



Shalom News North America

An instrument of hope, formation, and action concerning priority matters of social justice.



February 2010



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“Alert to rapidly evolving conditions in a changing society, we discern which world conditions we are called to address. . . . and what the urgent educational needs of our times are.”

- School Sisters of Notre Dame YAS General Directory #37

Lent

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A Green and Cosmic Lent



A time for prayer for the universe, for all people and creatures that are a part of it, prayer for greater awareness of issues that affect us all—climate change, affordable health care, jobs, war, immigration—and for a

willingness to put our prayer into action through public advocacy.

A time for fasting from what really matters— from those practices and activities that increase our

footprints on the Earth and that profit from the abuse or misfortunes of others.

A time for alms-giving—opting for Earth-friendly, fair trade, organic, sustainable products and services; supporting systemic change that seeks to lessen the need for charity.

May our Lent lead us to a greater awareness and appreciation of the risen Jesus among and within us.

The [Education for Justice](#) initiative has some very nice Lenten reflection resources. See your Shalom contact for the SSND username and password.

Economic Justice

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SNACC Supports Full Cancellation of Haiti’s Debt

The SSND Shalom North America Coordinating Committee (SNACC) recently joined with 80 other religious and human rights groups in a letter to U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, urging him to negotiate immediate debt cancellation for Haiti by the international financial institutions. Haiti is expected to pay at least \$100 million in debt payments over the next five years unless their remaining debts are cancelled. Even after finally receiving some much needed debt relief in June 2009, Haiti remains saddled with a debt of more than \$1 billion. [Click here](#) for more information and suggestions for action.

Fair Trade Valentine's Day



Think Fair Trade if you plan to do some purchasing for Valentine’s Day. Fair

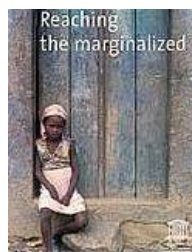
Trade products are more widely available than ever before. With Fair Trade certification, you are assured that all people along every step of the supply chain receive “fair” (living) wages, that workers and communities are treated with dignity, and that artisans and producers have taken steps to preserve the environment. Follow these links for information about purchasing [Fair Trade products](#) such as [chocolate](#), [flowers](#), [jewelry](#), and [apparel](#).

Education

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2010 Education for All Report

Reaching the Marginalized, the 2010 Education for All Global Monitoring Report, (GMR) launched by Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, on January 19, 2010, certainly seems to echo our *Call to Solidarity* where we say “We



promote education for all, especially those who are marginalized or forgotten.”

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, reminded his audience that “Education is a fundamental human right, enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration. It should never be an accident of

circumstance. Nor is it a privilege to be distributed on the basis of wealth, gender, race, ethnicity or language.”

The [GMR Web site](#) provides the full text of his speech, as well as the full report on the state of education for all around the world.

Next month, we will feature resources for “Education for All Week” in April.



CCHD Youth Arts Contest

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Youth Arts Contest is a great tool for engaging youth in grades 7 through 12 on a range of Catholic social teaching issues. [This Web site](#) offers lesson plans and activities that can be used across disciplines—by theology, art, English, social studies, government, music, and other teachers—as well as in youth ministry and catechetical programs.

Human Dignity

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February 11, 2010, World Day of the Sick

Pope John Paul II instituted World Day of the Sick in 1992, setting aside February 11, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, for its annual celebration. On this day, the ill are encouraged to reflect on the Christian meaning of suffering. For info and resources go to:

www.chac.ca

“Suffering and joy teach us, if we allow them, how to make the leap of empathy, which transports us into the soul and heart of another person. In those transparent moments we know other people’s joys and sorrows, and we care about their concerns as if they were our own,” Fritz Williams. Learn more about

global health issues—even create your own table comparing global health concerns at:

www.who.int/whosis/en/index.html

First Nations and the Vancouver 2010 Olympics

As Canada prepares to host the world at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the four host first nations: Lil'wat, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam Nations, have come together to showcase their culture, language, and heritage all made possible through the Shared Legacies Agreement. [Click here](#) to learn more. Even the [design of this year’s Olympic medals](#) is inspired by the four host first nations.



Integrity of Creation

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A Catholic Response to Climate Change



Catholic Climate Covenant
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

The Catholic Church calls humans to care for God’s creation and to put into action [Catholic Social Teaching](#). The National Catholic Rural Life Conference has developed a web-based study guide to help Catholics understand and apply Church teachings as these relate to climate change and prudent energy use. Visit this Web site for a self-guided study session: [Climate Change: A Catholic Response Study Guide](#).

Live a No Impact Life

Colin Beavan and his family conducted a “no impact experiment.” For one year they unplugged from the electrical grid, produced no trash, traveled only by foot or bike, and bought nothing but food (locally grown). Unlike Thoreau, they did not live in the woods or on a farm, but in Manhattan. Despite the challenges, living this way made them “healthier, happier, richer in ways they’d never imagined.” [Click here](#) to read Beavan’s [10 Ways to Change Your Life \(Not Just Your Light Bulbs\)](#). Find more information on the experiment, book, and movie at www.noimpactproject.org.



Shalom News North America is an e-publication of the Shalom North America Coordinating Committee (SNACC) of the School Sisters of Notre Dame— Judy Bourg (DA), Tim Dewane (ML), Eileen Reilly (AM), Rose Mary Sander (CA), Jeanne Wingenter (MK), and Paulette Zimmerman (SL). Your comments, suggestions, and feedback are always welcomed. Email us at justiceandpeace@ssnd-milw.org