

## Catholics for Peace and Justice

### February 2009 Newsletter

Our social ministry must be anchored in prayer, where we uncover the depths of God's call to seek justice and pursue peace. In personal prayer, the reading of the Scriptures, and quiet reflection on the Christian vocation, we discover the social mission of every believer. In serving those in need, we serve the Lord. In seeking justice and peace, we witness to the reign of God in our midst. In prayer, we find the reasons, the strength, and the call to follow Jesus in the ways of charity, justice, and peace. (*Communities of Salt and Light, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1994*)

In the spirit of prayer and renewal for our ongoing journey and call to seek justice and pursue peace, we invite you to join together on Thursday, February 12 for a Taizé prayer service for peace. This service will take place at Calvary Presbyterian Church and will feature members of the Marquette Liturgical choir. Details can be found below.

There are many opportunities for education, action and involvement this month – I am energized by the grace that flows through this community.

Peace and blessings on your work!



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### **Taizé Prayer for Peace - Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 7 PM**

On **Thursday, February 12 at 7 pm**, our CPJ monthly prayer service will take a different tone for February as we will share in a **Taizé prayer service**. Taizé is an ecumenical Christian monastic order in Taizé, France. The community is ecumenical with brothers from both Catholic and Protestant traditions. Each year over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé year for prayer and reflection. Taizé prayer mixes scripture readings and music in a meditative environment. The prayer helps bring a sense of unity and peace to all.

In the spirit of the ecumenical nature of Taizé prayer we have chosen to host February's prayer at Calvary Presbyterian Church located at 935 W. Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee. This church, a.k.a "the big red church", was built in 1870, making it one of the oldest remaining churches in the city.

One of Calvary's unique features is their labyrinth which is inlaid on the sanctuary floor.

February's prayer will be led by members of the **Marquette University Liturgical Choir** which is quite accomplished among university choirs in our community.

**Flyer:** <http://catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org/doc/FebTaizePrayer.pdf>

For a map to Calvary Presbyterian Church visit our website at

<http://www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org/17.html>

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR MARCH PRAYER SERVICE:** Thursday, March 19, 7 PM, at the Joan of Arc Chapel on the Marquette Campus.

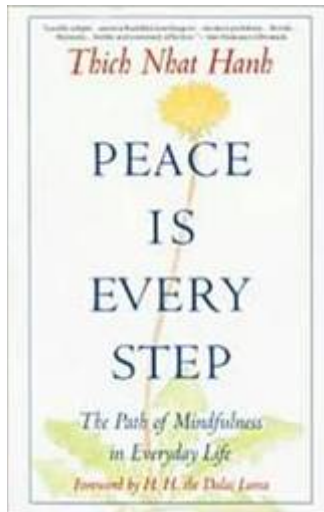
Pray for peace in community as we commemorate the beginning of the Iraq war. **Speaker Fr. G. Simon Harak**, who was extremely well received at our fall conference, will address the issue of **Peace in the Middle East**. Please plan to join us.

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**Just Books – Peace is Every Step by Thich Nhat Hanh**

From Jim, Marni and Carol

Join the new CPJ Book Club, JUST BOOKS. Maybe you've heard of the successful "Seattle Reads" or "Oprah's Book Club", where large numbers of people read the same book at the same time, followed by optional one-time group discussions. CPJ has started its own similar club to get a large number of folks reading a peace/justice related book in order to raise consciousness on the topic. Our second book is described below. The book is available on line and from book stores. Information on the optional one time group discussions will follow via email.



