



JUST NEWS

We answer God's call to transform human hearts and to make way for the Reign of God.

December 2002

Office of Justice and Peace

Focus on

Keeping Christ in Christmas

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Inserts:

Legislative Agenda for 2003
General Assembly & Catholic
Advocacy Day flyer



Featured Web Site:

Affluenza

<http://www.pbs.org/kcts/affluenza/>

A web site based on the PBS special of the same name that includes a diagnosis of affluenza, treatment for this affliction, escape tips, and a teachers guide with lesson plans.

What Do We Celebrate?

By John Gallini, Member of the Ecological Network of Sowers of Justice

If I were to ask *Just News* readers, "What is it that we celebrate at Christmas?" I am sure that you would all respond with answers such as "the Incarnation," or "Jesus pitching his tent in our midst," or "Good News for the poor," or some other expression related to Jesus.

But the consumer culture in which we are immersed -- television, radio, print media, shopping centers, and work places -- promotes a different idea about Christmas. It is, after all, the biggest shopping season of the year by a wide margin. Businesses, especially small retail shops, depend for their survival on the merchandise they sell during the "Christmas Season." Christmas has become a nation-wide celebration of our consumer culture.

Children are especially bombarded with advertisements for expensive toys. The pressure on parents (and grandparents) to buy the latest fad in toys or clothing is enormous. Parents who don't have the money to provide regular nutritious meals for their children will spend large amounts on toys at Christmas. Whatever connection the tradition of giving "simple gifts" might have had to Jesus' message, it has long since been drowned out.

All of this, of course, is not news to any of you. The question is how to celebrate Christmas in ways that promote Jesus' values, and how to share those values our children.

Part of the answer to these questions relates to what our young children are allowed to watch on television. My own children now have children, and some of them deal with the TV problem by restricting what young children can watch to public TV and a few special shows. That makes sense to me, and avoids part, but not all, of the problem (i.e., most of their friends still watch the commercial channels).

Another approach is to participate in the programs your parish provides for children. If not much is going on, volunteer to organize story telling hours at your parish. Check out your local library; the staff may be offering some creative programs. Choose books for home reading that highlight the message of Christmas. The group, Alternatives for Simple Living, provides some excellent materials for families and parishes. [See resource section on page 3.]

"Whatever connection the tradition of giving 'simple gifts' might have had to Jesus' message, it has long since been drowned out."

(Continued from page 1)

When it comes to gift giving, the big challenge is to limit the number of gifts. We have a large family and it is a challenge, but we have made some progress by drawing names.

If you have the time and talent, make your gifts! If you buy something, purchase it at a store that provides a living wage to third world artisans (such as Ten Thousand Villages), or buy from a local craftsman.

Finally, find a family activity that lets you interact with those in need or provides a "gift" to the community. Take a morning to clean up part of a park; visit a home for the elderly or a homeless shelter; contribute to a fund to be sent to Catholic Relief Services; prepare in a special way for participation in Christmas celebration of the Eucharist. Celebrate peace! ✚

Retail Christmas Shopping

Purdue University Professor Richard Feinberg has issued preliminary 2002 shopping season predictions:

- Holiday sales account for 37% of annual retail sales and up to 65% of retail profits. 
- The average consumer plans to spend \$649 for the holidays.
- 35% of all holiday sales take place the week before Christmas.
- More than 60% of shoppers hit stores during this last week.
- 50% of sales will be in malls.
- 200 million consumers will shop in the mall in the holiday season.
- Malls take an average of 11,000 pictures of children with Santa.
- 10 billion holiday catalogs will be mailed – about 50 per household.
- Consumers will spend almost \$800 billion during the holidays.

Let Christmas Be Earthy!

The *Sowers of Justice* Ecological Network has produced a great resource to help families celebrate Advent and Christmas in a more simple and meaningful way.

The brochure is entitled, *Celebrating Christmas as if the Earth were really the place where the Word became Flesh*. It is printed on festive red, recycled paper and gives suggestions for reflection and action to embody the mystery of the Incarnation.

