both videos in order to see the whole interview.

Please consider forwarding this interview on to friends and co-workers too. The YouTube link for Part I of the interview is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-q8hx1yt0k>; Part II can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GskURag5eCQ>.

Catholics Launch Campaign for Climate Change

By Jonathan Luxmoore

[Catholic News Service](http://www.catholicnews.com)

<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0806142.htm>

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) -- Catholic Church officials from 38 countries have launched a campaign with more than 170 Catholic organizations to persuade the United Nations to meet the "moral obligation" of tackling climate change.

"Climate change is a reality today affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions in developing countries by exacerbating storms, droughts and natural disasters," said an appeal signed by 92 bishops, archbishops and cardinals.

"As a matter of equity and responsibility, those who have created the problem must pay for the solution. Economically developed nations have a moral obligation to tackle climate change because of their disproportionate consumption of natural resources," it said.

The climate campaign and related appeal were launched by Caritas Internationalis, which represents 162 national Caritas church charities, and CIDSE, a Belgian-based alliance of 16 Catholic development agencies. The campaign was introduced Dec. 7 at the cathedral in Poznan, Poland, at a Mass concelebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Grzegorz Balcerak of Poznan and Auxiliary Bishop Theotonius Gomes of Dhaka, president of Caritas Bangladesh.

Government representatives from around the world were meeting in Poznan Dec. 1-12 for the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The religious leaders' appeal, titled "A Call for Climate Justice," said poor communities were affected the worst by climate change, but had "done (the) least to cause it." It pledged Catholics worldwide would "stand in profound solidarity" with those suffering harsh effects.

"We are deeply concerned by the disproportionate impact human-induced climate change is having on poor and vulnerable people living in developing countries," it said.

"It is our moral obligation to take urgent action to tackle climate change and to do so in support of those most affected. We call on you to achieve a strong, binding and just global climate agreement to ensure the survival and well-being of all God's children," said the appeal, signed by 15 church leaders from Argentina and four from Nigeria, as well as Cardinals Rodolfo Quezada Toruno of Guatemala and Joseph Zen Ze-kiun of Hong Kong.

Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala of Los Angeles, president of Pax Christi USA, and the president of the Commission of the Bishops' Conference of the European Community, Bishop Adrianus van Luyn of Rotterdam, Netherlands, also were among the signers.

U.N. sources said their talks would help prepare a new global climate treaty, to be finalized in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009. The treaty will be based on a 2007 plan -- developed in Bali, Indonesia -- under which developing countries agreed to take "nationally appropriate mitigation actions" against climate change if "supported and enabled by technology, finance and capacity-building" from developed countries.

However, they added that funding for mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries would be a crucial prerequisite for an agreement.

In their appeal, the Catholic leaders said every citizen had a responsibility "to promote and to protect the common good," as well as holding "governments to account for their actions." They urged Catholics to follow calls by the late Pope John Paul II by "tackling climate change as one international family."

"Climate change is an issue of social justice and must be met in solidarity by stretching our collective perspective beyond the limitations of short-term interests to one that protects and promotes the common good of all," added the appeal. "It is imperative these countries receive the economic and technical assistance they need to adapt to climate change and ensure better lives and livelihoods for their people."

The president of CIDSE, Rene Grotenhuis, said industrialized countries had been responsible for 70 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions, adding that billions of dollars currently made available to ease financial-market pressures should not obscure the need to address climate change, which, if neglected, would exert a price "on a human and financial scale we cannot yet comprehend."

A CIDSE statement said Catholic member organizations would run public campaigns throughout 2009 encouraging postcards and online petitions urging governments to support a strong deal at the Copenhagen conference.

It added that CIDSE would relay demands to national leaders to ensure the "shared call for climate justice will keep pressure on international leaders at key moments."

