



Just Notes

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

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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

IMMIGRATION REFORM

By Elizabeth Reville

At the invitation of Bishop Calvo and the Life, Peace and Justice Commission, Kevin Appleby, Director of the Office of Migration and Refugee Policy will speak on Immigration Reform at St. Rose of Lima on Tuesday, April 21, at 7:00 pm. The Office of Migration and Refugee Policy is charged with assisting the bishops in the development and promotion of migration and refugee policy positions within the context of the Church's social and moral teaching.

The policies of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) reflect the foundation of Catholic Social teaching – the life and dignity of the human person.

The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform took place in January 2003 when the Catholic bishops of the United States and Mexico issued a joint pastoral letter entitled "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope," which called for a "globalization of solidarity" and an overhaul of the U.S. immigration system.

The Campaign's primary objectives are:

- To educate the public about Church teaching on migration and immigrants;
- To create political will for positive immigration reform;
- To enact legislative and administrative reforms based on the principles articulated by the bishops; and
- To organize Catholic networks to assist qualified immigrants to obtain the benefits of the reforms.

A USCCB press release (November 18, 2008) reported that, "A recent Zogby poll of Catholics nationwide showed over-whelming support for reform of our national immigration laws, with Catholics supporting a path to citizenship for the estimated 12 million undocumented persons in the country.

"The poll conducted October 17-20, included a sample of 1,000 people who self-identified as Roman Catholics and was commissioned by Migration and Refugee Services of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (MRS/USCCB). It had a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percentage points.

"About 69 percent of Catholics polled supported a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, provided they register with the government; 62 percent supported the concept if they were required to learn English. The U.S. Catholic bishops have long endorsed a path to citizenship for undocumented persons that would include requirements to register with the government and to learn English."

Beginning in the mid 1800's, the first wave of immigrants from Europe and Ireland began to arrive in the United States, seeking a better life and future for their children. The Catholic Church played a central role in educating and supporting families in the land of opportunity and today continues its longstanding history in advocating for the rights of the immigrant.

To learn more about the issue of immigration reform and advocacy, log on to the following web site:
www.justiceforimmigrants.org/

"If you want peace, work for justice." - Pope Paul VI

Upcoming Events:

Immigration Reform

Kevin Appleby, Director of the Office of Migration and Refugee Policy will speak on Immigration Reform at St. Rose of Lima on Tuesday, April 21, at 7:00 pm.

Published by:

The Life, Peace and
and Justice Commission

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**SOLIDARITY WILL TRANSFORM
THE WORLD!**

Operation Rice Bowl offers parish-wide materials for an enhanced Lenten experience, incorporating the long-esteemed spiritual paths of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving – with the added dimension of learning about our connection to the neighbors we are to love across the planet. Check out the following web site for free family and parish resources:

www.orb.crs.org

**LIFE PEACE & JUSTICE AT THE NEW
DIOCESAN WEBSITE**

The Diocese of Reno has a revamped website, and the Life, Peace and Justice Commission's page can be accessed by clicking on the "Ministries" button on the home page, then click on LPJ. There you will find the latest projects and ongoing issues of concern of the Commission, as well as links to information on Catholic Social Teaching. We strive to make this statement false: "Catholic Social Teaching is the best-kept secret of the Catholic Church!"

<http://www.dioceseofreno.org/>

**NATIONWIDE PRO-LIFE POSTCARD
CAMPAIGN**

The Diocese of Reno collected over 30,000 postcards in support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) national postcard campaign urging Congress to maintain widely-supported Pro-life policies and to oppose the federal funding and promotion of abortion. The postcards were collected in our parishes during weekends in January and February. The campaign is being coordinated through the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCHLA), which works closely with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the USCCB. It opposes versions of the so-called Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), which have been proposed in past congressional sessions.

**KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE NEVADA STATE
LEGISLATURE!**

"Religious Alliance in Nevada (RAIN) provides a forum for cooperative effort among communities of faith in Nevada as we seek to address and advocate for social justice at the state legislature and in the public arena, on those issues upon which there is common agreement of RAIN members."

The current issues of concern include:

- children and family (including social programs that offer a safety net to families in need, affordable and accessible housing for all, and living wages);
- criminal justice issues (including progressive and effective re-entry programs, fair and just sentencing, opposition to the death penalty);
- health care issues (including affordable and accessible health care for all and mental health care);
- revenue issues (including a fair and reliable tax system and revenue to meet society's basic needs and fair economic development); and
- environmental protection.

RAIN advocates in these social areas and calls mindful Christians in this state to likewise advocate via their own state senators and assembly representatives.

<http://www.rainnv.org/>

FAIR TRADE

Are you interested in making your parish a Fair Trade parish? Contact Rita Sloan for Fair Trade information, presentations, or to purchase Fair Trade coffee at cost – (775) 849-1653 or at the following email address:

rwksloan@hotmail.com.