



Loving God and neighbor in ways that bear fruit in the life of society.

# Love Thy Neighbor

## Catholic Social Teaching

*The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. In "Love Thy Neighbor," we highlight themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.*



Nativity Crib in Corciano

## Engaged in the True Spirit of Christmas by Rob Shelledy

*"In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son."  
1 John 4:9*

"Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" cries out a frustrated Charlie Brown.

Who among us does not tear up a bit when Linus quotes Luke 2:8:14, and explains to Charlie Brown that the great joy of the Savior's birth is what Christmas is all about. This actual event is what we

celebrate at Christmas. Not only Jesus' birth, but that Jesus has come into our lives.

However, if we only focus on the celebration aspect, we might fall into the trap of Scrooge's nephew who "always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round – apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that – as a good time." Yes, Christmas can and should be a good time, but it is so much more than an

excuse to gather with family, give gifts, and enjoy ourselves, although those all are fine things.

The true spirit of Christmas is the generosity that exists in the giving of gifts. God's gift to us is His only Son, Jesus, and to quote Benedict XVI, "Love is now no longer a mere 'command'; it is the response to the gift of love with which God draws near to us." (*Deus caritas est*). We, in turn, must be generous to others if we are to engage in the true spirit of Christmas.

## Setting a Place at the Table for all of God's Children

Anne Haines of St. Francis Borgia School, Cedarburg, is eager to share a program she created and implemented to educate and inspire students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

"Tablesetters" is a Catholic social justice "club" designed to call youth to action by reaching out to others in need.

Unique in its organizational structure and scope of outreach, the program is rooted in the principles of Catholic social teaching. Activities are coordinated to support monthly themes introduced to children and their families, including Care for God's Creation, Option for the Poor, Solidarity, Life

and Dignity of the Human Person, and Dignity of Work.

Children enrich the lives of so many. Their exposure to social justice teaching provides hope for a better world reflective of the Kingdom of which Jesus spoke.

Locally, Tablesetters donate items for an annual food drive, decorate valentines for the incarcerated, serve the homeless at the Cathedral Center, promote Fair Trade, and prepare vegetables for a monthly "Salad Mission" to benefit St. Ben's Community Meal.

During Advent, Tablesetters make ornaments and sing Christmas carols while they visit the lonely residents of a senior care facility.

In solidarity with neighbors around the world, Tablesetters sponsor a piggery project to assist AIDS orphans in Uganda and participate in Operation Rice Bowl during Lent.

To learn how Tablesetters can be implemented, contact Anne at 262-377-2050 or e-mail [whiteal@archmil.org](mailto:whiteal@archmil.org).



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## A Commitment to Combat Poverty by Katie Coldwell, CCHD Intern

*"Whatever you have done for the least of my brothers, you have done for me."*  
Matthew 25:40

This bible passage has always struck me, listening to Jesus explain that he is living in the hungry person, the lonely person, the sick person . . . and while we may try diligently to reflect this gospel teaching in our own lives, it can prove to be difficult.

The Catholic Church has taken this message and converted it into a successful, nationalized grant program, called the Catholic Campaign

for Human Development (CCHD). CCHD is committed to combating the root causes of poverty in America by providing monetary support for community organizing and economic and technological development. CCHD hopes to empower the poor to work in their communities to establish solidarity in this strive for social justice in our country. CCHD also works to educate Catholics on practical ways to implement Catholic social teaching into their lives.

CCHD recognizes that removing poverty involves more than simply providing temporary services for the marginalized. While charitable acts are important in promoting social change, they need to be paired with programs that get to heart of the issues, such as advocacy and policy making. "If you give a man to fish, he will eat for a day; but if we teach a man to fish, he will eat for a lifetime."

CCHD funded programs give individuals the tools they need to produce institutional change, which will be here for future generations.

If Christ is indeed alive in each one of us, then it is our duty as Christians to acknowledge his face. CCHD is trying to do just that – but we need your help! There are many ways that you can get involved!

Adults can volunteer to serve on the CCHD Commission, deepen their understanding of Catholic social teaching by joining a JustFaith group in their parish, or by donating to the CCHD collection (part of the Spring Collection which helps support local grants). Youth can participate in the Multi-Media Arts Contest, and young adults can apply for an internship position.

Together, we can live Christ's mission on earth!

