



Just Notes

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

Winter 2013

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



BRING LENT TO LIFE THROUGH CRS RICE BOWL!

By Rita Sloan

This year, I invite you to animate the Lenten season in your parish through CRS Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith formation program. CRS Rice Bowl is a way to get parishioners excited about their Catholic faith, and about helping people in need around the world.

You can order FREE CRS Rice Bowl materials for your parish at crsricebowl.org or 1-800-222-0025. Here are some ideas to bring CRS Rice Bowl to life in your community:

- Provide a *Rice Bowl* and *Spiritual Guide* to each family in your community. Encourage parishioners to use CRS Rice Bowl's resources to deepen their understanding of and engagement in Lent.
- Use CRS Rice Bowl in religious education, sacramental preparation, and youth programs in the parish.
- Promote "faith and works" through CRS Rice Bowl in the parish council or at a parish-wide gathering (e.g., fair trade coffee and doughnuts after Mass)
- Organize a community soup supper using the CRS Rice Bowl featured country recipes. Find the recipes at crsricebowl.org.

What you give up for Lent truly can change lives around the world. Thank you for including CRS Rice Bowl as a part of your ministry and the renewal of faith in our Church this Lent 2013. May your faith community experience a true witness of love this Lenten season!

Quick Facts

- Catholic Relief Services helps more than 100 million of the world's poorest people each year.
- Nearly 13,000 parishes and schools across the United States participate in CRS Rice Bowl each Lent.
- Since 1975, Catholics have donated more than \$200 million to help the poor through CRS Rice Bowl.
- 94 percent of CRS' expenditures go directly to programs that benefit the poor overseas.

If you would like more information about CRS Rice Bowl in the Diocese of Reno, please contact Rita Sloan at rwrksloan@hotmail.com

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

Published by:

Life, Peace and
Justice Commission
Rev. Chuck Durante
and Fran McMillen,
co-chairs

Edited by:
Elizabeth Reville

Contributors:

Rita Sloan
Betty Bishop

U.S. BISHOPS CALL FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION LAW REFORM NOW!

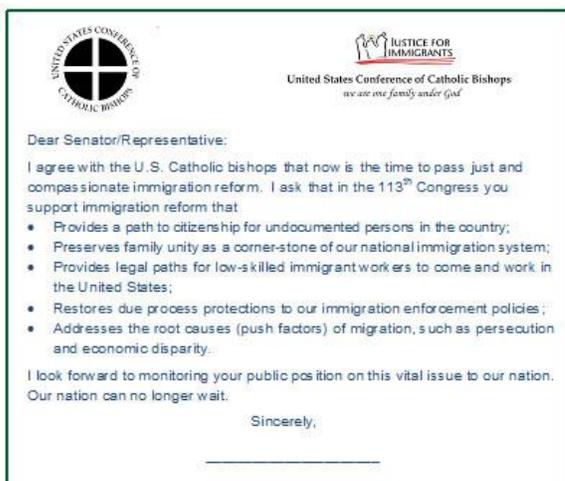
By Rita Sloan

This year we mark the tenth anniversary of the pastoral letter, *Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope*, issued jointly by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano in 2003. In the pastoral letter the bishops reflected on migration between Mexico and the United States as a "sign of the times" that is necessary and beneficial, with promises and challenges. "Catholics have a responsibility to welcome newcomers into our communities and parishes, help them integrate and provide material and spiritual support that will allow them to flourish," said Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration.

The USCCB Migration and Refugee Services has launched a postcard campaign that calls on Congress to pass fair and comprehensive immigration reform that would:

1. Provide a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country.
2. Preserve family unity as a cornerstone of our national immigration system.
3. Provide legal paths for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States.
4. Restore due process protections to immigration enforcement policies.
5. Address the root causes of migration caused by persecution and economic disparity.

TO SEND THIS ELECTRONIC POST CARD TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, GO TO: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org>



SEX TRAFFICKING IN NEVADA

By Betty Bishop

The Religious Alliance of Nevada (RAIN) held a Conference at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Sparks, Nevada on November 30, 2012. Members from the Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Methodist Churches attended the conference, which dealt with the realities of sex trafficking and its negative impact upon communities. Speakers for the Conference were Melissa Holland, a licensed family counselor and founder of Awaken INC, and Tiffany Short from the FBI. They reported that human trafficking reaches every corner of the globe. It does not occur just in foreign countries, but U.S. citizens are trafficked within our own borders and in Nevada. They stated that sex trafficking exists within the broader commercial sex trade, often at much larger rates than most people realize. Current research proves a direct correlation between legalized prostitution and an increase in sex trafficking, as well as an increase in child prostitution and violence against women. Human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, and it generates billions of dollars in profits every year.

Those who feel they are called by God to seek social justice, and are interested in ending the sexual exploitation of women and children may wish to become involved in the activities of RAIN or Awaken INC. Activities and special events for the organizations may be found at www.rainnv.org or www.awakenreno.org. "Nevada's Lobby Day to End Human Trafficking", was held on Feb. 11, 2013 at the First United Methodist Church - 212 North Division Street, Carson City. Lobby Day provides constituents an opportunity to speak with representatives and let them know why we believe Nevada can do more to protect victims of human trafficking. On February 20th more than 100 people attended the Nevada Assembly and Senate joint judiciary hearing on the anti-sex trafficking bill, AB 67. The hearing was also broadcast in Las Vegas to a large crowd. To follow the progress of AB67, go to: <https://nelis.leg.state.nv.us/77th2013>