

Focus on Life ~ Justice ~ Peace

Office of Peace, Justice / Respect Life

January/February 2010



Office of Peace, Justice,
& Respect Life
Catholic Charities
Diocese of Raleigh
715 Nazareth Street
Raleigh, NC 27606
919-821-9751
jurski@raldioc.org

“The Church has a responsibility towards creation, and she considers it her duty to exercise that responsibility in public life, in order to protect earth, water and air as gifts of God the Creator meant for everyone, and above all to save mankind from the danger of self-destruction.”

Pope Benedict XVI,
Message for the
World Day of Peace,
“If You Want to Cultivate
Peace, Protect Creation,”
2010

Pope Benedict XVI's 2010 Message for the World Day of Peace, “If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation”

This message is the latest in a long tradition of Church teaching on our obligation to care for creation. Quoting Pope John Paul II and Pope Paul VI throughout his message, the Holy Father affirms that environmental degradation is ða wide-ranging social problem which concerns the entire human familyö (# 3). Some themes and excerpts from this statement are provided below. The full text of the message can be found at www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/index_en.htm.

Opening Paragraph—World Day of Peace Message

ðAt the beginning of this New Year, I wish to offer heartfelt greetings of peace to all Christian communities, international leaders, and people of good will throughout the world. For this XLIII World Day of Peace I have chosen the theme: *If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation*. Respect for creation is of immense consequence, not least because ðcreation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's worksö, and its preservation has now become essential for the pacific coexistence of mankind. Man's inhumanity to man has given rise to numerous threats to peace and to authentic and integral human development ó wars, international and regional conflicts, acts of terrorism, and violations of human rights. Yet no less troubling are the threats arising from the neglect ó if not downright misuse ó of the earth and the natural goods that God has given us. For this reason, it is imperative that mankind renew and strengthen ðthat covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying.ö

The Holy Father continues and addresses the following themes (as identified by the USCCB):

- Creation helps us to recognize our human dignity and God's love.
- We have failed to carry out our role as steward.
- We have misused the earth's resources and broken the covenant.
- Our choices have impacted our brothers and sisters across the globe.
- There is an urgent moral need for solidarity with creation and those affected by climate change.
- We have a responsibility to future generations.
- Our current model of development must be re-evaluated.
- We must develop cleaner technologies and assist developing countries in utilizing them.
- Individuals, families, communities, and the Church have a role to play.
- The international community and nations have a duty to act.

For more information on this message, you can see the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website at <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/worlddayofpeacewebsite.shtml>.

See page 7 for more ways to cultivate peace by protecting creation!

Did you know you can cut and paste any item in this newsletter for placement in your parish bulletin??

*In this issue...
Respect life information (pages 2 & 3), updates on healthcare reform (page 6),
care of creation and immigration information (page 7), upcoming events
(page 5), and Catholic Relief Services information (page 4)
AND MORE!*

Respect Life Updates

Following are the Respect Life activities around the Diocese during the month of January:

- January 16- Mass at 8:00 am with Bishop Burbidge, St. Joseph's Church, Raleigh
- January 16- NORTH CAROLINA RALLY AND MARCH FOR LIFE at 1:00 pm in Nash Square. Visit www.ncrtl.org for further updates
- January 22- WASHINGTON MARCH FOR LIFE - It's not too early to reserve your spot on the bus heading to Washington, DC for the March for Life on Friday, January 22, 2010. The celebrants will be Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge and Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at 11:30 After Mass, the Diocese of Raleigh will gather at the US Navy Memorial to proceed to the March. The Memorial is located behind the National Archives building on Pennsylvania Ave. NW between 7th St. NW and 9th St. NW.
- For more bus information in your area, please contact the following parish leaders:
 - Triangle (8 busses at Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Raphael) Bob Klein- blk4jmj@juno.com
 - St. Thomas More, Chapel Hill (1 bus) Contact parish
 - Garner, St. Mary's Charlotte Knox- cknox@nc.rr.com
 - Wilmington, St. Mary's (1 bus and 2 cars) Bev Jolly- bjolly@uncw.edu
 - Newton Grove Deanery (2 busses) Carolyn Stevens- cabana2050@aol.com
 - *St. Mary, Goldsboro Martha Bailey- contact St. Mary's
 - St Catherine (1 bus) Sue Gammon- sgammon@stcathsienna.org
 - *St. Peter, Greenville Becky Goetz- contact parish
 - *St. Ann, Clayton Mary Palmer- mpalmer6@nc.rr.com
 - Piedmont Deanery (1 bus) David or Meg Foppe- 336-510-4218