**13 million American children live in poverty.**



**Get involved with CCHD. Contact Katie Coldwell at [Katerine.coldwell@gmail.com](mailto:Katerine.coldwell@gmail.com) or leave a message at 414-758-2285.**

*Everything  
is possible  
for him  
who believes.*

Mark 9:23

**The Multi-Media Arts Contest is now accepting entries. Poetry, short stories, videos, web sites, music, and other art forms are encouraged.**

**Complete details available at: <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/contestmaterials.shtml>**



## Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest Introduced for 2009!

The Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest was developed by CCHD to reach out to youth and encourage them to work in a creative way on projects that explore the issues of poverty and injustice in the United States. It is open to students in grades seven through 12 in Catholic parishes and schools.

Students of the Archdiocese are invited to participate in the contest by developing the theme, **"Empowered People Can Uproot Poverty in Their Communities"** through visual arts, audio-visual means or literature.

Original works are to be submitted to our Social Justice office by 2/28/09 for diocesan-level competition. Local winners will be forwarded to Washington for final judging

by a panel of art and religion professionals.

Students are invited to examine the world around them and interpret poverty through their art. We hope to be encouraged by their understanding and ability to see hope and compassion in the actions of locally funded CCHD groups.

Local groups include: Dominican Center for Women, Layton Blvd West Neighbors, People First Wisconsin, Project Return, Racine Interfaith Coalition, Stewards of Prophetic, Hopeful, Intentional Action (SOPHIA), and Voces de la Frontera. Read more about the contest on our department webpage at: <http://www.archmil.org/aboutus/dept.asp?ID=472&which=News>

### TASK OF THE ARTIST

- ◆ To learn about actual ways in which poor people are ending poverty by working together in their local communities. **Suggestion:** Contact our office to arrange a speaker from a locally funded CCHD group to visit your student group.
- ◆ To reflect on Catholic social teaching on poverty and the Gospel call to put our faith in action.
- ◆ To develop original artwork focused on the contest theme, with a special emphasis on how low-income people are developing long-term solutions that can break the cycle of poverty.
- ◆ Deadline for diocesan-level competition is February 28, 2009.



**Saint Monica Parish**  
160 East Silver Spring Drive  
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

**Thursday Evening**  
**January 22, 2009**  
**Rosary, Mass & Reception**

## Day of Penance and Prayer for Life

We believe that all human life is sacred, imprinted with the image of God. Our belief in the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all Catholic social teaching. We gather to pray when threats to the dignity of life arise.

The 36th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton Supreme Court decisions which legalized abortion in the United States will be marked on January 22, 2009. For 36 years, Christians have worked to restore the basic

right to life, which John Paul II said was the foundation for all other rights in society.

We invite you to join us in praying the Rosary for Life at 6:30 pm, followed by 7:00 pm Mass and reception with Bishop William Callahan. The event will take place at St. Monica Parish in Whitefish Bay on Thursday evening, January 22, 2009.

Attendees will also have an opportunity to participate in a legislative postcard campaign against the Freedom of Choice Act.

Why should Catholics be involved? Passage of the Freedom of Choice Act would eliminate a broad range of existing laws that limit abortion, including informed consent, parental involvement, prohibition of late-term abortions (partial-birth abortion), and laws requiring that abortions only be performed by a licensed physician.

If your parish would like to conduct its own postcard campaign, please contact our office at 414-758-2285 or e-mail shinek@archmil.org.

## Changes to Operation Rice Bowl in 2009

In an effort to share the stories of ORB beneficiaries with more participants, ORB will be inserting the Home Calendar Guide into the Rice Bowl so everyone will receive the stories and recipes from overseas. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) hopes this new packaging will make it easier for parishes to distribute materials, and ensure that participants link Catholic social teaching to their giving.

Due to budget restrictions, collection envelopes will not be included with Rice Bowls for 2009.

### Attention ORB Coordinators!

Community and Parish Guides are expected to ship on December 15, 2008, with material shipments arriving the first and second week of January. Please take the time to connect with parish and school assistants to communicate the shipping timeline to ensure your materials are inventoried properly and not misplaced.

ORB will feature stories and recipes from Egypt, the Philippines, Tanzania, Ghana, and Honduras in 2009. Consider offering one of these



tasty recipes when your parish conducts its Friday Fish Fry!

Also new in 2009, Speaker Tours and Global Fellows will be available to make visits to parishes and schools. Visits will corroborate how CRS is helping the poor and marginalized overseas, explain issues related to the global food crisis, and share stories of hope from around the world. Contact our office **before December 30** if you would like to host a speaker.

