

# Metanoia

a spiritual conversion or awakening; a fundamental change of character

## Issue Highlights

*4th Anniversary of Iraq War*

*Area Day Info and Immigration*

*SJM Calendar Dates*

There is an expression in Swahili that I learned in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: "At some point, a drop of water will make the bucket overflow. But, we can always put one more person in a daladala!" I've had this experience recently, being shoved onto a 'dala-dala' (Tanzanian term for a local 'bus') as the 30th person in a 15 passenger van. This experience of 'fitting one more' is not an uncommon one in East Africa or, I imagine, any developing country where resources are tight and transportation is luxury, not a necessity.

I share this story in this issue because it seems this expression could also be used (gratefully) for the work of Social and International Ministries in the Detroit Province. I find that I can 'always fit one more' issue or event. Daily, I am still learning about new issues, meeting new people and sharing in the exciting new initiatives in our various institutions. This spring will be an active one and with the fast pace of the 110th Congress, I look forward to sharing more news in future issues. *Peace, Carrie*

## *Link of the Month*

[www.contemplativesinaction.blogspot.com](http://www.contemplativesinaction.blogspot.com)

Contemplatives In Action ~ the Detroit Province Social and International Ministries blog. It is a place to share information and learn about Social Ministries in the Province as well as throughout the US Assistency.

To the left is a picture of what it looks like from the web...



2003 ~ March 19 ~ 2007

## Iraq after 4 years...



### JCSIM Statement

In February 2007, the *Jesuit Commission on Social and International Ministries* (JCSIM) issued a statement entitled, "An Invitation to Persons of Good Will to Support Intensified Diplomacy Rather Than an Escalation of Military Force in Iraq".

The entire text can be found on the *new* Contemplatives in Action blog at [www.contemplativesinaction.blogspot.com](http://www.contemplativesinaction.blogspot.com) but a small portion is quoted below:

"Prior to the outset of the Iraq War, members of the faith community expressed grave moral concerns about military intervention in Iraq and questioned whether the full consequences of such a war had been properly considered. Indeed, Bishop Wilton Gregory, speaking as the then President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote:

"With the Holy See and many religious leaders throughout the world, we believe that resort to war would not meet the strict conditions in Catholic teaching for the use of military force."

Given how prescient the moral concerns expressed by faith leaders proved to be, it is imperative that faith leaders speak out now as the President moves to increase the number of troops committed to the war in Iraq.

We, the undersigned members of the Jesuit Commission on Social and International Ministry, join with the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*, the *Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)*, the *Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)*, and other persons of faith to express concern over this escalation in military force and to encourage our President and Congress to embrace a policy of broader diplomatic engagement that will not only seek to restore security, stability and reconstruction in Iraq, but also to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and prevent the return of civil war in Lebanon."

### Some Facts About US Jesuit Presence in Iraq

1934 ~ 1969  
New England Province Jesuits

Two Institutions:  
Baghdad College &  
Al-Hikma University

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## Iraq after 4 years...

### What Can We Do?

#### 1. PRAY and FAST for PEACE

Dedicate one Sunday a month for prayer and fasting, **as a community**, for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Iraq and/or the Middle East.

#### 2. JOIN A GROUP PROTEST OR DEMONSTRATION

Many grassroots organizations are bringing people together to walk in peace marches or join a prayer vigil.

**United for Peace and Justice**  
[www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)

#### Science Building- Baghdad College



#### 3. WRITE or CALL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

President George W. Bush  
[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)  
Sec. of State, Condoleeza Rice  
(202) 647-6575

Local Senators or Representatives  
(202) 224-3121 switchboard

*Spring Area Day - March 31, 2007*

*'Strangers No Longer: Immigration in MI and OH'*

*1:00 - 4:30pm Gather at St. John's Jesuit*

- \* *Pastoral Response in 'Strangers No Longer' ~ Msgr. Don Hanchon*
  - \* *Socio-Economic Realities ~ Fr. Bill Rickle, S.J.*
  - \* *An Immigrant's Personal Testimony*