In the rush of modern life, we tend to lose touch with the peace that is available in each moment. World-renowned Zen master, spiritual leader, and author Thich Nhat Hanh shows us how to make positive use of the very situations that usually pressure and antagonize us. For him a ringing telephone can be a signal to call us back to our true selves. Dirty dishes, red lights, and traffic jams are spiritual friends on the path to "mindfulness" -- the process of keeping our consciousness alive to our present experience and reality. The most profound satisfactions, the deepest feelings of joy and completeness lie as close at hand as our next aware breath and the smile we can form right now. Lucidly and beautifully written, *Peace Is Every Step* contains commentaries and meditations, personal anecdotes and stories from Nhat Hanh's experiences as a peace activist, teacher, and community leader. It begins where the reader already is -- in the kitchen, office, driving a car, walking a part -- and shows how deep meditative presence is available now. Nhat Hanh provides exercises to increase our awareness of our own body and mind through conscious breathing, which can bring immediate joy and peace. Nhat Hanh also shows how to be aware of relationships with others and of the world around us, its beauty and also its pollution and injustices. the deceptively simple practices of *Peace Is Every Step* encourage the reader to work for peace in the world as he or she continues to work on sustaining inner peace by turning the "mindless" into the mindFUL. "This book of illuminating reminders bid us to reorient the way we look at the world...toward a humanitarian perspective." --Publisher Weekly

In this modern spiritual classic, a world spiritual leader and Zen master shows how to adapt simple Zen principles for daily living and the way to peace--the first practical book on the subject since *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*. *Peace Is Every Step* offers ways to use everyday events--washing dishes, eating a meal, sitting in traffic--in the quest for peace and fulfillment.

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### **Stopping War in a New Era – the Israel-Palestine Conflict**

Want to work for Peace and Justice? Get involved! Here's how.

A number of the Stop-the-War group members have started to organize to dig deeper into the United State's foreign policy towards the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. This conflict has been going on for decades with little progress toward and end.

Under a new Obama administration and with a newly appointed Middle East envoy, former Senator George Mitchell, joining forces with the U.N. Middle East envoy, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, hope for

change and progress is developing. Note that the current cease fire between Gaza's Hamas and Israel's military (although fragile) did happen with President Obama's inauguration.

Now is the time to influence our Representatives on foreign policy towards the Middle East. Join our group as we schedule meetings with Wisconsin's elected officials to help influence their views and outlook towards the Middle East. If you are interested please contact Paul Schneider at [pschneider@wi.rr.com](mailto:pschneider@wi.rr.com)

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### **Common Ground – Summer Youth Jobs – Business Information Session – Feb 19**

Common Ground is continuing to work with the Milwaukee Workforce Investment Board [MAWIB] and Greater Milwaukee Committee [GMC] to increase the number of youth jobs in the City from 1300 to a goal of 3000 summer youth jobs. **February 19, Breakfast Information Session.**

#### **Why is providing our youth with summer jobs so important?**

1. The Earn and Learn program assists young people who live in Milwaukee make a successful transition from adolescence to productive adulthood by increasing work-readiness skills and by giving youth that "all important" first job. Getting that first work experience on their resume is extremely important. Many employers are averse to hiring an individual without work experience. Multiply that factor by conditions like culture, race, access to jobs through public transportation, and the economy; and the possibility of a summer job becomes even more remote.
2. The Earn & Learn program exposes youth to a culture of work with the reward of earnings as well as an associated variety of career possibilities. This exposure can give them a sense of reality and vision to aspire to higher levels of learning and job training. It can direct youth toward training and careers needed by Milwaukee area employers.
3. Earn & Learn provides education for employment. It is an investment in our community and our future workforce. A strong educated and skilled future workforce benefits business, the community and government. Private business participation in building necessary individual and workforce job skills benefits private business in the short and long term.
4. Given the current crisis, it is even more critical to provide opportunities to our youth so they may participate in the economic recovery. As of January 2009, 26% of people in the Milwaukee are at or below the poverty rate. Thus, these young people are often disproportionately affected in economic downturns and their income may be needed to help purchase family necessities. In addition, Earn & Learn directs youth energy toward meaningful and necessary summer activity.