* to be determined based upon reservations
- We do have decals to identify our group as from North Carolina. Please contact our office and let us know how many are needed.
- January 22^o A reminder that Bishop Burbidge is encouraging parishes to have an 11:30 am Mass here in the Diocese of Raleigh joining in spirit with the folks in Washington. If the parish is not able to have Mass, then a prayer service is suggested. You may contact Gerard Hall at the Liturgy Office for assistance, 919-832-6281



For future planning...

Please note the dates of the Diocesan Respect Life Mass for the next several years:
October 3, 2010, October 2, 2011, and October 7, 2012.

Also, the March for Life in Washington:
January 22, 2010, January 24, 2011, and January 23, 2012.

“One of the most striking aspects of development in the present day is the important question of *respect for life*, which cannot in any way be detached from questions concerning the development of peoples...*Openness to life is at the centre of true development*. When a society moves towards the denial or suppression of life, it ends up no longer finding the necessary motivation and energy to strive for man's true good. If personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of a new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away. The acceptance of life strengthens moral fiber and makes people capable of mutual help. “(28)

Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, 2009

Respect Life Updates

Moratorium on the Death Penalty in North Carolina

Now is the time to contact your state representatives on this respect life issue. Visit www.pfadp.org and find out more. Click on "Take Action" to learn and join your voice in solidarity with a growing list of city governments, agencies, people and organizations. The Holy See has reiterated its long-stated opposition to capital punishment, this time calling it not just a negation of the right to life, but also an affront to human dignity.

The dignity of life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil. Modern society had the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform. I renew the appeal I made to end the death penalty, which is both cruel and unnecessary.

Pope John Paul II, Homily at Mass, St. Louis, Missouri (January 27, 1999)



Gabriel Project



Gabriel Project is a parish based crisis pregnancy intervention. Through the Gabriel Project church members offer immediate and practical help to any woman or family in need during a pregnancy. When a woman calls for help on the hot line number (not the church rectory), she is assigned a church volunteer. The volunteer is called a **Gabriel Angel** who, along with the pastor or clergy, helps to discern how the church family can minister to her spiritual needs and assist her and her baby in their physical needs. The "Gabriel Angel" (the messenger) keeps the pastor and church informed about the well being and needs of the mother and child. The role of the church is to support the mother in love and prayer and to assist the mother and child in their specific needs. This act epitomizes the whole Church living out the Works of Mercy, both corporal and spiritual. For example: The mother comes to the church in need of a crib, housing or clothing, and then Gabriel makes the need known so everyone in the parish can respond to that need.

For more information about the Gabriel Project in the Diocese of Raleigh, please contact Darcy Holley [dholley15@yahoo.com]. She is currently the chair of the Gabriel Project at St. Michaels, Cary which works collaboratively with St. Andrews, Apex and St. Mary Magdalene, Apex.

Respect Life Grants

Respect Life Grants are now available. The grant deadline is February 15. The purpose of the grant is to support and uphold the sacredness of human life of all persons from conception to natural death. It works to link life issues in a consistent ethic of life. Grant funds will be awarded in April.

See <http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/docs/stewdev/grants/RespectLifeGrant.pdf> for more information.



February 17—March 28, 2010

In the Raleigh Area: You are invited to take part in the national 40 Days for Life effort from February 17th to March 28th. In addition to 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in America, please consider volunteering to pray outside of the abortion clinic for one or more hours during the 40 days at Raleigh's Women's Health Organization located at 3613 Haworth Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609. Your church can "adopting a day" and help insure the vigil is covered for the 40 days. To receive more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact: Mary Smith at prayforlife247@aol.com or visit the website at www.40daysforlife.com/raleigh All are welcome!

Around the Diocese: Please plan for your particular area activities. You may want to organize a parish prayer series or suggest family prayers for life during the Lenten season. For more information contact Mary Smith or this office.

A Global Update

How Can Our Diocese Impact Our Brothers and Sisters All Over the World?

