



Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what is still possible for you to do.

*Pope John XXIII*

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## From the Director

**A**t an inter-religious meeting on community organizing recently, I heard a woman describe her life journey and her work for social justice and peacemaking as a “wonderful way to fall in love with God”. What a great perspective, I thought, for a life’s work that can sometimes be tedious, frustrating and filled with news of injustice, conflict violence, suffering, and discrimination.

For people of faith and faith communities the questions raised by exposés on sweatshops and unsafe working conditions present a unique opportunity and challenge as we seek to translate our foundational beliefs about ‘loving God and loving our neighbor’ into principles, policies and actions that are consistent with our beliefs. Core beliefs that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and therefore are invited to share the gifts God gives call us to wrestle

daily with the demands which such beliefs place on our lifestyles, on the policies and programs of our government and on the actions of many other organizations and institutions with which we are associated.

Trips in May and June of this year to both Bangladesh and China provided me with an appropriate perspective from which to ponder the implications of many of the issues that Congress and the news are considering: the phase-out of the Multi Fibre Agreement, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, agricultural subsidies, the proposed purchase of UNOCAL by a Chinese oil company and the next session of the World Trade Organization in Hong Kong in December 2005.

So many of the products that we depend on are made in countries like China and Bangladesh that it is hard to imagine how we could otherwise

afford them. The global framework and processes that have been put in place for sourcing, production and service delivery have become an essential subsidy for our lifestyles. It obvious that this economic model would not be able to prosper without the reservoirs of cheap labor and raw materials that regions like Bangladesh and China provide.

The search for cheaper labor is not a new phenomenon. We have studied this pattern and its impact on the lives of millions of people over the years. We are called to be aware of our connections with those whose labor and resources are closely connected to our life journey. And we are also called to discern the path of God’s spirit in our lives and the world. I continue to be strengthened by the witness and courage and teaching of people of faith who remind us of the all inclusive destiny to which God has called us.

**The OMI Justice and Peace/ Integrity of Creation Office** coordinates the advocacy efforts of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate on behalf of the interests of the poor and abandoned in the U.S. and in the more than 65 countries where the Oblates are in mission. These efforts include serving as a resource for province membership, supporting the community organizing efforts of the Oblates in the United States, and coordinating the Corporate Responsibility Program to insist on just practices and policies by corporations in their worldwide operations. Our work also includes advocacy with the United States government and other international institutions on a variety of justice and peace issues.

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## **News and Happenings**

### ***Catholic Campaign on Immigration***

In May of 2005 the US Catholic Bishops conference unveiled a new campaign: Justice for Immigrants, a Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform. The website for this campaign is [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org). Trainings will be conducted in dioceses across the country, and, more broadly, efforts will be made towards educating Catholics about the call to "Welcome the Stranger."

### ***Mission Congress: Horizons and Possibilities***

From October 13-16 of 2005, in Tucson, Arizona, the US Catholic Mission Association will host a Mission Congress. The event will involve a one-day trip across the border with Borderlinks. Keynote speakers will include John Fife and others. Among the speakers are Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, Eva Lumas, SSS, Patrick Byrne, SVD, Michel Andraos, and Bishop Kevin Dowling (South Africa). A number of presenters will lead the participants in reflection on faith and culture,

reconciliation and transformation. Roberto Chené and Irma Isip are the facilitators. The 400 participants will include: parish twinning groups; religious and lay missionaries; mission office and Society for the Propagation of Faith personnel; bishops; youth, guests. Every effort will be made to include people of cultural diversity. Registration materials and more information can be found at [uscatholicmission.org](http://uscatholicmission.org).



### ***Border Gathering following Mission Congress***

Just after the USCMA's Mission Congress (October 16-17 in Tucson), several organizations, including the Oblate JPIC Office, will convene a daylong, informational border gathering followed by a strategy session. Bishop Ramazzini of Guatemala is expected to address the group, as will local leaders of church-based border justice efforts. For more information, please contact Rebecca Phares through the Oblate JPIC Office.

### ***Africa Faith and Justice Annual Conference, October 16-17***

Immediately following the Mission Congress in Tucson, Arizona, the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) will hold its annual conference. This year, the theme will be: "Weaving a Response to AIDS in Africa." For more information, or to register, please visit <http://afjn.cua.edu>. The registration fee will be \$100 before September 15, and \$125 by October 5, 2005.