White copies are available for easier duplication. Contact OJP or AOJP for copies in either format.



Just News

is published bimonthly by the
Office of Justice and Peace (OJP)
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The ART of Justice and Peace for Parish Justice & Peace/Social Ministry

ISSUE: Keeping Christ in Christmas

ACT to serve human needs, giving issues a human face:

- ◆ Encourage your fellow parishioners to share their blessings by purchasing gifts for needy families through a local social service agency.
- ◆ Have your family choose a holiday service project that you can do together.
- ◆ Purchase your holiday gifts at a Ten Thousand Villages store or through the Work of Human Hands catalog from Catholic Relief Services. [See page 6 for details.]
- ◆ Buy fairly traded coffee, tea and cocoa. [See article on page 8.]

REFLECT on social causes & principles of faith:

- ◆ Encourage your Minister of Religious Education to offer adult education sessions on resisting commercialism and keeping Christ at the center of family holidays.
- ◆ Have your parish Justice & Peace Committee organize a parish alternative gift fair with handcrafts from Work of Human Hands or Ten Thousand Villages.
- ◆ Encourage your parish to distribute the Christmas brochure developed by the *Sowers of Justice* Ecological Network. [See details above.]
- ◆ Ask your pastor to preach about Christmas and consumerism. Provide resources.

TRANSFORM social structures:

- ◆ Join the Parish Legislative Advocacy Network (PLAN) and advocate for living wages, fair trading practices, micro-enterprise loans, and other public policies that benefit low-income people in the United States and developing world.

A Pastoral Perspective: Discipleship and Economic Decisions



*Excerpts from the U.S. Bishops' 1986 Pastoral Letter,
Economic Justice For All:
Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy*

The Gospel is demanding. We are always in need of conversion, of a change of heart....

We are unable to entrust ourselves fully to the living God, and so we seek substituted forms of security in material things, in power, in indifference, in popularity, in pleasure. The Scriptures warn us that these things can become forms of idolatry.

We know that, at times, in order to remain truly a community of Jesus' disciples, we will have to say "no" to certain aspects of our culture, to certain ways of acting that are opposed to a life of faith, love and justice....

How do my economic choices contribute to the strength of my family and community, to the values of my children, to a sensitivity to those in need? In this consumer society, how can I develop a healthy detachment from things and avoid the temptation to assess who I am by what I have? ...

The answers to such questions are not always clear -- or easy to live out. But, conversion is a lifelong process. And, it is not undertaken alone. It occurs with the support of the whole believing community, through baptism, common prayer, and our daily efforts, large and small, on behalf of justice....

We may hide behind the complexity of the issues or dismiss the significance of our personal contribution; in fact, each one has a role to play, because every day each one makes economic decisions. +

Resources on Discipleship, Lifestyle, and Simplicity



Church Documents

U.S. Bishops, **Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice**, 1998.
<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/everyday.htm>

U.S. Bishops, **Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium**, 1995.
<http://www.nccbuscc.org/laity/calleden.htm>

U.S. Bishops, **Stewardship: A Disciple's Response**, 1992.

Copies of these resources are available from USCCB Publishing Services at (800) 235-8722.

Books

Alice Chapin, *A Simple Christmas*, Herald Press, Revised Edition, 1998.

Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli, *Unplug the Christmas Machine: A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Joy Back into the Season*, Quill, Revised edition, 1991.

Michael Schut (Editor), *Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective*, Living the Good News, 1999.

