

What Would Jesus Do?

Again this Advent we are aware of obstacles to peace as we prepare for the birthday of the Prince of Peace. Christ came over 2000 years ago; Christ comes into our lives in every hungry, thirsty (Matthew 25:31-46), needy person, and Christ will come again. Every day hardworking people in desperate need come to our church asking for guidance and assistance.



We Catholics try to imitate Jesus in daily life. Economic realities are part of that life. And our blessed charity is not the extent of our response. We pray, study, and ponder the ways the Gospel of Jesus sheds light on the problems we face. We are to be, as scripture says, wise as serpents and gentle as doves. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." Peacefulness does not imply passivity. Peacemakers are asked hard questions:

- How can we be asked to cut programs that children and youth rely on for medical care, vital nourishment and job training as we continue to spend 53 cents of our EVERY tax dollar on warfare while not adequately caring for our veterans?
- Why do some corporations pay little or no taxes, lay off workers, send jobs offshore & give some CEOs millions?

We don't have the answers but God does. We listen to God in scripture, church teachings and one another.

We consider political issues which affect the well-being of all of God's children. We have a history of doing this on the issue of abortion.

Our conscience tells us that we need a global shift from greed and violence and that begins with each one of us.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

Recently "Engaging our Conflicts" groups met to study peacemaking. We read, prioritized and role played ways to manage and resolve conflict on the tough issues we see in our world.

You are cordially invited to a new,

"Engage Conflicts:

Exploring Non-Violent Peacemaking"

group 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31,

Feb. 7, 14, 21 & March 6

co-facilitated by

Nancy Bellini and David De Smith.

What conflicts tug on your conscience or puzzle you? You may want to bring a concern to your new group formed to practice peace building. To register for "Engage Your Conflicts" please print your name, email/snail mail addresses and phone # & label an envelope, "Engage Conflicts" & bring it or mail it to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket. We need to order the inspiring & practical workbook for you. It's full of stories of saints who made a difference! Please include \$25 for the workbook.

See www.justfaith.com Justfaith module, "Engaging Our Conflicts"

Continuing a long tradition of addressing societal issues the Vatican recently released a major document on economics urging global financial reform: "The economic and financial crisis which the world is going through calls everyone, individuals and peoples, to examine in depth the principles and the cultural and moral values at the basis of social coexistence."

The Vatican's Justice and Peace Department's "Towards Reforming the International Financial and Monetary Systems" (10/24/11) comes at the same time much of the world is confronted by an unprecedented number of people protesting corruption by some financial institutions. The USA has recently made gains against unemployment. 3 out of 4 poor working age adults (18-64) do work; most poor children live in a household where at least one parent is employed. Still, global problems of joblessness, low wage work and homelessness are reaching crisis proportions. The October Vatican document and questions stated above are just some of what Barbara Boyle, Peg Linder, Deni Mack, Marlene Martin, Louise Panning, Mary Kay Schmidt, Monica Sozio, Leslie Stefanko, Maribeth Szilagyi, Marilyn Thaler, Marita Vanderveer, Bob Warth and Peg Whitney discussed. Another Engaging Conflicts group using the same book worked on a variety of concerns of their choice. Participants found the process to be heartening and very helpful. They found that faith informs their response to challenges to peace.

Let us pray often everyday to do God's will.

Let's listen well to God.