### ***The 8th Day Center for Justice 30th Anniversary***

The 8th Day Center will be celebrating its thirtieth anniversary with a gathering on Sunday, September 18th from 2pm to 5pm at the Teamsters Auditorium, in Chicago, Illinois. The Oblate JPIC Office is a member and supporter of the 8th day center, and we encourage Oblates and others to attend this gathering.

Please call 312-641-5151, or visit their website at [www.8thdaycenter.org](http://www.8thdaycenter.org) for more details. Tickets can be bought on the website for \$50 each.

## Oblate JPIC Office Participates in UN Event on Indigenous Rights in Bangladesh



*Fr. Joseph Gomes, OMI, Sanjeeb Drong, Mitali Chisim, Moloya Chism, and Fr. Séamus Finn, OMI*

The fourth session of the Permanent Forum took place from 16 to 27 May 2005 at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York. During the Forum, the Oblate Justice and Peace/ Integrity of Creation Office sponsored a successful viewing of the documentary “Behind the Green” about the situation of the Khasi and Garo peoples in Bangladesh. A downloadable copy of the flyer for this gathering, which explains many of the main issues involved, can be found on our website at [www.omiusajpic.org](http://www.omiusajpic.org).

Fr. Joseph Gomes, OMI and Sanjeeb Drong, a close collaborator of the Oblates, attended his gathering along with Fr. Seamus Finn, OMI and Moloya Chisim. Sanjeeb and Moloya are both indigenous leaders from Bangladesh who work closely with Oblates there.

The theme of the fourth session of the Permanent Forum is: “Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples”, with special emphasis on Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and Hunger and Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.

### ***Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh: Why an Eco-Park on Khasi and Garo Ancestral Lands?***

“We are children of the forest. We were born here and grew up here. We have been living here for

hundreds of years. Cultivating of betel leaf is our our main livelihood. We will not leave this forest. We cannot survive if we are evicted from the forest in the name of this Eco-Park.” Anil Young Eyung, a Khasi leader. The Bangladesh

government plans to establish an Eco-park in the Moulvibazar district which will take up more than 1500 acres of indigenous people’s land for tourism. The government did not consult with the local

people about the park. The film Behind the Green (duration 33 minutes) is made on the historic struggle of the Khasi and Garo people for their ancestral homeland in Bangladesh. The JPIC Office has copies available.

## US-Mexico Bishops' Migration Conference

Bob Wright, OMI

Participants at a binational conference on June 23-26 in El Paso, Texas, sponsored by the migration committees of the bishops of Mexico and the United States found that there is surprising agreement in the United States on one thing: the current U.S. policy on immigration is broken and greatly in need of being fixed. In a poll conducted in March of this year, two months before the McCain-Kennedy bill, seeking to comprehensively address the immigration issue, was introduced in Congress, more than three-in-four likely voters agreed that 1) the immigration system is broken; 2) if an immigrant has been in this country working, paying taxes, and learning English, there should be a way for him or her to become a citizen; and 3) fixing our immigration system to make it safe, legal, and orderly will make us more secure from terrorists. There was solid bipartisan support (more than 60%) of the likely electorate for each of the following proposals which are included in the McCain-Kennedy bill: 1) registration of undocumented workers as temporary guest workers; 2) temporary work visas for seasonal and temporary workers; 3) a multi-year process for newly-registered workers to apply for

legal residency and eventual citizenship; 4) no preferential treatment of newly-registered workers for citizenship; 5) tougher penalties for workers or employers who violate these laws; 6) a priority on reuniting close family members. In their June meeting, the United States bishops apparently agreed

[www.justiciaparalosinmigrantes.org](http://www.justiciaparalosinmigrantes.org)) and hope to have parish kits available by August. One of the national staff working with this effort stated that a particular challenge would be bringing this message to the "new growth" areas in the U.S., where tensions over immigration are often rapidly escalating, since in

### Some observations on immigration from Stephen Moore of the Wall Street Journal's editorial board...

- ◆ **The latest U.S. Census Bureau data confirm that America is in the midst of one of the most dramatic demographic transformations in our nation's history.**
- ◆ **Over the past quarter-century the percentage of the U.S. population that is foreign born has about doubled from 6.2% in 1980 to 12% today.**
- ◆ **The 1980s and '90s were two of the fastest economic growth decades in American history**
- ◆ **Since 1980 the U.S. has taken in more than twice the number of immigrants of any other industrialized nation, yet we have the second lowest unemployment rate.**

to endorse the McCain-Kennedy bill.

