

## < JPIC NEWS PROVINCE OF ST BARBARA >

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

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### Friars' HINTS

OK, to quote a local friar, "Isn't it enough that I bicycle around town, and have a relatively simple life?!" Well, in our busy-ness of ministry and fraternal life, the *simple life* is a process and not any specific goal! So, consider some of these possibilities in your day-to-day life:

1. Many of us live in very hot areas of the West. Does your friary have a clothes line to dry clothes? Think of all of the electricity you don't use for 40 minutes on the dry cycle!
2. When you are printing out draft copies on your printer, have you considered using the back side of the fancy stationery or announcements that were left over after the last printing project?
3. Any new hints of ways that you have reduced the ecological footprint of the friary? Please send in any changes you have adopted in your friary that have made a difference in energy use, paper use, time use, etc., etc. Any suggestions for an "Award" for the best hint of the year?

### On-Line Membership to FAN

**By Larry Dunphy, OFM (FAN Council Member)**

This is the web-site that I have been talking about for FAN. You can learn more here about participating in this Franciscan project to transform the world. I thought you would be interested in this great site I found to help transform the world. Share this website with your SFO friends, parishioners and anyone interested in a national perspective to JPIC advocacy.

website: <https://www.franciscanaction.org/Default.aspx>

## CATHOLIC CONCERN FOR ANIMALS

Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA) exists to influence the Christian Church and, ultimately the wider society, into adopting a more just, understanding and compassionate attitude towards the animal creation. They research and disseminate teachings of the Catholic tradition, and of other religious beliefs, to help bring about a way of living in accordance with God's design.

CAA believes that all life is God-given and therefore to be highly respected – and that life, of course, includes all human life, particularly that of the most vulnerable, the unborn, and the terminally ill or dying. They hold strongly to a “pro-life” approach, both for humans and for sentient non-humans, and *resist any suggestion that they care ‘only’ for animals at the expense of human life.*

They have developed the “**LOAF**” principles that urge us to eat what is **Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly and Fairly traded.** For more information on ideas about doing this ministry go to their website: <http://www.all-creatures.org/ca/usa-flyer.html>

## NO TO TORTURE, the rest of the story....

### **General who probed Abu Ghraib says Bush officials committed war crimes by Warren P. Strobel - McClatchy Newspapers**

Thursday, June 19, 2008

For a complete text of this news item go to the Weblink:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/226/story/41514.html>

June 18, 2008

The Army general who led the investigation into prisoner abuse at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison accused the Bush administration Wednesday of committing "war crimes" and called for those responsible to be held accountable. The remarks by Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, who's now retired, came in a new report that found that U.S. personnel tortured and abused detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, using beatings, electrical shocks, sexual humiliation and other cruel practices.

"After years of disclosures by government investigations, media accounts and reports from human rights organizations, there is no longer any doubt as to whether the current administration has committed war crimes," Taguba wrote. "The only question that remains to be answered is whether those who ordered the use of torture will be held to account."

Taguba, whose 2004 investigation documented chilling abuses at Abu Ghraib, is thought to be the most senior official to have accused the administration of war crimes. "The commander in chief and those under him authorized a systematic regime of torture," he wrote. A White House spokeswoman, Kate Starr, had no comment.

Taguba didn't respond to a request for further comment relayed via a spokesman. The group Physicians for Human Rights, which compiled the new report, described it as the most in-depth medical and psychological examination of former detainees to date. Doctors and mental health experts examined 11 detainees held for long periods in the prison system that President Bush established after the 9-11 terrorist attacks. All of them eventually were released without charges.

## WORLD FOOD CRISES SUMMIT

June 6, 2008 TRACY WILLIAMSON, LA Times

[http://www.faithinpubliclife.org/content/news/2008/06/food\\_summit\\_ends\\_with\\_contenti.html](http://www.faithinpubliclife.org/content/news/2008/06/food_summit_ends_with_contenti.html)

A world summit on hunger veered near collapse late Thursday when Latin American countries objected bitterly to a final, watered-down resolution designed to boost agriculture and control soaring food prices. Ultimately, the declaration was adopted, with about 180 countries pledging to work to eliminate hunger and secure access to food "for all, today and tomorrow" through urgent actions, including the easing of trade barriers and the supply of seeds and fertilizer to poor farmers.

