



Just Notes

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

Summer 2011

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

PARISH NEWS:

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

rwrksloan@hotmail.com

ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: THE CHALLENGE OF FORGIVENESS

On the tenth anniversary of September 11th terrorist attacks, we remember the victims of that tragic event and we reexamine our personal response and reflect on an excerpt from the statement by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"The U.S. Catholic bishops wrote in their statement shortly after the attacks that in difficult times it is our faith that can sustain us. They reminded us then, as they do now, that instead of fear and hatred, we must make this:

- A time for prayer: for victims and families; for leaders; for the military; for an end to violence; for the Afghan people; and for our adversaries as well.
- A time for fasting: for justice, peace and the protection of innocent human life.
- A time for teaching: to better learn Catholic teaching on war and peace.
- A time for dialogue: with Muslims, Jews, fellow Christians and other faith communities.
- A time for witness: to live our values of mutual respect, human dignity, respect for life, and security without resorting to discrimination.
- A time for service: to continue to provide assistance to those still hurting both here and abroad.
- A time for solidarity: with all who live under the threat of violence and uncertainty each day. And...
- A time for hope: in God's grace, in ourselves, and in one another."

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/september-11/index.cfm>

PARISH NEWS: ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St. Francis of Assisi in Incline Village, has been planning a way to commemorate the 10th anniversary of September 11th at their Sunday Masses with a special theme of "Freedom through Forgiveness". The parish reports that, "After our intercessions and a brief explanation, all parishioners will be invited to come forward and select a scroll from one of the baskets located throughout the church. Each scroll contains a picture and description of one of the victims of 9/11 on one side, and a Prayer of Forgiveness on the other side. The baskets have been arranged so that you can select, if you wish, an individual with whom you share an occupation or career. It is the hope of the Liturgy Committee that you will pray daily the accompanying prayer over the course of the next week or so. We have also provided small white ribbons upon which we ask you to write the name of your victim and then wear it to remind you and others of our call as Christians to work towards forgiveness."

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

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LABYRINTH WALK AND CANDLELIGHT VIGIL: WALKING IN SOLIDARITY WITH VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

By Ellie Hays

June 26th is the United Nations International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors. This year marks the 14th anniversary of commemoration by Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC), an international organization of torture survivors. Since 2004, on the closest Sunday to June 26, at sunrise, supporters of victims of torture participate in the Labyrinth Walk at Rancho San Rafael Park. The Labyrinth was built and dedicated to victims of violence so it is fitting that it was chosen as the site where each year supporters light 100 candles, walk, meditate and pray quietly in the early morning hours in solidarity with victims of torture.

TASSC was founded by Dianna Ortiz, an Ursuline nun and U.S. citizen, who went to Guatemala in the late 1980's as a missionary, teaching Mayan Indian Children to read. In November 1989 after many threats to her life, she was abducted and brutally tortured by military security forces in Guatemala. Sr. Ortiz recounts her own story of abduction and torture in Guatemala, and her ongoing search for healing and justice in her 2002 book, *The Blindfold's Eyes: My Journey from Torture to Truth* (with Patricia Davis and published by Orbis Books), Sr. Ortiz served as executive director of TASSC until 2010.

Governments in more than 150 nations practice torture. It is estimated that more than 500,000 torture survivors live in the United States. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a statement, "Torture is a Moral Issue; a Catholic Study Guide". The church's stand on the issue of torture is unequivocal: It may not be used. Not only does torture violate a human person's God-given dignity, torture violates international humanitarian law, and the end does not justify the means. Torture is a moral issue but also, "Torture is an immoral option because it saps the humanity from those who employ it." Thus when torture is employed, the dignity of both the tortured and the torturer are violated (see the full document at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/torture/torture-is-a-moral-issue.cfm>).

We vow to work in solidarity with TASSC and will continue our labyrinth walks, meditations and quiet prayers until torture is not forgotten but ended and never tolerated again. For more information contact: <http://www.tassc.org>

IN SUPPORT OF THE DREAM ACT USCCB: Justice for Immigrants

Right now, thousands of hard-working young people who were brought to the United States as children or infants want to go to college and pursue the American dream, but instead can be detained and deported to countries they have never known. The good news is that a bill known as the DREAM Act could stop this injustice. The DREAM Act gives students who have grown up and graduated from high school in the U.S an opportunity to earn legal status and citizenship through higher education or military service. Meanwhile, President Obama also has the executive authority to protect vulnerable populations including DREAM Act eligible youth and parents of citizen children from detention and deportation. Our Catholic tradition believes in respecting the dignity of all human beings, allowing everyone the opportunity to reach their God given potential. This is why the USCCB's Justice for Immigrants Campaign (JFI) is sponsoring the "Pray for the DREAM" Sunday.

Go to <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org> for more information and parish resources.