Although the current political climate in the United States focusing on national security and the current composition of the U.S. Congress tend to dampen hopes that a truly just revision of the immigration laws will come about at this time, the U.S. bishops are launching a national campaign for immigration reform, "Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope." They are steadily improving websites for this campaign in both English and Spanish ([www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

many of these places, especially in the South, established Catholic social action networks are lacking. The campaign is viewed as a "long haul" effort, to extend over several years, and will try to seek in the first place to better educate Catholics themselves on Catholic social doctrine about immigration. These initiatives are certainly important for Missionary Oblate ministry in the United States. At our national convocation in Albuquerque, the issue of immigration was recognized as one of our top

priorities. And at our convocation in Nashville, the first priority to be listed was that of seeking to bring about a more just and culturally sensitive pattern of global relations.

Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez, and U.S. Representative Silvestre Reyes (Democrat-El Paso), former section chief of the Border Patrol in Texas, both of whom made presentations and answered questions at the conference, agreed that the current immigration policy is broken. They also agreed with the basic principles on immigration staked out by the bishops of the United States and Mexico in their joint statement of January 2003, *Strangers No Longer / Ya No Somos Extranjeros*. Those principles are: 1) persons have the right to find opportunities in their own homeland; 2) persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families; 3) sovereign nations have the right to control their borders; 4) refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection; and 5) the human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected. Also speaking on the final afternoon of the conference was Senator John Cornyn (Republican-Texas), but I had to leave



before the delayed session with him. It would have been interesting to hear Senator Cornyn, who is one of the principal sponsors of another plan being drafted, answering questions from persons who assist immigrants on a daily basis.

Besides the dozen or so bishops from both countries attending the conference – including Cardinal McCarrick of Washington, D.C., and Bishop Samuel Reyes, retired bishop of Chiapas – there were about 150 other participants, mostly persons involved in Catholic efforts in Mexico and the United States to provide direct ministry and advocacy on behalf of immigrants. The participation by bishops, priests, religious and laity from both countries proved to be very enlightening and enriching.

Doug Massey (Princeton University), author of a highly-praised analysis of Mexican immigration entitled

*Beyond Smoke and Mirrors*, pointed out that the rapidly increasing Mexican population in the U.S. coincides with and is indeed largely due to two policy decisions in 1986. In that year Mexico abandoned its longtime policy of supporting locally produced basic goods (for example,

as beneficial to Mexico on the whole, even the general agricultural sector, but acknowledged that proper compensatory policies had not been established by previous Mexican administrations to moderate its adverse impact on local grain production, which has led

the U.S. is the new immigration act of 1986 and the subsequent militarization of the border, which severely restricts the possibility of easily going back and forth between countries. As a result significantly more migrants are opting to remain permanently in the U.S. than was the case

previously, which is a major factor in the Latino population explosion and the increased presence of undocumented persons with all of the accompanying social



*Crosses at the US/Mexico Border with Tijuana commemorate those who have died at the border.*

grain) over imports, as a necessary condition for entering into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) under U.S. pressure. That major shift, further advanced by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) finally enacted in 1994, left very important segments of the rural Mexican economy in havoc. The Foreign Minister of Mexico, Luis Derbez, defended NAFTA

to a real crisis which the current administration is trying to address. He asserted that an essential dimension of the issue is the internal economy of Mexico: that country cannot demand that all the solutions come solely from the U.S.