*“God's love ... gives us the courage to continue seeking and working for the benefit of all...
God gives us the strength to fight and suffer for love of the common good, because he is our All,
our greatest hope” (78).*

Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, 2009



Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States.

CRS alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality.

See www.crs.org for more information.

What is Fair Trade?

How can I promote fair trade in my parish?

Millions of hard working people around the world are living in extreme poverty through no fault of their own. They simply lack the information and services needed to participate as equals in the global economy. Fair Trade is based on the principal that people should earn a fair profit for what they produce. Fair Trade guarantees fair wages and provides access to technical and financial assistance, and most importantly, connects these producers with consumers, like us, who understand that choices we make every day have the power to make the trading system work better for our brothers and sisters around the world.



Catholic Relief Services promotes fair trade and fair trade products far beyond coffee and chocolate.

See www.crsfairtrade.org for more information.

A parishioner at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh, Sally is a Fair Trade Ambassador for Catholic Relief Services. Please contact Sally at 919-828-2607 or email: sapoland@earthlink.net. She would love to talk to you!

Operation Rice Bowl

Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2010. If you have not already done so, you can order your free 2010 Operation Rice Bowl materials by calling 1-800-222-0025 or filling out the order form at <http://orb.crs.org/welcome/>. We also have a few rice bowls in our office which we can send to you. Contact the Office of Peace, Justice/Respect Life at Jurski@raldioc.org or (919)821-9751.

Each year, Operation Rice Bowl calls us to pray with our families and faith communities; fast in solidarity with those who hunger; learn more about our global community and the challenges of poverty overseas; and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

Your participation in Operation Rice Bowl ensures that Catholic Relief Services can continue to provide assistance to those in need in more than 100 countries. Seventy-five percent of your gifts will go to CRS to help farmers in Bolivia receive training to improve crop yields, children in Afghanistan gain more opportunities for quality education, communities in Ethiopia access reliable water sources even during times of drought, and fund many other vital projects. Twenty-five percent of your gifts remain in our diocese and support local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.



Catholic Relief Services Visitor

February 11-13, 2010 we will host a CRS visitor from Ghana, Thomas Awiado, in our Diocese. Thomas' story revolves around Operation Rice Bowl. He was saved from death due to malnutrition because of the help of funds generated by Catholic Relief Services through the Operation Rice Bowl Project. Certainly his story will be moving and motivational for ourselves and our parishioners. More information will be available about his trip in mid to late January. Please contact Sally at 919-828-2607 or email: sapoland@earthlink.net if you would like to be notified with more information about this visitor.

***Learn more about a
Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Funded Group
Step Up Ministries***

*From their website:
<http://step-up.us/about.shtml>*

Mission Statement: StepUP Ministry is an interfaith community that prepares people who are ready and willing to make positive changes in their lives to become self-sufficient.

Here are some facts about StepUP Ministries:

- Self-sufficiency is the goal.
- Comprehensive program is focused on education, employment, & housing.
- Grounded in 20 years of experience.
- More than 250 families have moved through transitional housing program into independent housing.
- Over the last year, 189 unemployed have been placed in jobs.
- The grade point average of adult scholarship recipients is 3.3.
- In the next 12 months 250 adults and 75 children will have their lives transformed by this ministry.

StepUP Ministry provides individuals and families with a second chance in life, supporting them in their commitment to be independent, productive members of our community. The StepUP program teaches basic life skills, offers the support of a caring community, provides safe housing, and opens the door for life-sustaining employment. Each person served by StepUP has the capacity to make decisions that lead to self-sufficiency.

Values and Beliefs

As a caring community, StepUP staff, volunteers, and participants are guided by shared values and beliefs.

- We witness to and are inspired by a loving God.
- We believe that people have the capacity to change their lives.
- We value each staff member, volunteer, and participant.
- We hold fast to compassion, mutual respect, and a shared hope.
- We expect honesty, discipline, and fairness of ourselves and others.
- We honor diversity and understand that every individual has a voice.
- We understand that collaboration and mutual support are vital to our mission.
- We strive to be careful stewards of human and financial resources.
- We joyfully celebrate effort and success.

Recently, CCHD board member, Frank Baldiga, visited and he said, "They are doing some great work helping the underemployed and unemployed. They are combining one-on-one mentoring with job skill classes and fellowship."



