



Just Notes

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

Spring 2012

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.



...feet fitted with
the readiness that
comes from the
gospel of peace.

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

Empowered for Life: the Thomas Awiapo Story

**March 26, 2012 - 7:00 PM - Holy Cross Catholic Community
5650 Vista Blvd, Sparks**

**March 29, 2012 - 7:00 pm - St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
100 Bishop Manogue Drive, Reno**

The Life, Peace & Justice Commission of the Diocese of Reno in partnership with Catholic Relief Services is happy to sponsor guest speaker, Thomas Awiapo. One of four orphaned brothers, Thomas would go to bed at night crying from hunger. Born into extreme poverty in northern Ghana, Thomas and his brothers would crouch over a single bowl to share what little food they had. Thomas' two younger brothers eventually died from malnutrition; his older brother walked off one day never to be seen again. "We'd wake up with no breakfast. We had no idea what lunch was. We cried for food," says Thomas.

One day, Thomas smelled lunch cooking at a CRS-supported school and it changed his life. Like millions of children who have received meals provided by CRS, a daily lunch lured Thomas into the classroom and kept him coming back.

Today Thomas is a field expert with Catholic Relief Services and travels every year to tell his story to American Catholics. As part of the CRS Operation Rice Bowl Hunger Awareness Speakers' Tour, Thomas will be visiting parishes, schools and communities across the United States from January 23 through April 4.

"I come from a family that knows nothing about education. I started to go to school simply to have lunch," says Thomas, who holds a master's degree from California State University.

We hope you will plan on coming to hear this very inspiring story and to learn more about the important work that is being done by Catholic Relief Services to help alleviate hunger and bring hope to the poorest of the poor.

<http://www.crs.org/ghana/empowered-for-life/>

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

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PARISH NEWS:

Do you have Parish Life,
Peace and Justice
news to share? If so,
please contact our
Coordinator,
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ACTING IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN ORGANIZING NORTHERN NEVADA ACTIONN

By Elizabeth Reville

On Saturday, February 11, 2012, 104 leaders representing 16 local congregations gathered at St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Community to be trained in ACTIONN's community organizing model. ACTIONN was formed by a group of local faith leaders (clergy and lay) after meeting for many months and exploring the People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO) faith based community organizing model.

PICO was founded in 1972 under the leadership of Father John Baumann, a Jesuit priest, who had learned community organizing in Chicago. PICO is one of the largest community-based efforts in the U.S., and since 1972 has successfully worked on health care accessibility, improvement of public schools, building affordable housing, redevelopment of communities, and foreclosures (since 2008). PICO influences public policy from the ground up by starting with local problems faced by families and then doing careful research.

Trained ACTIONN leaders will meet with their local congregants to learn about their individual concerns. These leaders will then help to develop congregational plans that will address local community issues. ACTIONN needs leaders who are committed to acting on shared values. If you are interested in learning more about ACTIONN, please contact Rita Sloan at rwrksloan@hotmail.com or 775-849-1653.

PARISH NEWS

OUR LADY OF WISDOM AND GLENMARY MISSIONS OUTREACH

By Fran McMillen

The University Catholic Community, Our Lady of Wisdom Parish, in conjunction with Glenmary Missions, continues its "twinning" relationship with St. Christopher's Parish in Pontotoc, Mississippi. This area of Mississippi is extremely poor and their needs are many. Our outreach to St. Christopher's in Pontotoc Mississippi has been gratifying for all of us at OLW and I believe the same for the people of St. Christopher's. We are currently praying for them at the end of Mass. Part of this prayer is: "Transcending space and distance, may our deepening relationship affirm us, call us and challenge us to live as members of the Body of Christ". Another important prayer is being led by the university students of our parish during Lent as they once again present the Living Stations of the Cross. Both of these experiences, Living Stations and Parish Twinning, allow and encourage us to share our gifts and follow the three precepts of Lent: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

OUR LADY OF WISDOM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE

St. Teresa of Avila, Carson City - Friday, March 16th
St. Robert Bellarmine, Fernley - Wednesday, March 28th
St. Albert the Great, Reno - Friday, March 30th
Our Lady of the Snows - Friday, April 6th