



# Just Notes

A newsletter from the Life, Peace and Justice Commission for the Diocese of Reno, Nevada

Summer 2010

## Statement of Purpose for the Commission:

*We, the Life, Peace, and Justice Commission, attest to the unity we share in the Body of Christ through the Holy Spirit. In solidarity, directed by Catholic Social Teaching and inspired by Scripture, we commit ourselves to encourage our parish communities to work for justice and peace. We speak for the voiceless in our community and world, seeking to advocate for the dignity of all and promote the unity that we share as the creation of a loving God.*



Walking the Walk

## Key Themes of our Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Call to Family, Community and Participation

Rights and Responsibilities

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Solidarity

Care for God's Creation

## GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

By Jeff Hardcastle

Through The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and Pope Benedict's denouncement of the failure of the Copenhagen talks, our Catholic Church has increasingly emphasized her concern about climate change. This past June, I attended the International Presenters Training for The Climate Project in Nashville, Tennessee, which, for me, reemphasized the issue of climate change.

The Climate Project grew out of Vice President Al Gore's Inconvenient Truth material and was created as way to gather people together and train them to present information about climate change. It is an opportunity for individuals to learn about the science of climate change, the consequences, and increasingly the solutions to it. While the core of it is Mr. Gore's work, presenters are encouraged to find there own way of presenting the material.

More than 650 people attended from around the world, one third were new presenters and there was a group of inspiring young people attending as part of Inconvenient Youth. There were presentations on the science and how best to communicate the material. Two things were driven home by a presentation by Henry Pollack, Ph.D. that the climate is changing faster than predicted and at an accelerating rate. So we as good stewards need to look at this issue and how we treat God's creation and move forward.

If your parish or civic group is interested in having a presentation about climate change, I will be available to do presentations this coming fall. I can be reached at (7750 746-2443 or [jeff.hardcastle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeff.hardcastle@sbcglobal.net))

## CARDBOARD BOX CITY 2010

When: Friday, October 1, 2010

Where: Wingfield Park, Reno, Nevada

Family Promise of Reno/Sparks will host its fourth annual Cardboard Box City as part of an ongoing effort to promote awareness of homelessness. All proceeds from the overnight event will help Family Promise further its efforts to transition families from homelessness into housing. Participants purchase cardboard boxes and spend the night in the park to learn first hand the harsh realities of a life without a solid roof overhead.

In June 2001, Family Promise of Reno/Sparks began operation as the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of the Truckee Meadows and opened its doors to serve homeless families in Washoe County. Every night, as many as 5,000 people in Washoe County have no place to call home. Approximately one-third are families with children. A minimum wage worker would have to work more than 70 hours a week, 52 weeks per year, just to keep a family of four above the poverty line.

For more information, contact Family Promise at 284-5566 or visit their web site at: [www.familypromisereno.com](http://www.familypromisereno.com)

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## Y.E.S. WORK CAMP 2010 – CARSON CITY

By Nancy Childress

For the second year, St. Teresa of Avila's youth group, Youth Empowered by the Spirit (Y.E.S.), spent one week working on parishioner's homes. This year, the high school teens and middle school teens participated in the work camp together. There were 90 plus teens that formed twelve teams who took part in painting houses and decks, gardening, weeding and mowing lawns, fixing fences, pulling out tree stumps, cleaning houses, laying landscape rock, washing down patios, and cleaning out and organizing sheds. During the lunch break each day, the groups sat down with homeowners, prayed and built relationships. The middle school participants also visited local nursing homes and brought joy to the residents with their presence and enthusiasm.

The evenings were spent attending Mass, learning about global poverty, and building relationships with one another through small group sharing. On Wednesday evening, we all attended a concert by Angus McDonald, a well known Christian musician. Friday evening the homeowners came for dinner with the work camp participants and shared about their experiences of the week.

The teens worked very hard all week and built many lasting relationships with parishioners. Many learned new skills which they will be able to use the rest of their lives. On the evaluation forms filled out on the last morning of camp, many teens stated they wanted the camp to be longer, or to participate in it again next year.

## JUSTFAITH IN THE DIOCESE OF RENO

By Rita Sloan

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's statement, *Economic Justice for All*, reminds us that "all of us must examine our way of living in light of the needs of the poor." JUSTFAITH Ministries offers us several excellent ways to do this. The JustFaith Program has been offered in some of our parishes with many of the participants stating that it is a life changing experience. JustFaith Ministries offers additional studies: JustSkills, Just Matters, Engaging Spirituality, and Justice Walking (high school-young adults). Each of these programs offers great insight to the connections between our faith and our lives and our call to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Based on Scripture and Church teaching, one of these programs is right for your parish. To inquire about JustFaith for your parish, contact one of the following members of the Life, Peace and Justice Commission: Rita Sloan ([rwrksloan@hotmail.com](mailto:rwrksloan@hotmail.com)) or Nancy Childress ([nlccbs@aol.com](mailto:nlccbs@aol.com))

## VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES—2009

Both the number of volunteers and the volunteer rate rose over the year ended in September 2009, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on January 26, 2010. About 63.4 million people, or 26.8 percent of the population, volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2008 and September 2009. In 2008, the volunteer rate was 26.4 percent.

In 2009, the main organization--the organization for which the volunteer worked the most hours during the year--was most frequently religious (34.0 percent of all volunteers), followed by educational or youth service related (26.1 percent). Another 13.9 percent of volunteers performed activities mainly for social or community service organizations.

About 44.0 percent of volunteers became involved with their main organization after being asked to volunteer, most often by someone in the organization. A slightly smaller proportion, 40.9 percent, became involved on their own initiative; that is, they approached the organization. (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm>)