January—National Migration Month

January 16, 2010

March for Life Raleigh

See page 2 for more information.

January 16, 2010

Mass for Life Raleigh

See page 2 for more information.

January 22, 2010

March for Life in Washington D.C.

See page 2 for more information.

January 24 & February 5, 2010

Natural Family Planning Course

Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh

For information call 919-786-1205 or e-mail jthelen@nc.rr.com.

January 30, 2010

7th Annual Catholic Charities Chocolate Affair to Remember benefitting the Fayetteville Regional Office

St. Anne, Fayetteville

Contact Lisa Perkins for more information-

910-424-2020 or e-mail- lisa.perkins@raldioc.org.

February 15, 2010

Respect Life Grant Deadline

See page 3 for more details.

March 6, 2010

All that Glitters Dinner Dance-Auction Benefitting Senior Pharmacy Program, New Bern

St. Paul, New Bern

Contact Kim Walling for more information-

252-638-3657 or e-mail- kim.walling@raldioc.org.

August 21, 2010

Respect Life Seminar

More information available spring 2010

September 25, 2010

Parish Social Ministry Training Day

More information available in the future

September 26, 2010

National Catholic Charities Sunday

Healthcare Reform Update

Below is excerpted from a December 22, 2009 USCCB News Release (resource www.usccb.org)
BISHOPS CALL SENATE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL 'DEFICIENT,'
ESSENTIAL CHANGES NEEDED BEFORE MOVING FORWARD
Seek to retain federal policy on abortion funding and conscience protection
Want to protect access to health care that immigrants have now, remove barriers to access
Need strong provisions for adequate affordability and coverage standards

The current health care reform bill is "deficient" and should not move forward without "essential changes," the chairmen of three committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops said December 22.

The chairs, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; and Bishop John Wester of Salt Lake City, of the Committee on Migration, stated their position in a December 22 letter to senators working to pass the Senate version of health reform legislation. The entire letter can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/letter-to-senate-20091222.pdf>.

The legislative proposal now advancing "violates the longstanding federal policy against the use of federal funds for elective abortions and health plans that include such abortions -- a policy upheld in all health programs covered by the Hyde Amendment as well as in the Children's Health Insurance Program, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program -- and now in the House-passed Affordable Health Care for America Act," the bishops said.

They said that the health care bill passed by the House of Representatives "keeps in place the longstanding and widely supported federal policy against government funding of elective abortions and plans that include elective abortions" and "ensures that where federal funds are involved, people are not required to pay for other people's abortions." The Senate bill does not maintain this commitment.

In the Senate version, "federal funds will help subsidize, and in some cases a federal agency will facilitate and promote, health plans that cover elective abortions," the bishops said. "All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions in a very direct and explicit way, through a separate premium payment designed solely to pay for abortion. There is no provision for individuals to opt out of this abortion payment in federally subsidized plans, so people will be required by law to pay for other people's abortions." The public consensus against abortion funding, said the bishops, "is borne out by many opinion surveys, including the new Quinnipiac University survey December 22 showing 72 percent opposed to public funding of abortion in health care reform legislation."

"This bill also continues to fall short of the House-passed bill in preventing governmental discrimination against health care providers that decline involvement in abortion," the bishops said. And it also "includes no conscience protection allowing Catholic and other institutions to provide and purchase health coverage consistent with their moral and religious convictions on other procedures."

The bishops also called for all immigrants, regardless of status, to be able purchase a health insurance plan with their own money.

"Without such access, many immigrant families would be unable to receive primary care and be compelled to rely on emergency room care," the bishops said. "This would harm not only immigrants and their families, but also the general public health. Moreover, the financial burden on the American public would be higher, as Americans would pay for uncompensated medical care through the federal budget or higher insurance rates."

The bishops urged removal of the five-year ban on legal immigrants accessing federal health benefit programs, such as Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and Medicare, which was proposed by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ). His proposal, "which would give states the option to remove this ban, should be included in the bill."

The bishops said they want health insurance to be affordable and said that while the Senate bill "makes great progress in covering people in our nation," it "would still leave over 23 million people in our nation without health insurance. This falls far short of what is needed in both policy and moral dimensions."

The bishops urged Congress and the Administration to "fashion health care reform legislation that truly protects the life, dignity, health and consciences of all."