Organization

Alternatives for Simple Living
P.O. Box 2787, Sioux City, IA 51106
Phone: (800) 821-6153
Website: <http://http://www.simpleliving.org/>

Web Sites

Buy Nothing for Christmas
<http://www.buynothingchristmas.org/>

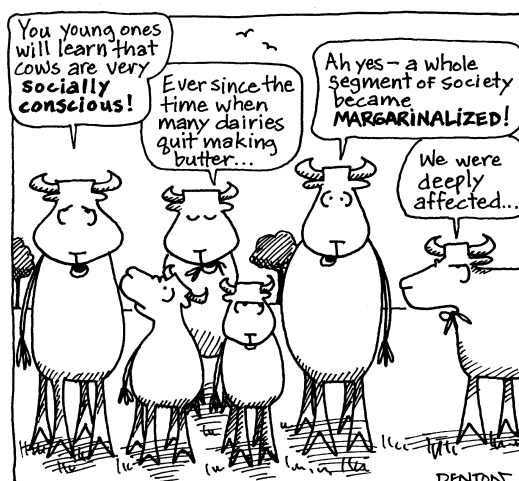
Ministry of Money
<http://www.ministryofmoney.org/>

Simple Living Network
<http://www.simpleliving.net/>

Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person
2. **Call to Family, Community, and Participation**
3. Rights and Responsibilities
4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
5. Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
6. Solidarity
7. Care for God's Creation

COWS of JUSTICE



Call to Family, Community, and Participation

- The person is not only sacred, but social in nature.
- Our economy, law, and policies affect people and their ability to grow in community.
- The family is central, and should be supported and strengthened, not undermined.
- People have a right and a duty to participate in society, to work for the common good of all -- esp. the poor and vulnerable.

Sowers of Justice Seedlings

Activities of the Catholic Community and Friends Working for the Common Good



Youth on the Move!

By Teresa Stanley

Young people in the *Voices that Challenge* social justice movement completed a leadership training in early November. The weekend retreat focused on finding themes of justice in the Scriptures and learning consensus decision making skills.

Voices held a fundraising event at CiCi's Pizza on November 11th for a peace pole to be planted during the "Season for Nonviolence." This annual observance begins with the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination on January 30th to the anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr's assassination on April 4th.

Over 20 members of *Voices* will travel to Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia on November 15-17th to be Peacekeepers during the annual non-violent vigil to close the School of the Americas (now known as WHISC, Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation).

Voices That Challenge has a dynamic new website. Come and visit us at <<http://www.voicesthatchallenge.com>>.

For more info on *Voices*, contact Teresa Stanley at (252) 255-1981 or <teresastanley@nethosters.com>.

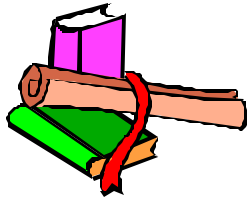
Theology for Lay Leaders

The Office of Christian Formation is sponsoring a new program of study for lay leaders in the diocese to equip them with a basic, but comprehensive understanding of Catholic theology.

The program covers nine topics -- Scripture, Liturgy & Sacraments, Church History, Morality, Social

Teaching, Christology, Ecclesiology, Ecumenism, and Spirituality.

Participants will meet in small theological reflection groups in three areas -- Tidewater, Richmond, and Roanoke -- beginning in January 2003. These groups, led by a trained facilitator, will meet either for 18 six-hour Saturday sessions or for 45 two-hour weeknight sessions over a two year period.



Participants must be recommended by their parish. The course fee is \$300. Some scholarships are available.

For more information, contact Dennis Beeman at (804) 359-5661, ext. 113 or Debbie Stollery at (757) 467-6952.

Peace Education Studies

The Summer Peacebuilding Institute (SPI) is a program at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The Institute provides intensive training in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, trauma healing and restorative justice to practitioners around the world.

SPI 2003 runs May 5 - June 20, 2003 and offers four sessions, each with five 7-day intensive courses. These may be taken for academic credit or as professional training (non-credit). Classes draw upon the experience of the participants and instructors.

The application deadline for SPI 2003 is January 15, 2003. For info about SPI, call (540) 432-4490 or send an e-mail to <spi@emu.edu>. You can also visit the SPI web site at <<http://www.emu.edu/ctp/>>.

