



Charity and Justice

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Office of Christian Service, Diocese of Kalamazoo

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Charity and Justice
Newsletter Title



The Two feet of Christian Service are Charity (Direct Service) and Justice (Social Change). We need both feet to walk. **Charity** (Direct Service) is helping people survive present crisis, e.g. food pantries, clothing centers, transportation, visiting the sick and elderly, and tutoring. **Justice** (Social Change) is removing the cause of those problems, e.g. advocacy, empowerment, and consciousness raising. As Catholics we are called to live both Charity and Justice. This newsletter will feature information on both charity and justice.

Catholic Social Teaching

7 Principles of CST



The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern

society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. ("Sharing Catholic Social Teaching" U.S. Catholic Bishops)

- 1) Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- 2) Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- 3) Rights and Responsibilities
- 4) Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- 5) The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- 6) Solidarity
- 7) Care for God's Creation

The purpose of the Charity and Justice Newsletter is to inform its readers about events, projects, actions, etc. that exemplify and illustrate these 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

Three churches in the Diocese of Kalamazoo's area are offering a course called JustFAITH. The course is open to all people, Catholic and non-Catholic. It is designed to help participants better understand justice issues and better focus their justice efforts through the lens of faith.

What is involved?

- 2½ hour weekly meetings for 30 weeks (with holiday breaks)
- Four hands-on experiences on Saturdays with victims of injustice
- Two retreats
- A couple of hours of reading each week
- Cost is approximately \$145 per person for books, payable in installments as books are introduced. Book loans and financial aid may be available. No one will be turned away.

The Just Faith course is being offered at three churches.

- St Catherine of Siena Church, 1150 W. Centre Ave., Portage. Group will meet on Mondays starting on September 27, from 6:45 - 9:15 pm. They will be holding an information meeting on September 13. For more information, contact Norman Young at ndyoung@charter.net.
- First Presbyterian Church, 8047 Church Street, Richland. Group will meet on Tuesdays, starting on September 21 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. For more information contact Murray Cooper at murraycooper3@earthlink.net,
- St. Bernard Church – 555 E. Delaware, Benton Harbor. Group will meet in Wednesdays starting on September 22, 6:30 – 9:00 pm. For more information, contact Julie Leahy at juliealeahy@yahoo.com.

You can go to the JustFAITH website to learn a lot more about this exciting program, www.justfaith.org.

Life Chain Events



The Life Chain began in 1987 in a small California City, and every year more have joined in this event. Participants spend an hour in silence, prayer or song to express hope and support for the future of those facing a crisis pregnancy. Participants hold signs with pro-life messages. Visit www.lifechain.net.

2010 Life Chain Events on Sunday, October 3:

- Battle Creek – Life Chain will be held at 1:00 p.m. in front of Planned Parenthood on 2855 Capital, SW. Contact Victoria Unger at 269-979-2055.
- Kalamazoo – Life Chain will be held from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. on Westnedge Avenue by St. Monica Parish. Contact Eileen O'Brien at 269-532-4305 (cell).
- Marshall – Life Chain will be held from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the traffic circle. Contact Joan Walsh at 517-629-9273.

CST Principle 1 – Life and Dignity of the Human Person

International Day of Peace

UN Update, August 2010



The International Day of Peace provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. In 2002 the United Nations General Assembly officially declared September 21st as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace. By creating the International Day of Peace, the UN devoted itself to worldwide peace and encouraged all of humankind to work in cooperation for this goal.

Since its inception, Peace Day has marked our personal and planetary progress toward peace. It has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world, and each year events are organized to commemorate and celebrate this day. Anyone, anywhere can celebrate Peace Day. For more information visit: Internationaldayofpeace.org.



CRS 2010 Operation Rice Bowl (ORB) In Lent 2010, Catholics from the Diocese gave **\$40,054.57** to **Operation Rice Bowl**. **\$30,040.93** of ORB funds went to CRS for relief projects overseas. **\$10,013.64** of ORB funds stayed in the Diocese to assist the poor here. Visit orb.crs.org.

Haiti – CRS and Diocese of Kalamazoo CRS received \$306,219.25 from the second collection held in the Diocese and an additional \$209,167.39 from donations from donors in our zip code areas for a grand total of **\$515,386.64**.

Catholic Relief Services and Pakistan CRS, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States, is bringing critical aid to thousands of people affected by the recent flooding in Pakistan. To donate, please call 1-877-HELP-CRS, donate online at www.crs.org or send a check to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090. In the memo portion of your check, please write: Pakistan Flooding

CST Principle 6 - Solidarity

Advocates for Charity and Justice

The Office of Christian Service invites people to join "**A Catholic Advocacy Network.**" Legislative Alerts from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of



Justice, Peace and Human Development, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, and the Michigan Catholic Conference are sent out to members. **Join this Advocacy Network by sending your e-mail address to the Office of Christian Service.**

CST Principle 3 – Right and Responsibilities

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