On February 19, Common Ground and MAWIB will be hosting a Breakfast Information Session for private business and non-profits interested in hearing more about the Earn & Learn program. We ask you to spread the word. If you or your employer is open to hearing more about the Earn & Learn program, please contact Debra Schneider at [djschneider@wi.rr.com](mailto:djschneider@wi.rr.com).

[Flyer on the Earn & Learn program](#)

More on Common Ground of Southeastern Wisconsin <http://www.commongroundwi.org/>

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### **Fair Trade at Four Corners – February 14 is Valentines Day**

We know it's cold outside, but warm things up with a Fair Trade Valentine's Day gift. If you are looking for that perfect gift for your special someone, visit Four Corners of the World Fair Trade store and choose from our wonderful collection of gifts and delicious treats. You multiply the benefit of each purchase when you support Fair Trade: you find unique gifts that will be treasured, a local not-for-profit business will prosper, and best of

all, you have the heart-warming satisfaction of advancing Fair Trade worldwide by making it possible for the farmers and artisans to work with dignity and earn fair wages.

Looking for something to warm more than the heart, choose from our wool sweaters from Ecuador or alpaca sweaters from Bolivia. Sweaters are 40% off right now. Select a matching or contrasting scarf and hat and accessorize from our wide array of purses and bags in every style and color. If you want something lighter weight, we have red 100% certified organic cotton scarves from Costa Rica. If you are serving a special meal and want the table to reflect the occasion, choose a table runner and add a few one-of-a-kind candles. Of course, we always have Mt. Meru and Just Coffee. We carry 10 different kinds of Rishi Tea. Complete the meal with some Divine chocolate. As always, we carry the entire line of 1.5oz bars, as well as the larger 3.5oz. New this year, Divine offers a package of either dark or milk chocolate hearts.

Not everyone wants diamonds. Many sweethearts will love a tagua necklace, bracelet and/or earrings. Tagua is a seed that grows in abundance in the tropics of South America. As a renewal resource, a tagua item will delight any enthusiast of sustainability. Of course, we have a wide range of colors and styles from which to choose. If your darling's taste seems a bit more traditional, you can't go wrong with our sterling silver with semi-precious stones from Nepal.

We also have many unique gifts including wood carvings from Africa and Guatemala, soapstone sculptures from Kenya, baskets from Uganda, recycled paper trivets and coasters from the Philippines, paperweights from Vietnam, ceramic pottery and coconut shell bowls, greeting cards made with pressed flowers from the Himalayas, and so much more.

Enjoy your visits to Four Corners of the World Fair Trade store, and as Green America remind us, "your purchases allow hard-working people in developing countries to build safer, healthier, and more secure futures for their children and for our world. Together we can create a worldwide marketplace that is grounded in the principles of fairness, sustainability, and integrity."

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### **Working for Peace by Working for a Just Environment – What You Can Do**

Often people ask us for concrete things they can do to create positive change. Well here are two positive things you can do.

First continue to educate yourself by going to [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com) and watch The Story of Stuff. "The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world."

Second, print out the following "[Decrease Energy Dependence, Work for Peace, Sustain Our Environment, Now and for the Future — One Step at a Time](#)" and decide what you can do to create change one step at a time.

Let us know how you are doing and share with us your ideas at [info@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org](mailto:info@catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org) .

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### **Common Ground Health Care Reform Information/Listening Sessions – Feb 2 and 5**

Common Ground Health Care Reform Committee is engaged in two potential campaigns to make health insurance more accessible for those who are self employed or work for small businesses or non-profit organizations. In early February CG will be conducting Information/Listening Sessions. These sessions will discuss the Wisconsin Health Care Cooperative (WHC) and the State's proposed Badger Choice program.

**Sessions will take place on**

Monday, February 2 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Education Center at St. Frances Cabrini Parish, West Bend at 615 Hawthorne Drive, West Bend

Thursday, February 5 from 11:30 pm to 1:00 pm at Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, 2900 N Menomonee River Pkwy, Milwaukee in the cafeteria in Bergstrom Hall – lunch will be available

Thursday, February 5 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, 3030 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee

These sessions are for Common Ground leaders and friends as well as employees and owners of small businesses and non-profit organizations.