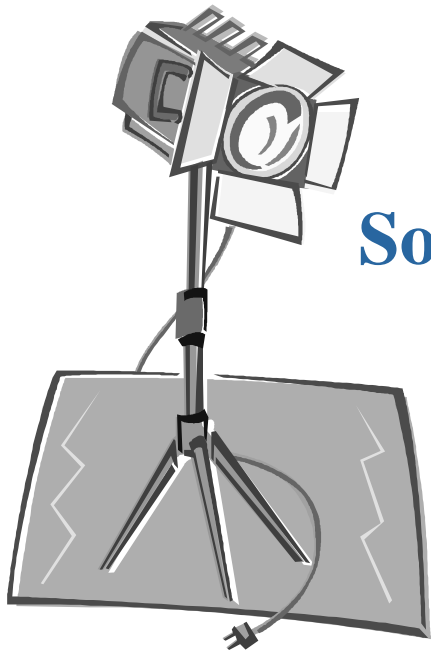
*Palm Sunday Liturgy  
Social  
Dinner*



**Some Facts About Immigration in US**

**Scholars estimate there are over 12 million undocumented men, women and children in US.**

**In 2005, the US provided \$23 million in subsidies to agro-businesses. What about this helps trade to be FAIR or FREE?**



## Social Ministries Spotlight On...

### "Why I work with the Hispanic community"

by Tom Florek, S.J.

"Florek, that isn't Hispanic?" So why have I chosen to work with the Hispanic community? The short answer is that I've been invited by the Midwest and national Hispanic/Latino leadership, and missioned by my Provincial. Behind the invitation and mission and what gets me out of bed in the morning are my family, my love for poor people who make history and my Jesuit spirituality and support.

God bless my parents of different cultures who taught us to love, to forgive and to struggle for justice. My family was a training ground for diversity where religion and politics were practiced but not discussed. Mom and dad didn't want a divided house even though they lived together from two distinct worlds: symphony and country, kilbaasa sausage and salads, suspicion and openness, law and respect, critical thinking and good relationships. Learning from a psychologist that a successful move from adolescence was the acceptance that I am a mixture of both my parents was a key insight. Years later I discovered Pepsid and the value of my family's unity with diversity that prepared me for my work.

Second, is my love for being in history with an historical people. I crossed the Mexican border while in college and discovered another world. When I returned to Wisconsin I met the same families I knew in Mexico who moved to the Midwest for jobs, family unity, and belonging to the church. Beginning with the 1970s the numbers of all migrating people grew significantly defining a global sign of our times. It was while teaching in a mostly Hispanic school that things began to stir inside me. I was caught by the hospitality of the families, their courage in the face of great adversity and their faith.

In the Hispanic community I've encountered sisters and brothers of Ignatius. This fact came home at Manresa Retreat House during a retreat. While on the path to the St Ignatius chapel we stopped at the tree with the Suscipe prayer, in English. Recognizing the prayer, the families, with roots in Puerto Rico, Mexico and Peru recited the prayer by heart in Spanish. Together we felt the familiarity of our common heritage. The same tradition that has carefully guided me to Manresa has guided the Fernandez's, Solis', Pacheco's and Beltrans to the U.S. The gift of the Exercises and the accompaniment of my Jesuit brothers and lay brothers and sisters have kept me on this good road.

*Metanoia* IS A PUBLICATION OF THE SOCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES OFFICE OF THE DETROIT PROVINCE JESUITS. IT AIMS TO SHARE INFORMATION AND INSPIRE JESUITS AND THEIR LAY PARTNERS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES AND CONCERNS OF THE SOCIAL APOSTOLATE.

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## March

- 9 Poverty Summit at St. Ignatius H.S., organized by Catholic Students for Peace and Justice, [www.cspj.org](http://www.cspj.org)
- 9-12 Ignatian Solidarity Network Spring Teach-In, "Racism and Poverty in the U.S.", Loyola University New Orleans
- 12-14 Jesuit Commission for Social and International Ministries meeting in Boston, MA
- 20 "How Not to Read the Bible", Marie Noonan Sabin, 7:00pm, Gabriel Richard Lecture Series, St. Mary's Student Parish - Donnelly Hall, Ann Arbor, MI
- 28 Steve Colecchi (USCCB Social Development and World Peace Office of International Affairs), Gesu - Cleveland, 7:30pm - open to public
- 31 Area Day Gathering, St. John's Jesuit HS, Toledo, OH

## April

- 13-15 The Coalition for Ministry in Daily Life Annual Conference, [www.dailylifeministry.org](http://www.dailylifeministry.org), in Cleveland, OH.
- 15-16 Ignatian Volunteer Corp (Cleveland and Detroit regions) Spring Retreat
- 21 Pax Christi MI 26th Annual State Conference, "We will no be silent: Confronting the Powers, Exposing the Truth"; Grand Rapids Catholic Central HS, MI

## May

- 6-8 Mid-East Peace Conference, [www.cmep.org](http://www.cmep.org)