How You Can Respond

- **Contact your representatives.** (find your Representative and Senators at house.gov and senate.gov; Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121) and tell them health care reform should include health care coverage for all people from conception until natural death, continue the federal ban on funding for abortions, include access for all with a special concern for the poor, pursue the common good and preserve pluralism, including freedom of conscience, and restrain and apply costs equitably.
- **Visit the USCCB Justice, Peace, & Human Development Resources on Health Care Reform page for:** Bishop Statements, Church teaching on health care reform, background on health care reform, prayer and Liturgy resources

Access these resources and others at usccb.org/sdwp/national/health1.shtml.



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

4 Ways You Can Cultivate Peace by Protecting Creation

Our Holy Father challenges us in his World Peace Day 2010 message to take on more responsibility in caring for creation. We encourage you to continue educating yourself and your parish on issues affecting our environment and the care of creation. Please see the sites below for some innovative and creative ways that Catholics are responding to the issue care of creation.

- Learn more about how climate change is related to global poverty at the Catholics Confront Global Poverty Web site: www.usccb.org/globalpoverty or www.crs.org/globalpoverty.
- Take the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor at the Catholic Climate Covenant Web site: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>.
- Take action to ensure that climate change policies protect poor and vulnerable people, and sign up to receive the most recent legislative updates/action alerts at www.usccb.org/sdwp/takeaction.shtml.
- Join with family, friends, or fellow parishioners to pray for solutions that care for creation and care for the poor! Access USCCB prayer resources at www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/climate/.



Immigration Reform Update

According to Justice for Immigrants (JFI), the Catholic Campaign for Immigration reform (<http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>), now is the time to continue building legislative capacity around the issue of Immigration Reform. We *MAY* see a bill introduced in congress by early 2010. We need to plan and hold events like town hall meetings, dialogues on immigration, prayer vigils, and press work. JFI is currently updating the parish packets and other resources and hope to have them available in the coming months. Continue to check the JFI sites for updates, resources, and ideas as we pray for legislation which will give legitimate rights to all people as Pope Benedict states in his encyclical.

In January, Justice for Immigrants (JFI), the national Catholic campaign for comprehensive immigration reform of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is launching a postcard campaign that calls for comprehensive immigration reform legislation that keeps immigrant families together, adopts smart and humane enforcement policies, and ensures that immigrants without legal status register with the government and begin a path toward citizenship.

At this time the Diocese of Raleigh is planning for a response to the postcard campaign. More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime you are encouraged to write to your representative and to our Senators encouraging comprehensive immigration reform. For more information on the postcard campaign please go to: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>.

Office of Peace, Justice & Respect Life Resources

NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE INFO.

Check it out today!

www.dioceseofraleigh.org/how/peace_justice/index.aspx

We have an entire page dedicated to Catholic Social Teaching Resources, Parish Social Ministry, Advocacy resources, and more!

Don't see what you need here??

Call us, we can help!

Contact the Office of Peace, Justice, & Respect Life

919-821-9751 / jurski@raldioc.org

Receiving this in the mail?

E-mail us today to receive it electronically!

“Openness to God makes us open towards our brothers and sisters and towards an understanding of life as a joyful task to be accomplished in solidarity.”

Pope Benedict XVI,
Caritas in Veritate, 2009

NC Catholic Voice

**Go to the website www.CatholicVoiceNC.org
for more information and to register.**

More than 800,000 residents of North Carolina profess the Catholic faith in the 187 parishes and missions of the Dioceses of Raleigh and Charlotte. Catholic Voice NC facilitates a grassroots effort by concerned Catholics in North Carolina to educate and influence our lawmakers. When an important issue arises you will receive an e-mail alert with the option to contact your legislator to express your Catholic views.

Register today, it's free!

Each of these issue areas are currently covered:

- Respect Life
- Stem Cell Research
- End of Life
- Immigration
- Family Life





Creator God,

You loved us at creation and bestowed on each of us our dignity.

So many times our world still proclaims violence against
people as a solution to problems.

We look to you to proclaim life.

We carry our òyesö to all life.

We say òyesö to the dignity of every person from conception to natural death.

We say òyesö to the joy and beauty of life.

Help us to continue to be co-creators of peace and upholders of the sacredness of all life.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
your Son and our brother and savior. Amen.