Making the Connections: Justice and Formation

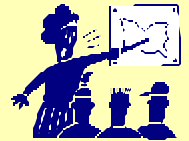
By Debbie Stollery

This feature offers ideas for catechetical ministers to make connections between this issue's theme and their parish faith formation work.

For CATECHETICAL LEADERS: Help your catechists get in touch with the Christmas message. Hold a day of theological reflection during which they encounter Jesus: born poor, lived poor, came to proclaim good news to the poor. Model Christ's message that to whom much is given, much is expected. Use the suggestions in this issue to guide all activities to be simpler, less commercial and for others.

For CATECHISTS of Children: Help the children to greet Jesus by making the connection between Jesus and those who need their care. Have a gift exchange of medical care items, wrapped and given to one another, unwrapped and then given, for example, for Haitians. Sow seeds with the ideas in this issue. Little ones get it!

For CATECHISTS of TEENS: This is the age where needs vs. wants, the consumer culture and being one who follows Jesus can be in significant conversation. In this season of abundance, you might consider a poverty reflection or a *Food Fast*, then a comparison conversation with the Christmas season. Ask teens: If you are poor at Christmas, what is it like? How do Christians respond to the poor, not just at Christmas?



For ADULT FORMATION: To keep Christ in Christmas is to honor the command to love the outcast first. Host a dialogue; put the call to love the unloved in conversation with the Christmas culture. Build the Gospel foundation, then use this issue to offer ideas about living this out. Agree to meet after Christmas to share stories of loving others first.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

What I Learned in Haiti

By Kathy Larue

My daughter and I went to Port of Prince and Lascahobas in February with Church of the Redeemer. We thought it would be just another trip, but visiting Haiti gave us a new perspective on life. We cried at Mother Teresa's orphanage where we fed babies suffering from AIDS. We attended a talent show by the children in Lascahobas. The whole town turned out and we were guests of honor. We prayed at a church service that lasted 2 ½ hours. Was it really that long? It was so beautiful it didn't seem so.



Haiti

Our lives were deeply touched by the Haitian people. They have so little to be thankful for, yet they live such spiritual lives. Haitians have few resources and receive little help from their government or the world. Yet, they are hopeful for the future.

All they really want is a better life for their children.

We lived very simple lives for a week. At times we had no electricity or running water. Returning home we felt overcome by stuff. Too much stuff! Stuff overload.

Why do we need all of this stuff that we never use? Why do we have food that is bottled, canned, frozen, and freeze dried? Why do we have machines that slice, dice, and julienne? Why do we have four TV's, three VCR's and two DVD's? Why do I have thirty-three pairs of shoes?

We decided to simplify. We cleaned out. It took a truck and we still haven't gotten to the attic. Do we miss it? We haven't thought of a thing we wish we still had.

The next thing that needed simplifying was our lives. Our schedules were crazy. Not only did we have stuff, we did stuff. Everyone was coming and going from activity to activity. We all had to decide what was really important.

We eliminated activities that were stressful or just not as important to us. We also added things that we wanted to do but had never found the time to explore them. Things seem to run more smoothly now. We don't feel as rushed and we spend more time together.

Before visiting Haiti, I was working two part time jobs. One job was working with young children. I had been there for 10 years and I loved it. But being responsible for 75 children was stressful! My other job was teaching Early Childhood Education classes at a community college. I loved the change of pace that teaching adults offered. But in order to continue teaching there, I needed to get a Master's degree.

What did I want to do with the rest of my life? After much thought and some sadness, I decided that no job was worth the stress and its effects on my health. I didn't want to be in charge any more. I took a deep breath and a leap of faith. I quit the preschool, asked for more hours at the community college and applied to VCU.

As Christmas approaches, I am back to thinking of stuff. Now I have to go up into the attic where the Christmas "stuff" is. Do I really need to put up six Christmas trees? Yes, I have six of them. It really is an addiction.

Do I need to spend thousands of dollars on more stuff? I know that many on my gift list don't expect a fancy gift package. It is **my** need to give them something.