END

Theologians Reflect on Economic Issues

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week1206/exclusive.html>

Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly has asked theologians, ethicists, and others to comment on the current financial crisis:

William T. Cavanaugh is associate professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and the author, most recently, of *BEING CONSUMED: ECONOMICS AND CHRISTIAN DESIRE*.

Steve Long is professor of systematic theology at Marquette University and the author of many books, including *DIVINE ECONOMY: THEOLOGY AND THE MARKET*.

Deirdre N. McCloskey is UIC Distinguished Professor of Economics, History, English, and Communication at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the author of *THE BOURGEOIS VIRTUES: ETHICS FOR AN AGE OF COMMERCE*.

Sts Simon & Jude Parish, Huntington Beach

From Donna Rustvold:

What a year this is becoming for the JPIC Commission at Sts. Simon & Jude in Huntington Beach! It is so exciting to see a plan come together! The JPIC Commission took several years getting organized but it is all paying off now! Most important, the focus of the Commission: "to effectively build a community of faith where Catholic Social teaching is central, and where social ministry is integral and the work of every believer" is now in process.

By working with other organizations within the parish and community, social justice is slowly being introduced and experienced by parishioners and community members. In preparation for the November Election, **Edward "Ned" Dolejsi, Chief Lobbyist** for the California Catholic Bishops' Conference spoke on *The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. Beginning in late September, JPIC sponsored an eight week study created by **JustFaith Ministries** called *Climate Change* which has motivated twelve more parishioners to bring the environmental message and mission to the parish. In October, a JPIC committee worked with **the Prayer and Devotion Commission** to offer a peace liturgy celebrating the 22nd anniversary of the *Spirit of Assisi*. Then for the First Sunday of Advent, a committee was formed to invite all the charities of the parish and some local organizations to participate at an alternative gift fair where donations or volunteer hours to the charities were made as Christmas gifts.

Presently, JPIC committees are working with the Catechetical programs providing "Call to Action" ideas for over 1000 attendees for each of the seven gatherings throughout the year; collaborating with the Stewardship Board planning Earth Day in conjunction with Lifelong Faith intergeneration catechesis; and planning with the school & Youth Ministry to promote **Concern America's Walk Out of Poverty**.

Other groups the members of the JPIC Commission are working with are: the **Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council**—as leaders within the organization; **the Diocese of Orange Peace & Justice Deanery and Respect Life Deanery**—again in leadership positions; and promotion and support of the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Pennies from Heaven Collection for the Life Centers in Orange County**.

The basic strategy to influence parishioners is by building trust, educate, and offer action opportunities. All the JPIC activities feature bulletin write-ups connecting the event to Catholic social teaching. Through these social justice experiences and by including so many others in the planning and work, trust is building! Yes, it is good to see a plan come together!

FAN program in Scottsdale, Sacramento, Spokane and Berkeley

From **Patti Stills-Trausch** (FRC Scottsdale):

“Election Aftermath” will be a special day to concentrate on how Gospel values and Franciscan Spirituality can inform our policy priorities. It will offer hands-on, interactive sessions on how to focus a faith-filled lens on major issues of our time. This program will emanate from the **Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ**. Learn strategies on how to address the important issues of: ***The Economy, Immigration and Global Climate Change***

This program will be viewed simultaneously at **FST (Berkeley), the Poor Clare Monastery (Spokane) and Mercy General Hospital (Sacramento)**. This is a joint project of the **Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale** and our **JPIC Office, Sacramento**. The local hosts will be **David Elliot** in Berkeley, **Franklin Fong, OFM** in the **North Auditorium at Mercy General Hospital (Sacto)**, and **Sr Colleen Byrne, OSC** in Spokane. **David Elliot** is a parishioner at **St Francis Parish, Sacramento**, former editor of the *Way Magazine* and a current student at FST. **SFO members, Poor Clare Sisters, Franciscan sisters and parishioners from our parishes** will be joining for this first-time event. If you have some time please join us even for an hour to see how this new technology is working. **Saturday January 17 from 9 AM to 3 PM**. Call or email the JPIC office for more information.