No significant agreement was reached on one of the more divisive issues, the production of biofuels and what effect they have on the costs of food and on the environment. The resolution did not contain stronger language sought by critics of biofuels, which are strongly supported by the Bush administration.

The three-day summit was called by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization as an emergency response to high food prices that officials say could threaten nearly 1 billion people with starvation. United Nations officials said \$20 billion to \$30 billion a year was needed to fight hunger, which can trigger social and political unrest. "This has reminded us that there are still millions of people in the world . . . who face famine," said Denzil Douglas, prime minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, who briefed reporters after the resolution was adopted. "I believe now resources will be mobilized quickly.

## Hunger Pains in Africa

***In East Africa, high food prices can mean starvation — unless we help***  
***by Carolyn Woo***

*June 19, 2008*

*Web link:* <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bal-op.food19jun19,0,2641192.story>

(The author is the current Dean of the School of Business, University of Notre Dame, and Board Member of Catholic Relief Services.)

Before leaving the University of Notre Dame for a two-week trip to Ethiopia and Kenya, I was concerned about the rising food prices worldwide. Having grown up in Hong Kong eating rice each day, I was particularly worried by the threefold increase in the price of rice - the staple food for about 3 billion people worldwide.

My concern took on a new intensity when I arrived in East Africa and began touring projects supported by Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services. In Africa, the rise in global food prices doesn't mean forgoing a night out on the town or passing up a pair of shoes on sale. It means middle-class families stop buying milk for their children and morning coffee, poor families start eating a bowl of porridge just once or twice a day, and the poorest of the poor regularly go hungry and may even face starvation.

It's hard to believe that in our modern world, people can die of hunger. But it happens every day, and sadly is starting to happen again in Ethiopia. Short rains that come each spring failed to arrive this year, leaving millions of people without a harvest - without food. The government and aid agencies are stepping in to provide critical assistance, especially for vulnerable children, but the next harvest won't come until at least September. That's a long time to survive without any food in the cupboard and no savings to afford increasingly expensive staples.

Ethiopia, like so many other countries, needs distributions of emergency food and innovative, long-term initiatives that give poor people the skills and leg up they need to feed their families well into the future.

## **JPIC LOBBYING: Interfaith Power & Light**

The Interfaith Power and Light effort began in 1998 with Episcopal Power and Light and the support of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, as a unique coalition of Episcopal churches aggregated to purchase renewable energy. In 2001, they co-founded **California Interfaith Power & Light**, which helps people of faith in California to organize and promote positive environmental change around energy and global warming.

This interfaith ministry is devoted to deepening the connection between ecology and faith. Their goal is to help people of faith recognize and fulfill their responsibility for the stewardship of creation. The Regeneration Project was created to assist faith communities with educational and liturgical resources and now serves over 4,000 congregations in the US. For more information about this national and California project go to their web site: <http://www.theregenerationproject.org/>

Specifically, the Regeneration Project campaign is mobilizing a national religious response to global warming while promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. People of faith have an opportunity to put their faith into action and help reduce the devastating effects of global warming.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, as part of their annual lobbying day in Sacramento, I was invited to join 19 other clergy members from every part of California who met at the State Capitol Building to lobby several Assembly and Senate members and their staff members. We lobbied on two pending pieces of legislation:

**SB 375** deals with regional transportation and land use planning with the overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the transportation sector. It's basic goal is to reduce the number of miles that the average cars is driven in California. It passed the State Senate last year and is expected to start moving in the State Assembly this year.

**AB 3018** deals with green collar jobs and would create a public and private task force to provide important infrastructure (training, funding strategies, and programs) to facilitate job creation in the new green economy. This bill passed in the State Assembly and is also expected to be moving in the State Senate this year.