I think about the average Haitian family who lives on the equivalent of \$300 a year. In Haiti it only cost \$50 for school tuition, but that is out of reach for most families in a country that has an 80% illiteracy rate.

I have a great idea! On my next trip to Haiti I'll do my Christmas shopping there. I'll do my part to contribute to the local economy, and my friends and family will have a small piece of another world. +

Heavenly Presents - A Parish Alternative

By Rebecca Oxenreider, Human Concerns Minister at St. Mary's Parish in Richmond.

Consumerism encourages us to waste, hoard and covet, while others have not even the basics. Our church has long upheld the dignity and rights of all people. How can we learn to emphasize the SPIRIT of giving at Christmas and at other times rather than the spirit of consumerism?

In an attempt to help people think differently about how we gift one another, we began our Human Concerns Heavenly Presents Gift Shop about ten years ago. People now ask when it will occur and make plans to shop there!



We invite parishioners to join us in the lower commons on a weekend in November. Generally 50 to 100 people come after each Mass to browse and purchase gifts. Earlier this month we sold over \$3,500 in fairly traded crafts.

Groups like Work of Human Hands provide a different way for us to give that helps poor people overcome poverty. [See info on fairly traded goods on page 6.] The Gift Shop provides a positive alternative for consumers.

Over the years we have made many friends locally and throughout the world, and have come to know the beauty of the work of human hands from differing cultures. We ARE learning to kiss the mall goodbye! +

More Reflections on the Holiday Season

Family Time Keeps Christ in Christmas

By Laura Cressman, St. Gabriel's Parish in Richmond

It is not easy for Jesus to compete with Santa Claus when children are young. It is not even easy for Christ to compete with well-meaning grandparents intent on showering your children with toys.

After struggling against Santa and the grandparents for a couple of years, my husband and I have decided that the only things we can control are the activities in our home. So we embrace Santa and the spirit of giving. We accept the gift shower from the grandparents as blessings.



And we turn our energy at Christmas to family time by practicing faith-based rituals and traditions that make Jesus real for our children. Despite the season's focus on material things, there are many ways parents can teach the important spiritual lessons of the Christmas story.

It is helpful for parents to talk to each other about their own memories of Christmas. Discuss what traditions have special meaning and which ones should be replaced.

Talk to others about the traditions and rituals in their families and read a couple of family-oriented magazines. The result will be many fantastic ideas for making your family's Christmas celebration Christ-centered.

Here are a few practices we have found to be meaningful in our home:

1. Stay home for the holiday. It is difficult to establish traditions if you are traveling every Christmas.
2. Celebrate Jesus' birth with a Christmas birthday cake.
3. A child-friendly Nativity scene, whether it's store-bought or homemade, is a fun way to teach about Christ's birth. Let the kids play with it and act out the Christmas story.
4. Pray over gifts and greeting cards before they leave your home. Pray also for those who have sent your family greeting cards. We collect the cards in a basket and before the mealtime blessing one of the children selects a card for a special prayer for the card's sender.
5. Choose a family charity project. There are hundreds of opportunities for families to do Christ's work together.
6. Focus kids' attention on making gifts to give to others. There are many quick, inexpensive and wonderful gifts children can make with a bit of help. Some of our favorites are spiced roasted nuts, cookies, chocolate covered pretzels and handprint ornaments.



After doing your research, have a family meeting and find out what your children would like to do. Let them evaluate last year's Christmas and help them envision what your family's Christmas will be like this year.

Keep it simple. Plan just a couple new rituals to try and a couple of "old" secular traditions to eliminate. As the years go by, you can enjoy watching your children grow in understanding of the importance of Jesus' birth and your own faith and understanding will grow too.

Have a Merry, Christ-filled Christmas! +



ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING

Work of Human Hands

The Work of Human Hands is a joint project of Catholic Relief Services and SERRV International that creates sales opportunities for artisans around the world.