If you have any questions please contact Bob Connolly at [bconnolly@jamescompany.com](mailto:bconnolly@jamescompany.com)

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### **2009 Peace Conference: Cultivating Global Peace: Nurturing the Seeds Within – Sunday, April 19**

**Save the Date for Sunday, April 19th, 2pm -5:30 pm** for the annual greater Milwaukee peace conference to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church West at 13001 W. North Ave. Brookfield

#### **Keynote Speakers:**

**Philip Chard**, Psychotherapist & Milw. Journal-Sentinel columnist, will speak about the emotional and spiritual impact of living in a war culture on all of us, especially in terms of our willingness to speak and act out against the war.

**Dr. Robert Ricigliano**, Director of the UWM Institute of World Affairs and UWM Peace Studies Program, will share his experience with international conflict mediation and provide an update on international hot spots as we enter the Obama presidency.

Plus local speakers will join us to talk about two programs that work to empower people locally to work for peace and justice - Change Circles and Common Ground

**Sponsored by:** Candlelight Coalition and Unitarian Universalist Church West, Catholics for Peace and Justice and other local peace and justice organizations

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### **Catholics United on the Freedom of Choice Act**

In recent days, we have received numerous calls from Catholics who strongly oppose the "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA) but were confused and upset to learn that even though FOCA has not been reintroduced in the new Congress and will likely never come to a vote, the U.S. Catholic Bishops ran a resource-intensive nationwide parish postcard campaign against the bill (see Catholic News Service story at: <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0900402.htm>).

Like all Catholic organizations, we stand firmly as allies with the bishops in our strong opposition to FOCA, and when and if the legislation were ever reintroduced, we would fight its passage. But almost all observers agree that FOCA is not going anywhere. In this time of increasing job layoffs, poverty, and food insecurity across America, we should instead be calling on Catholics to commit increased resources to helping children and families survive the collapsing economy, a crisis which could also lead to a sharp rise in abortion rates.

We can help lessen the effects of the downturn by fighting for a just economic stimulus package and state budgets that do not leave behind the "least among us," and by sharing more of our own resources in our local communities.

[Suggestions on advocating for the "least among us"](#)

Also see: [www.catholics-united.org](http://www.catholics-united.org) and the [Catholics in Alliance National Abortion Study](#)

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## **Community Organizing - Attend COMMON GROUND U Training**

**What is Common Ground U?** It is an opportunity to learn about community organizing, how it works, and how to build power as an organization.

Common Ground U is designed to strengthen the leadership capacity and culture of organizations participating in Common Ground and to teach leaders the skills necessary for successful public action. Individuals or parish groups associated with Catholics for Peace and Justice [i.e. members or newsletter subscribers] can attend Common Ground U.

### **Institute Topics**

- WHY ORGANIZE? The history, traditions and values of our religious and secular organizations.
- HOW TO ORGANIZE individual relational meetings, listening sessions, research, negotiations and action.
- HOW TO STRENGTHEN our institutions. Intentionally engaging people in a relational, action-oriented and reflective culture.
- HOW TO DIFFERENTIATE between general problems and concrete, winnable issues.
- HOW TO NEGOTIATE for the common good.

### **Who should attend?**

Individuals who are interested in learning about community organizing and how to lead successful actions  
Individuals who are interested in participating in a Common Ground action team on Health Care, Housing, Youth, Jobs, or Crime.

Individuals who would like to coordinate participation in Common Ground actions at their parish.

