

Metanoia

Do you remember stories from your parents or grandparents about coming to the United States? Was their experience filled with hope and excitement about the land of the free? Did they believe that the statement, "justice and liberty to all", applied to them also? And now, when you think about our current immigration situation in the United States, do you remember these stories and hear any resonances?

Why Metanoia? The word comes from the Greek meaning, "change one's mind, repent." It has also been defined as "a spiritual conversion or awakening, a fundamental change of character." As we engage our daily lives, aren't we called to 'awake' to Christ's presence among us? What issue(s) is the Spirit calling us to be more active? How can you help immigrants in ways that accurately reflects your faith and the mission of the Jesuits?

My hope is that Metanoia will be a timely and informative publication about various social issues. I will focus on one or two topics at a time to better cover the many sides and perspectives. This debut issue focuses on issues of human rights, including Immigration Reform and the events remembering the 16th anniversary of the Salvadoran UCA martyrs.

May the hope and expectation of Advent lead to a most blessed Christmas season to you and your families.

Peace,
Carrie

Issue Highlights

Immigration Reform

Current situation at the Jesuit Conference, in Congress, and ways to get involved! Also, there are a number of resources highlighted throughout this issue

Do We Remember? 16 years later...

Mark Danner's lecture on connections between El Salvador and Iraq; the 8th Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice; Steve Krupa, SJ shares his thoughts

Calendar Dates

December 2

- John Carroll University Dorothy Kazel Endowed Scholarship Event
- 25th Anniversary Mass, 7:00pm at St. John's Cathedral, downtown Cleveland, celebrated by Bishop Anthony M. Pilla

January 14-16, 2006

- "Politics & Spirituality: Seeking a Public Integrity"; sponsored by the Center for Action and Contemplation; for more info see www.cacradicalgrace.org

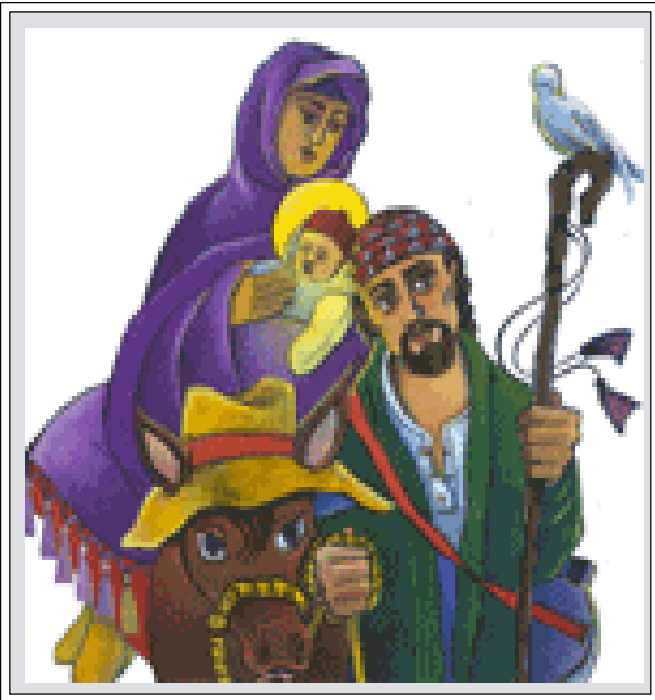
Link of the Month

www.justiceforimmigrants.org

This website is the USSCB sponsored campaign which includes the support of many religious orders, especially the JC. It has resources for every kind of minister: parish, teacher, media, community organizer. Great info, great resources, check it out!

Immigration Reform

A major priority for the National Office of Social and International Ministries (NOSIM) at the Jesuit Conference is the issue of comprehensive Immigration Reform. In Summer 2005, there were 2 Jesuit-sponsored *conferences* at Fairfield and Creighton addressing this issue and our momentum has continued in hiring a new policy analyst, *Jill Marie Gerschutz*. Below, Jill has provided highlights of the issues in Congress and talking points for letter writing. The Jesuit Conference is also a member of the *Justice for Immigrants Campaign*, started by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Please visit their website at: www.justiceforimmigrants.org to support this effort!



PARISH Information!

Justice for Immigrants Campaign Parish kits for the Justice for Immigrants campaign - the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform - are available online: www.justiceforimmigrants.org/parishes.html.

Bishop Barnes of San Bernardino reported on the campaign at the Bishops' conference last week.

Situation in Congress

House: The Homeland Security subcommittee in the House has passed an immigration bill very enforcement-oriented. Most other bills are without a guest worker provision.

Senate: As of right now, the Chairman's Mark, the bill that Senator Specter has put forth for debate (therefore rendering the McCain-Kennedy and other legislation mute at this point) does not include a guest worker program, but rather an unfeasible "report-to-deport" provision. Senators on the Senate Judiciary Committee: (Specter (PA), Biden (DE), Feinstein (CA), Sessions (AL), Kyl (AZ), Cornyn (TX) and Coburn (OK) are key!)