Since 1995 Catholic parishes, schools, and groups have made Work of Human Hands part of holiday events. By purchasing handcrafted products in the Work of Human Hands catalog -- through individual purchases or hosting a sale at you parish -- you help to eradicate poverty and promote economic justice in our world.

Catholic Relief Services invites your support for this creative effort. For info, contact Kathleen Kenney at (804) 359-5661, ext. 129 or <kkenney@richmonddiocese.org>. Order a catalog by calling (800) 685-7572 or visit the Work of Human Hands web site at:

http://www.catholicrelief.org/what_we_do_in_the_united_states/work_of_human_hands/what_is.cfm

Ten Thousand Villages

Ten Thousand Villages provides vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America.

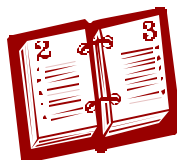
Ten Thousand Villages works with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. This income pays for food, education, health care and housing.

The following stores in our diocese are affiliated with the Ten Thousand Villages movement:

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Charlottesville | Innisfree World Artisans | (434) 979-0600 |
| Chesapeake | Ten Thousand Villages | (757) 361-0257 |
| Harrisonburg | Gift & Thrift Shop | (540) 433-8844 |
| Richmond | Ten Thousand Villages | (804) 358-5170 |
| Virginia Beach | Ten Thousand Villages | (757) 417-0687 |

Check out the Ten Thousand Villages web site at:
<<http://www.villages.ca/>>

CALENDAR



DECEMBER 2002

1 World AIDS Awareness Day.

For HIV/AIDS-related resources, contact Kathleen Kenney in OJP at (804) 359-5661, ext. 129 or <kkenney@richmonddiocese.org>.

3 Women's Gathering -- "Prioritizing our Lives" at

Blessed Kateri Tekawith in Poquoson, from 6:30-9:00pm, \$5 fee. Contact Betty Jones at (757) 766-3800 or <ecjones@cox.net>.

25 Catholic Charities

Christmas Collection. Catholic Charities of Hampton Roads & Commonwealth Catholic Charities benefit.



January 2003

1 World Day of Peace
Contact OJP for details.

19 Respect Life Collection

19-25 Respect Life Education Week. Contact Michael Stone at (804) 359-5661, ext. 128 or <mstone@richmonddiocese.org>.

19 Prayer Service for Life at Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond, 7:30pm followed by reception. Families with children welcome. Contact Suzanne Walsh at (804) 364-9128 or Maureen Ford at (804) 740-6421.

20 Martin Luther King, Jr.

Holiday. For resources on racism, contact Michael Stone in OJP.

22 March for Life, beginning at noon in Washington, D.C. Contact Michael Stone in OJP for details.

27 Catholic Advocacy Day at the General Assembly.

See insert. At St. Peter's Catholic Church, Richmond. Contact Steve Colecchi at (804) 359-5661 or <scolecchi@richmonddiocese.org>.



org>.

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

3 "Visionary Women"

Gathering at Blessed Kateri Tekawith in Poquoson, from 6:30-9:00pm, \$5 fee. Contact Betty Jones at (757) 766-3800 or <ecjones@cox.net>.

1-9 Haiti Solidarity Week

OJP sends a resource packet to twinned parishes to celebrate solidarity with Haiti. Other parishes can receive a packet from Adele DellaValle-Rauth at (540) 297-6493 or <delrauth@aol.com>.

March

Women's History Month

5 Ash Wednesday -- Lent & Operation Rice Bowl Begins.

For info, contact Kathleen Kenney at (804) 359-5661, ext 129 or <kkenney@richmonddiocese.org>.

13-14 Building the Church from the Ground Up.

Workshop on small faith communities based on Latin American experience. Limited enrollment. At Sweet Briar College near Lynchburg. \$65 fee includes meals. Housing - \$35/ double, \$62/ single. Contact Steve Colecchi at (804) 359-5661 or <scolecchi@richmonddiocese.org>.