## JPIC Sacramento

The Social Action at St Francis Parish, Sacramento has taken off to great summer of activities. A main task of the some 30+ parishioners has been to discern what it means to be a “peacemaking” faith community. After several sessions of discussing and sharing of hopes and dreams, a final statement of mission and action is being crafted by an ad hoc group. They are hoping to present a final text to the social action committee for adoption and commitment as individuals and as a committee.

On another front of the parish, the Adult Faith Formation Committee is continuing a highly successful summer film series, The Summer Film Festival is entitled: **“Who Is My Neighbor? The Human Face of Globalization.”** The four films they have chosen for parish-wide viewing are: *‘The Beauty Academy of Kabul’, ‘El Norte’, ‘God Grew Tired of Us’, and ‘Earth’.*

If you’re interested in finding out more about these films (times and dates of viewing) and how we have used them to stimulate discussion about **“Who Is My Neighbor”** - send me an email message or give me a phone call and I’ll keep you posted! These DVD’s may be useful way in your community to begin having discussions in the “DOOR” process for globalization.

If you or your local social action parish group has an interesting way of presenting the social action perspective – tell the rest of the province about this. We don’t have to re-invent the wheel all the time!

## JPIC Huntington Beach

***SOUL FOOD: God calls us to care for the earth*** by Michelle Marr (Excerpted from the Huntington Beach Independent). The local press covered the annual Earth Day celebration at Sts Simon & Jude Parish. Here’s another way we can witness to JPIC values in a parish setting. (FF)

When it comes to caring for this planet’s natural resources, **Ann Egan**, a Huntington Beach resident, will bluntly tell you she’s a late bloomer. “Buy what you want; spend what you want; do what you want. It doesn’t make any difference,” Egan said she used to think. The confession conveys humility and regret.

Egan realizes she can’t make up for lost time, but from here on out she’s committed to changing her ways. If she can nudge a few others out of their slumber, so much the better. This year, she has chaired the “Celebrate Earth Day” event **at Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church**. Its aim is to get more people to reduce their consumption, reuse what they have and recycle. Egan calls these the three Rs.

Egan’s deep-seated faith and her years as a biologist married to another biologist brought her to remember it. She recognized her responsibility when three years ago she got involved with the Social Justice program at **Saints Simon and Jude**. Until then, she says, she was like so many of us. She figured the world and its rich resources would always be there no matter what.

Having a grandchild also provoked her new perspective. She recalls the first lines from a decades-old Grateful Dead song, “We Can Run.” “We don’t own this place, though we act as if we did. It’s a loan from the children of our children’s kids,” she recites. The song’s last stanza seems to prophesize global warming:

“Today I went walking in the amber wind; There’s a hole in the sky where the light pours in. I remembered the days when I wasn’t afraid of the sunshine. But now it beats down on the

asphalt land. Like a hammering blow from God's left hand. What little still grows cringes in the shade till the night time."

In her pessimistic moments Egan fears we may have already pushed our avarice for the earth's resources too far. She can feel overwhelmed by the number and complexity of environmental issues. When she does, she takes comfort in the wisdom of Mother Teresa, who advised, "Just do what's in front of you." Egan hopes "Celebrate Earth Day" exhibits, open in the church's Colman Hall after each Saturday and Sunday Mass this weekend, will inspire others to do that, too.

The exhibits will offer a variety of eco-friendly ideas for adults and kids to reduce consumption, reuse what they have or recycle at home, at work or at school. Reducing, Egan said, is hardest for us. "We kid ourselves into thinking more is more [but] if we raise another generation of consumers we'll condemn ourselves to live by our mistakes," she said.

Some suggestions targeted at kids work equally well for adults: Save a quart of drinking water by shutting off the tap while you brush your teeth; decide what you want from the fridge before you open the door; spare trees by packing your lunch in a box instead of in a brown paper sack and by substituting cloth napkins for paper ones. Pondering such small changes, Egan presents a conundrum.

