



Just Notes

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

Spring 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

Do you have Parish Life, Peace and Justice news to share? If so, please contact our Coordinator, Rita Sloan at:

wrksloan@hotmail.com

Diocese of Reno Presents Life Issues Speaker

Co-sponsored by Life, Peace and Justice Commission and Respect Life Commission

"What You Say is True: Imitating Jesus as Co-Workers in the Culture of Life"

Deirdre A. McQuade, M.A., M.Div.
Assistant Director for Policy & Communications
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Ms. Deirdre McQuade serves the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as their primary spokesperson on life issues. Her career has been marked by research, pro-life advocacy, and ecumenical bridge-building. She holds a bachelor of arts from Bryn Mawr College, as well as an M.A. in philosophy and a M.Div. in theology, both from the University of Notre Dame. While in South Bend, she counseled at a pregnancy help center and then worked as Director of Pastoral Research and Outreach in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. She was the National Program Director at Feminists for Life, where she oversaw the College Outreach Program; and has more recently worked at the Office of Research on Women's Health at the NIH (National Institutes of Health). Please plan on attending this very informative talk on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 100 Bishop Manogue Dr., Reno.

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

By Rita Sloan

This year's Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington D.C. took place in February during the week of severe snow storms. Every winter, life, peace and justice leaders from many dioceses throughout the country gather to network and update on current and developing issues as well as to lobby Congress on several domestic and international issues chosen by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). In spite of the weather, which caused numerous cancelled flights and other transportation problems throughout the week, as well as U.S. government office closures and a multitude of other irregularities and challenges, the Gathering was every bit as informative, educational, and inspiring as previous Gatherings. The unified messages sent to all U.S. Senators and Congressmen from the USCCB – with many of them delivered in person – included three domestic issues and three international issues:

- a) Economic recovery should consider the needs of the poor and jobless first.
- b) Pass health care reform that protects the life, dignity, consciences and health of all.
- c) Fix the broken immigration system by adopting compassionate and comprehensive reform.
- d) Reform and strengthen development assistance to promote a better, safer world.
- e) Work toward a responsible transition in Afghanistan.
- f) Invest in long-term recovery and development of Haiti.

This event always leaves me in awe of all the people of the USCCB offices who go "above and beyond" an average job of making this gathering a beneficial experience to the participants. With very challenging circumstances, this year was no exception. From my notes, I have this significant quote (though unfortunately, the author is not listed): "We are commissioned to feed the poor and clothe the naked, yet in our present global economy, the poor feed us and clothe us."

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

Lenten Living Stations of the Cross

By Fran McMillen

Living Stations of the Cross are presented during Lent each year by the Newman Students at UNR. It is their "thank you" for all the support they receive from our parishes in the Reno Diocese. This year's director is Chris Kanowitz. Over 30 students have volunteered as cast and musicians.

A new script has been written which will address life, peace, and justice issues in our local area. The stories reflected will be true and are based on Matthew 25: *...truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me.* Resource information will be available so that those who choose to do so can "get involved" in the life, peace, and justice work in their community.

The Living Stations of the Cross will be presented on the following dates:

Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m. at St. Albert the Great Parish

Friday, March 26, 7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish

Good Friday, April 2, 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Snows Parish

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United States 2010 Census

The census defines who we are as a nation. Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on census data. Accurate census data help determine congressional representation, grant funding and guide local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, housing, schools, places of worship and more.

Key 2010 Census operations include the following:

- March 2010: 2010 Census forms are mailed or delivered to households.
- March – April 2010: Be Counted Program is implemented. Census forms are available at select public sites for individuals who did not receive one by mail.
- April 1, 2010: Census Day, the official day of the population count. All 2010 Census responses should represent the household as it exists on this day.
- May – July 2010: Census workers will visit households that do not mail back their forms to take a count in person.
- Dec. 31, 2010: Census Bureau presents the 2010 apportionment counts to the President of the United States.
- March 2011: Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone including tribal housing authorities, other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

Visit 2010census.gov to learn more