23-30 National Migration Week

Contact your local office of Refugee & Immigration Services.

APRIL

4 An Evening with Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, 7:30pm in Richmond. Site to be announced.

5 Diocesan Haiti Gathering in Charlottesville featuring Bishop Thomas Gumbleton. Contact Adele DellaValle-Rauth at (540) 297-6493 or <delrauth@aol.com>.

Ecology Corner

In each issue of *Just News*, we present some facts and/or reflections on our current ecological crisis.

Tips for A Simpler, More Meaningful Christmas

Plan ahead & avoid stress.

Keep your priorities straight.

Limit the amount of money that you will spend on gifts.

Avoid going into debt!



Managing Gift Giving:

- Organize a giving circle. Each person draws only one name for gift giving.
- Give children three gifts they really want. Remember the Three Wise Men!
- Put gifts under the tree shortly before opening them. Take turns opening gifts, so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked.

Giving Alternative Gifts:

- Purchase crafts made in developing countries and ensure a just livelihood for the crafts person.
- Use your talents to make your gifts.
- Give a coupon for a future service like snow removal, house cleaning, or a weekend of child care.
- Make a donation in a loved one's name to their favorite charity or to a group working for justice in the world:
 - Catholic Relief Services
www.catholicrelief.org
 - Doctors Without Borders
www.doctorswithoutborders.org
 - The Heifer Project
www.heifer.org
 - The Nature Conservancy
www.tnc.org
 - The World Wildlife Fund
www.wwf.org

Make changes slowly, but persistently. Do not try to change everything and everybody at once.

For information about the diocesan Ecological Network, contact Clare McBrien at (276) 686-5039 or <cmcbrien@richmonddiocese.org>.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Hot Cocoa

There is a world in your coffee cup! Each cup of coffee that you drink has an impact on a farmer somewhere in the world. Small scale coffee farmers and their families in most coffee-producing countries are in crisis.

While the cost of coffee in the U.S. has remained flat, the prices farmers receive for their crops have plunged to the lowest level in fifty years. Much of the world's coffee is grown by small scale farmers who suffer the most from any drop in coffee prices.



Here's what you and your parish can do -- buy Fair Trade Coffee! Fair Trade refers to the exchange of goods based on principles of economic and social justice.

Fair Trade Coffee will cost a little more because it is *fairly traded!* You can purchase this coffee in a variety of ways.

Equal Exchange sells fairly traded gourmet coffee direct from small farmer co-operatives in Latin America, Africa and Asia. This group sells gourmet coffees in a full range of Organic, Conventional Flavored and Decaffeinated varieties. They even offer coffee produced in Haiti!

Individuals can purchase fair trade coffee, tea and hot cocoa through Equal Exchange online at:

<http://store.yahoo.com/eeretail/>.

Churches and groups can purchase fair trade coffee and tea products in bulk through Equal Exchange, including Kafe Haiti. This product is grown by small farmer cooperatives in southeastern Haiti. This coffee is shade grown, an ecologically friendly way of production that sustains the land better than commercial practices.

Kafe Haiti can be purchased in \$60 cases that includes twelve 12 ounce bags for individual sale and use. Wholesale purchase of Kafe Haiti and other fair trade coffee and tea is available online at:

<http://store.yahoo.com/equalexchange/>

You can also purchase fairly traded coffee through *Work of Human Hands* (a CRS partnership with SERRV International) or at stores affiliated with Ten Thousand Villages. [See page 6 for local contact information.] Even Starbucks sells bags of fairly traded coffee! +

The February 2003 issue of Just News will focus on the theme of **Faith and Patriotism.**

The deadline for submission of articles will be Monday, January 13, 2003.

**Office of Justice and Peace
Catholic Diocese of Richmond
811 Cathedral Place
Richmond, VA 23220**

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Catholic Advocacy Day

Monday, January 27, 2003

8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Church - Richmond

Learn about the issues & meet with your elected representatives in the Virginia General Assembly.

See insert for details!