What one person does doesn't make a whole lot of difference, she concedes. On the other hand, if every single person gets off the hook by saying, "Well, what I do doesn't make a difference," we will never, she says, get anywhere. For Egan that's no longer an option. She has bought a Toyota Prius. She has exchanged plastic baggies for reusable containers.

"Plastic is forever," she says. "It doesn't biodegrade." She's joined the grassroots miles-to-market movement, foregoing the supermarket's cherries from Chile for locally grown produce from the Huntington Beach farmers' markets, among other changes. Her hope: a whole lot of people making a little bit of difference.

## The Next Generation Speaks to Power

By **Loren Kerkof, OFM**

*Dear Friars,*

*I found this video a very powerful expression of what I have been concerned about and involved in for many years. I think it is a more effective expression of my concerns than any that I have expressed over the years. So I thought I would share it with my friends and with JPIC since I thought that you could use it yourself or spread it around as a good tool. **Loren***

Environmental Children's Organization Takes Aim at the Grown-ups  
Born and raised in Vancouver, **Severn Suzuki** has been working on environmental and social justice issues since kindergarten. At age 9, she and some friends started the **Environmental Children's Organization (ECO)**, a small group of children committed to learning and teaching other kids about environmental issues. They traveled to 1992's UN Earth Summit, where 12 year-old Severn gave this powerful speech that deeply affected (and silenced) some of the most prominent world leaders. The speech had such an impact that she has become a frequent invitee to many UN conferences.

Here is a short excerpt from his speech to the conference:

"In my life, I have dreamt of seeing the great herds of wild animals, jungles and rainforests full of birds and butterflies, but now I wonder if they will even exist for my children to see.

Did you have to worry about these little things when you were my age?

All this is happening before our eyes and yet we act as if we have all the time we want and all the solutions. I'm only a child and I don't have all the solutions, but I want you to realize, neither do you!

- You don't know how to fix the holes in our ozone layer.
- You don't know how to bring salmon back up a dead stream.
- You don't know how to bring back an animal now extinct.
- And you can't bring back forests that once grew where there is now desert.

***If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it!"***

This young lady has set a challenge to the perspective that we will use technology to work our way out of the problems. As Franciscans, we do believe that technology may be only one part of the answer to the situation we're now facing as a world, as a nation or a culture.

As Franciscans, we must raise our voices as well as this young lady has about how we must face this latest version of the "wolf of Gubbio". The fear of the villagers as they faced the terror of the wolf was as real as the world faces the consequences of our holes in the ozone layer, missing salmon in the rivers, extinct species around the world, and changes in the ecosystems where forest plains are now floods, and temperate zones become deserts. Who is the wolf in today's world? Is it the technologist and scientist? Is it the corporate banker? Is it someone else? Or is it as always the wolf within ourselves? Is it the desire for a simple answer in a complex world? The quick fix? The little white pill?

Our Franciscan family has wrestled with this 'wolf' many times over. Our neighbors and fellow species need our insights as much today as it did 800 years ago. What can you do as a friary, fraternity, faith community to help in recognizing the 'wolf' and then befriending the 'wolf' as a community? Who has the courage to once again speak out as young **Severin Suzuki** did in 1992?

*Severn Cullis-Suzuki has been active in environmental and social justice work ever since kindergarten. She was twelve years old when she gave this speech, and she received a standing ovation. Now 23, Cullis-Suzuki spearheads [The SkyFish Project](http://www.skyfishproject.org/) and continues to speak to schools and corporations, and at many conferences and international meetings. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.*

To find out what Severin is up to in 2008, go to her website:  
<http://www.skyfishproject.org/> for a peek into the next generation.

FRIARS –

I welcome any ideas or articles about "JPIC" in the Province. Our next issue will be sent out around September 1<sup>st</sup>. Announcements, articles, hints are all welcome and should be sent in to me by August 20<sup>th</sup>. (FF)