

J/P Alert

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE

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• Resources



CMSM:

- assists major superiors in their role as leaders;
- promotes dialogue and collaboration with the conference of bishops and other major groups in church and society;
- provides a corporate influence in church and society.

October 2004

This October issue of J/P Alert is filled with resources rather than the usual updates on legislation in DC. The House and Senate were hoping to wrap up all legislative business for the year, except for a few days in late November after the election, by October 7. Any number of issues are still unresolved, and may not be acted on before the end of the session. A new Congress and Administration will take office in January and once again the Justice and Peace Office will be working with our partners to address both domestic and international concerns. Until then, the J/P Alert can provide you with some resources for education and advocacy.

Elections: Education and Resources

As the campaign for the Presidential election enters the final weeks there are still a significant number of U.S. citizens who are undecided about which candidate they should vote for on November 2. In August CMSM and LCWR adopted a joint resolution encouraging the informed engagement of religious in the electoral process. There were several resources listed in the resolution, which can be found on the CMSM website (www.cmsm.org). There are two resources that are not listed in the resolution that you might like to share with your members.

Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. Catholic Bishops' international relief and development organization, has put together a powerpoint slide presentation and a series

of background materials on international issues as they impact the poor and marginalized. Background sheets on development assistance, food aid, HIV/AIDS, and trade can be downloaded and printed. They also include policy questions and suggestions for specific action. The resource is available at their website http://www.catholicrelief.org/get_involved/advocacy/grass_roots/Citizenship.cfm.

The second resource you might find interesting is from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, a project of the Pew Research Center and The Pew Charitable Trusts. The Forum "seeks to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs. They recently published *Politics and the Pulpit: 2004 – A Guide to the Internal Revenue Code Restrictions on the Political Activity of Religious Organizations*. The guide answers many questions that religious leaders and organizations have concerning the role religious institutions can play in the political process such as endorsing candidates or speaking on issues of public interest, registering voters or issuing voter guides. You can download this resource from their website <http://pewforum.org>. While you are at the website, you might be interested in signing up for their regular updates on any number issues and see the other projects they are sponsoring.

New E-Bulletin to Focus on Trade from Faith Perspective

The U.S. Interfaith Trade Justice Campaign has recently launched an e-bulletin to provide updates on the latest developments in trade justice. It will also provide links to web pages that will give more complete news and analysis at www.tradejusticeusa.org. The U.S. Interfaith Trade Justice Campaign seeks to speak out and defend the rights of the poor in its critique of the current global economic system. At the same time, the Campaign will promote a positive vision of a global economy “where justice rolls down like waters in the world’s market place.” The U.S. Interfaith Trade Justice Campaign, in partnership with religious institutions, mobilizes and facilitates an active engagement of faith communities in educational activities, policy advocacy and Faith Trade efforts, so that global trade and investment policies promote economic and social justice, human development and ecological sustainability. The first e-bulletin had an analysis of the Central American Free Trade Agreement. You can access the bulletin and register to receive it at www.tradejusticeusa.org.

Global Week of Action on Trade

April 10-16, 2005 has been set aside as a “Global Week of Action on Trade.” The UK-based ecumenical advocacy alliance, Christian Aid, has prepared a number of resources on the effects of current global trade policies on the vast majority of people in the world. These resources, while developed for the events in April 2005, are excellent educational resources explaining global trade and providing practical suggestions for action in addressing trade issues. The resources include a 16 page education brochure that can be downloaded from the website at www.e-alliance.ch/gwa_order.jsp. There is a 10 minute video and a 53 page booklet that gives more detailed information about the global trade issue. For more information visit their website at www.christian-aid.org.uk/trade.

Justice and Peace Education Materials Available to CMSM Members

The Institute for Peace & Justice is offering a free monthly service for Peace & Justice Leaders and Religious Educators in Religious Communities. This

service will feature a free item on the website, plus other resources and ways to enhance your ministry.

For 34 years, Kathy & Jim McGinnis and IPJ have been serving Catholic dioceses, parishes, religious communities, schools, families and youth with resources and workshops on issues of Catholic social teaching, especially on racial and economic justice, and Christian peacemaking after 9/11 and the Pledge of Nonviolence.

You can register directly with the Institute for Peace and Justice by visiting their web site at <http://www.ipj-ppj.org/e-resource.htm>.

Mark Your Calendar – JP Directors’ Gathering 2005

Ecumenical Advocacy Days and Justice and Peace Directors Gathering, March 11-15, 2005. The third annual gathering of CMSM Justice and Peace Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2005 in Washington, DC. This gathering is an opportunity for Justice and Peace Directors associated with CMSM and other colleagues to meet, network, and share information about justice and peace issues they are working on. In the past the meeting has included an evening session with experts in various fields to provide input, followed by a half day meeting of the Justice and Peace Directors. This year, the meeting is being combined with the Ecumenical Advocacy Days, an interdenominational gathering of social justice workers and advocates to network and lobby Congress on issues related to the Middle East, Africa, trade, debt, and other topics. The Conference begins on March 11 and ends on March 13. March 14 is set aside for advocacy in Congress. On March 15 the Justice and Peace Directors will gather for a half day to review the advocacy programs and to discuss inter-community collaboration and collaboration with CMSM. We are planning on ending that day with lunch and hope to invite the new White House director for faith-based initiatives to join us. Mark the dates for the Ecumenical Advocacy Days and the Justice and Peace gathering. More details will be available later.

Stan De Boe, OSST, Editor