Key Talking Points around Immigration Reform

Successful reform must *address the existence of 11 million undocumented immigrants* working and living in the US. There must be *a path to permanent residence* for undocumented immigrants, over 70% of whom have lived in the US for more than 5 years. Additionally, more than 97% work full-time, year round.

A "report-to-deport" program is unrealistic and would not only paralyze our economy but also leave millions of undocumented immigrants in the shadows, unknown to our government and *vulnerable to exploitation* in a country that claims to guarantee respect of human rights.

Finally, immigration reform must *reduce the current backlog for family visas* and guest worker programs must recognize and preserve the integrity of the family unit.

Ways to Get Involved

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Attend the following event supported by Jesuit Conf. NOSIM:

New American Opportunities

A campaign effort to get Ohio on board for immigration reform.

December 12, 2005 12:00pm - 4:30pm
UFCW Local 1059 Building
4150 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio
Lunch is provided. RSVP to Cory Smith:
csmith@cirnow.org.

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Call or write letters (using the talking points above)!

Your Senator and/or Representative will be home soon for the Christmas break.

Senators: Carl Levin (MI-D); Debbie Stabenow (MI-D); Mike DeWine (OH-R); George Voinovich (OH-R); _____
Representatives: Dennis Kucinich (OH-D-10th); Stephanie Tubbs Jones (OH-D-11th); John Conyers (MI-D-14th); Carolyn Kilpatrick (MI-D-13th)

③

Be educated on the issue!

* Visit the JC website for great resources at www.jesuit.org/jcosim

* Read: "The Lifeboat and the Banquet: Two Images for Contemplating Immigrant Human Rights" by Luis Tampe SJ

* Ask your students to do projects or research to incorporate issues surrounding immigration in their studies

* Learn about the UDM Law School Immigration Law Clinic which advocates on their behalf and prepares applications for asylum: <http://lawschool.udmercy.edu>

Reflections on the 8th Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice

(This is an excerpt from a larger piece by Steve Krupa, SJ that will be featured in the coming issue of Companions)

I attended the prayer vigil and protest at the **School of Americas** (SOA) for the seventh time this year along with 27 students and staff from John Carroll University.

The murder by SOA graduates continues. Just last week I received word that Arlen Salas David, a leader of the Colombian Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado in Colombia, was killed by troops under the command of General Luis Alfonso Zapate Uribe, a graduate of the SOA. More than 10,000 Colombian soldiers have been trained at Fort Benning and Colombia continues to send more soldiers for training at the SOA than any other Latin American country. The U.S. is an active contributor to the war in Colombia, providing billions in military aid and training to the Colombian military. The message from the Colombian Peace Community this week read: "We make an appeal for national and international support so that our extermination can be stopped; so that the inhabitants of the whole region of Arenas Altas are not forced to become internally displaced, which the Army has told us is their objective."

The tax dollars of U.S. citizens fund the SOA. Still, the U.S. military leaders of the SOA/WHINSEC refuse to take any responsibility for the murders committed by their graduates, or to include in the curriculum the kind of social analysis that would challenge the mission of the School and the systemic hiring of SOA graduates by private para-militaries. "Just a few bad apples," leaders of the SOA say. I say, knowledge is not neutral and the curriculum and training provided at the SOA continues to promote human rights violations by SOA graduates throughout Latin America.

I'm passing along this information in the hope that you will contact your representatives in the House of Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor **HR 1217**, the bill in the House to close the SOA/WHINSEC. Rep. Jim McGovern of Massachusetts will re-enter this bill in Congress in March or April 2006. Also, ask your senators to sponsor a companion bill in the U.S. Senate. Some people think that letters or emails to Congress are a waste of time. This is clearly not the case, as many congressional representatives are informed and swayed by the letters they receive from citizens, especially from their own constituents.

Fr. Stephen Krupa, S.J.

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Do We Remember? Human Rights in a Dark Time: From El Salvador to Iraq

Are there connections to the Civil War in El Salvador, which claimed over 75,000 lives, and our current war in Iraq? On November 17, 2005, over 80 people gathered to hear Mark Danner, author of The Massacre at El Mozote: A Cold War Parable and Torture and Truth: America, Abu Ghraib and the War on Terror, present some common themes. After reading from both texts and adding some comments about his recent trip to Iraq, Mark welcomed the questions of those gathered in the auditorium.

After the event, he shared this statement. "I enjoyed immensely my visit, and found myself particularly impressed by the quality of the questions after my talk. Everyone seemed to be well-informed, thoughtful and serious. I wish more of my audiences were like that, frankly: it was a treat."

I am thankful to UDMercy's University Ministry, Religions for Peace USA and the Detroit Province for being our sponsors!