[The Brochure with Registration form can be found here.](#)

**Common Ground U dates: REGISTRATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT 5:00 PM**

### **TRACK 1 – MONDAYS, FEBRUARY 23, MARCH 2 and 9**

LOCATION: St. John Vianney Parish - 1755 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield,

DATE: Monday evenings, February 23, March 2 and 9

TIME: 6 PM to 9 PM

(optional dinner served at 5:30)

### **TRACK 2– SATURDAYS, MARCH 14 AND 21**

LOCATION: Yet to be determined

DATE: Saturday mornings, March 14 and 21

TIME: 8:15 am to 1:00 pm

[a continental breakfast will be provided]

**COST - \$15 MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16** (scholarships are available) – make checks payable to Southeastern Wisconsin Common Ground.

**TO REGISTER** – Fill out the [registration form in the attached brochure](#) and send with your \$15 registration fee to: Southeastern Wisconsin Common Ground, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233.

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## **Hunger in Our World – A Lenten Invitation from St. Gabriel - March**

Accept a Lenten Invitation: In light of the theme of Solidarity for Catholic Relief Service's 2009 Operation Rice Bowl, the Human Concerns groups of St. Gabriel and St. Mary of the Hill parishes in Hubertus invite you to a series of presentations during Lent focused on hunger.

A complex combination of factors including an increase demand in food and energy, low food stocks, poor harvests and weak credit has contributed to a global food crisis impacting not just people in the developing countries. We see it here at home with rising food prices in our local stores. The worldwide financial downturn is making matters worse for the poor among us.

We offer these sessions as an opportunity for you to enrich your Lenten journey within our faith community. We sincerely hope you will be able to attend some or all of them.

### **An Overview of Catholic Social Teaching**

**March 1, 6:30-7:30 pm at St. Gabriel**

Catholics for Peace and Justice (CPJ) is a Catholic organization of laity and clergy whose beliefs and actions are rooted in Sacred Scripture and Catholic social principles. Using USCCB's Communities of Salt and Light, Barbara Schultz, a member of CPJ and St. Mary of the Hill parish, will present an overview of Catholic Social Teaching and the role of our parishes in the social ministry of the Catholic Church.

### **Catholic Relief Service's Operation Rice Bowl**

**March 8, 6:30-7:30 pm at St. Mary of the Hill**

This Lent, our faith community will join millions of U.S. Catholics by participating in Operation Rice Bowl. Learn about Catholic Relief Services and how our participation in Operation Rice Bowl is an act of Solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need.

### **Hunger in our Community**

**March 15, 6:30-7:30 pm at St. Gabriel**

Charlene Malson, Director of the St. Boniface-St. Gabriel Food Pantry relates the services of this ministry to the hungry in our Germantown-Richfield Community and how it works. Hear the personal story of a witness and how you can be involved.

### **Responding to the Call to Solidarity - What can I do?**

**March 22, 6:30-7:30 pm at St. Mary of the Hill**

Hunger Task Force is a private, non-profit community organization that exists to prevent and alleviate hunger in our community. Laura Richards, Organizer for "Voices Against Hunger" shares experiences of hunger and poverty in Milwaukee and the 2009 Advocacy Agenda for the Hunger Task Force.

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### **Marquette Center for Peacemaking on Israel-Palestine and Blackwater**

**"Negotiating Peace in Israel-Palestine" with Gregory Khalil, Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m., in Cudahy Hall Room 001**

Khalil is a lawyer and former legal advisor with the Negotiations Support Unit (NSU) from 2004 through January, 2008. The NSU is an international organization based in Ramallah that provides legal, policy and communications advice to the Palestinian leadership on peace negotiations with Israel. At the NSU, Mr. Khalil worked on a variety of issues--including Israel's construction of a barrier in the West Bank and Israel's unilateral evacuation of its settlers from the Gaza Strip in 2005--that might impact prospects for peace and a viable two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He has lectured widely on the conflict and most recently was an official member of the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-sponsored peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland in November, 2007. Sponsored by a Frankel Family Foundation grant.