*Prayer is not  
asking for what you  
think you want,  
but asking to be  
changed in ways  
you can't imagine.*

**Kathleen Norris**



**Come Lord,**  
**Break open my heart.**  
**Fill me with compassion.**  
**Let my heart burn**  
**with love for others.**  
**Open my heart, Lord.**

## Journey to Justice with JustFaith – January 31, 2009

*“Commit to the Lord  
whatever you do, and your  
plans will succeed.”*  
Proverbs 16:3

The Church's history shines with examples of the courage and commitment of those who dedicate themselves to the needs of their most desperate sisters and brothers.

At JustFaith Ministries we are helping ordinary people become shining examples of this vision within their own communities. We are helping faith communities become shining

examples of this vision to the world. Simply put, we are helping to fill the world with humble, faith-filled people who act with courageous justice and love with profound tenderness.

“Journey to Justice” is the middle retreat in the JustFaith process. During this day, participants are led through prayer, Scripture reflection, and Catholic social teaching, especially as they relate to the preferential option for and with the poor, and the building

of solidarity across economic lines. A major portion of the day is devoted to an immersion experience with a Catholic Campaign for Human Development funded group.

The Saturday retreat will be held on January 31, 2009, at St. Martin de Porres Parish, 128 W. Burleigh St., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

**Contact Rob Shelledy at**  
**shelledyr@archmil.org**  
**or 414-758-2286 to learn**  
**more about JustFaith.**

# Social Justice Ministry



Office Location:  
St. Joseph Center  
1501 South Layton Blvd., Suite 221  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
Southwest Corner of Layton Blvd.  
(27th St.) and Greenfield Ave.

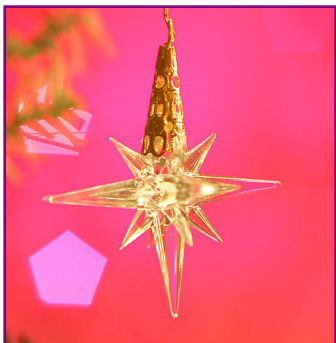
Mailing Address:  
Office of Social Justice Ministry  
P.O. Box 3087  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-3087

**For more information about upcoming events or volunteer opportunities, contact:**  
**Robert Shelledy**  
Director of Social Justice Ministry  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
(414) 758-2286  
catholicsocialaction@archmil.org

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2008-2009

For Event Details, Visit: [www.archmil.org/aboutus/dept.asp?ID=472&which=Events](http://www.archmil.org/aboutus/dept.asp?ID=472&which=Events)

- December 7** Immigrants in Our Midst  
Our Savior Lutheran Church, 31st & Wisconsin, Milwaukee
- January 1** World Day of Prayer for Peace
- January 4-10** National Migration Week: "Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice"
- January 22** Day of Prayer and Penance for Life  
Saint Monica Parish, 6:30 pm Rosary, 7:00 pm Mass  
160 East Silver Spring Drive, Whitefish Bay 53217  
Flyers and posters are available for your parish!
- January 22** National March for Life, Washington, D.C.
- January 31** "Journey to Justice" St. Martin de Porres, 128 W. Burleigh St.
- February 11** World Day of the Sick
- February 21-22** Roundtable Symposium, Washington, D.C.  
"Engaging the Faithful on Food Justice"
- February 22-25** Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, Washington, D.C.
- February 25** Ash Wednesday, Operation Rice Bowl Begins
- February 28** Deadline for Multi-Media Youth Art Entries
- March 31** Catholics at the Capitol, Madison – We've Chartered a Bus!
- April 12** Easter Sunday



"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage."  
Matthew 2:2

*Holy Spirit, teach  
me to make a  
difference by the way  
I live my life.*

## Greening Our Faith and Our Lives, February 15 & 16, 2009

Save the date for this 4th Statewide Wisconsin Interfaith Climate & Energy Campaign to be held in Stevens Point, WI.

**Workshops Include:** Reducing your congregation's carbon footprint, organizing local interfaith global warming movements, extending earth-oriented worship beyond Earth Day, local food movements, starting local congregational Creation Care teams, global warming update, public policy issues, networking with people of all faiths working toward a just and sustainable future. For more information contact:

Rev. John Strassburger at 414-964-3411 or visit: [www.interfaithconference.org](http://www.interfaithconference.org)