### **"My Name is Rachel Corrie," - Monday/Tuesday, February 16/17**

The one-woman play, "My Name is Rachel Corrie," starring Jennifer Shine, will be at the Helfaer Theatre, on February 16 & 17. This is a powerful story of a young 20-year-old college student's journey to Israel-Palestine, her life and death there. Poster: <http://www.adcwi.org/Forms/rachel%20corrie%20poster.pdf>

### **Forum on BLACKWATER - Friday, February 20:**

A forum on BLACKWATER, with Dan Kenney, Head of the "Clearwater Project" will take place on Friday, February 20th from 7 – 8:30 p.m. In Cudahy Room 001. Kenney will be talking of the dangers when policing and even war making is in the hands of corporate-mercenaries.

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### **Peace Action Educational Series on Occupied Palestine – March**

Four Wednesdays in March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 7 pm

Location : Peace Action Center, 1001 E. Keefe, Milwaukee

Documentary films, presentations & discussion - Please call 414-964-5158 for more information and to register for this free series

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### **Interfaith Earth Network Youth Event - "Realize the Worth of Serving the Earth" – March 29**

Join other high school youth gathering from different congregations to become better acquainted with the natural link between ecology and faith. It's important for our young people to get excited about ecology, and to build relationships with people of different faith traditions. It's also important for adults to lead the way, and encourage them to attend, even if stretches them beyond their comfort zone!

Details are included the flyer which can be found at <http://interfaihearthenetwork.org/IEFiles/YouthGroupEvent.3.29.09.pdf> . Please contact Lisa with your estimate of how many young people you will be bringing. She would like to hear from you by March 1 regarding your plans to attend.

**Date: 29 March 2009 - 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

Location: Plymouth United Church of Christ, 2717 E. Hampshire Street, Milwaukee, WI 53211

For more information contact Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart at 414-545-6006 or at [lisa@tomorrowspresent.org](mailto:lisa@tomorrowspresent.org)

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### **UWM Great Decisions Series on International Issues for February and March**

Great Decisions Series 2009 - UWM's Institute of World Affairs introduces its 2009 "Great Decisions" Series. Featuring an array of prominent experts, the series will convene Tuesday evenings, January 20 though March 10, from 7 PM until 8:30 PM in the UWM Union's Union Ballroom. The Union is located at 2200 E. Kenwood Boulevard in Milwaukee.

Admission: FREE for Institute of World Affairs Members, UWM Faculty & Staff, and all area students. \$5 for the General Public.

For more information: <http://www.iwa.uwm.edu> or call 414-229-3220

February 3: Cuba: Contemplating Engagement with Wayne Smith of The Center for International Policy  
February 10: Egypt: Preserving Stability, Promoting Reform with Amal Hamada of Cairo University/Fulbright Scholar  
February 17: Human Rights: Restoring Moral Authority with William Schulz the Former Executive Director, Amnesty International USA  
February 24: Energy & the Economy: Fostering a Green Recovery with Robert Pollin of the University of Massachusetts Amherst

March 3: Russia: Confrontation or Partnership with Irina Bystrova of the Russian Academy of Sciences/Fulbright Scholar

March 10: Global Food Crisis: Rethinking the Economics of Hunger with Erick Fernandes of The World Bank

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### **Prayer - From Guerrillas of Grace by Ted Loder**

For at last I believe  
Life itself is a prayer  
And the prayers we say  
Shape the lives we live.  
Just as the lives we live  
Shape the prayers we say  
And it all shapes the kingdom  
Which expresses itself in and among us,  
and for which we are guerrillas.

A note from the author....

Guerrillas are engaged in the battle to reclaim some territory, or some part of life, for a higher purpose, a truer cause. To wed guerrilla with grace suggests that the truer cause is God's kingdom.



This newsletter has been sent to you by:  
Catholics for Peace and Justice  
[www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org](http://www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org)

If you received this newsletter from a friend and would like to know more about Catholics for Peace and Justice, sign up for our Newsletter, or become an active member please click on the link below:  
<http://www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org/8.html>

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<http://www.catholicsforpeaceandjustice.org/13.html>

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