Several speakers from both sides of the border emphasized that a second major reason for the rapidly rising population of Latino, especially Mexican, immigrants in

issues. And yet, according to research by Massey and others, for all the increased border militarization, the probability of apprehension of the undocumented by federal agents has dropped to a 40-year low. To avoid the employer penalties enacted by the 1986 immigration act and still obtain cheaper immigrant labor, businesses such as WalMart have shifted to labor contractors, who often do

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## Response of OMI JPIC to the AIDS Pandemic

*Séamus P. Finn, OMI*

The response of the OMI JPIC ministry to the AIDS pandemic and the opportunistic diseases of Malaria and TB, was launched in 2000. It has been organized in three areas:

- 1) Addressing multinational pharmaceutical corporations
- 2) Addressing multinational corporations that have a significant presence in regions where the disease infection rate is very high
- 3) Advocating and Networking in coalition with religious organizations civil society and other NGO's, for a generous sustained response by the US government

Areas one and two have been organized through the OMI our Socially Responsible Investment Program in collaboration with the coalition of faith-based investors at the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility [www.iccr.org](http://www.iccr.org). This work is carried out through active exercise of our ownership of shares in these companies and through meetings and dialogues with management and directors of these corporations.

Area three is organized through coalitions and networks that we have joined in Washington, DC.

### **Pharmaceutical Companies**

The following priorities are a part of our advocacy and dialogues with pharmaceutical companies based both in the U.S. and in Europe. This is an evolving list of priorities, which have been identified through research and in consultation with colleagues and collaborators in different regions of the world, because of the changing nature of the identified needs and the various challenges which people and communities confront depending on where they live.

#### *1. Pricing Policies*

We ask companies to publicly support increased access and supply of required drug treatments, primarily through the UN Global Fund for AIDS. This can be largely achieved through substantially lower prices of medicines in developing countries. All company products that can address the emergency health crises of HIV/AIDS, TB and

Malaria should be reduced in price.

In addition, we ask companies to develop a policy for a systematic, transparent, segmented, global pricing structure for HIV/AIDS products in all regions that are severely impacted by the pandemic.

#### *2. Patent Rights*

Companies are asked to refrain from enforcing patents in developing countries where enforcement will exacerbate health problems, and to make a public statement of this intention.

We ask companies to support lifting the Trade Related Intellectual Property (TRIPS) restrictions on the export of generic versions of patented medicines to developing countries, where a patent is not in force, in line with the World Trade Organization Doha Declaration.

Companies are asked to refrain from lobbying for trade agreements that seek to weaken the WTO Doha Declaration by lobbying governments for stronger patent protection than that mandated by TRIPS, or for weaker public health safeguards.

*3. Joint Public Private Initiatives (JPPI's)*  
JPPI's focus on the most vulnerable sectors of society, so that pricing policies of companies ensure that products developed as part of a JPPI are affordable to developing countries.

The company provides transparent information on its involvement in the governance of JPPI's, including details of any conditions.

The company ensures that its JPPI's integrate with and strengthen national health systems and report on their impact.

#### *4. Research and Development (R&D)*

Companies are urged to support and participate in JPPI's that address R&D for infectious diseases and to forego patent rights in developing countries for drugs used for infectious diseases that are developed under JPPI's.

Companies are encouraged to explore creative approaches to funding for R & D for diseases prevalent in developing countries and for medicines for their treatment.

### 5. *PhRMA's (Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association) Lobbying Position on Patents*

Companies are urged to support lobbying positions advocated by PHARMA at the US Congress and WTO to facilitate greater access to medicines for infectious diseases in developing countries.

Pharmaceutical companies were addressed in 2004-2005 include: Abbott Laboratories, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Caremark Rx, (MedPartners), GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Lilly (Eli) and Company, Merck, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline.

### ***Multinational Corporations***

In dialogues with non-pharmaceutical companies the emphasis is on assessing and reporting on how the HIV/AIDS pandemic affects and will affect the companies business and what measures a company is taking to combat the disease and its effects.

Issues on the agenda include:

- Offer complete care, including ARV treatment, to any HIV+ employees and their dependents.
- Implement effective workplace policies to prevent the spread of HIV,

including strict nondiscrimination and confidentiality policies and full-scale prevention efforts.

- Evaluate company operations to ensure they do not contribute to the spread of the epidemic (i.e. use of same sex workforces, migrant labor, etc.).
- Partner with other corporations and with governments to increase access to health services and mitigate the impact of the pandemic.
- Evaluate the impact of the Pandemic on the company's markets, consumers, workforce, and so on, using the best case, worst case, and most likely scenarios.
- Empower a Board Committee to receive and monitor reports on Pandemic and the company's interventions to contain it.

Action taken with regard to non-pharmaceutical companies included the following corporations, among others: American International Group, Caterpillar, Chevron Texaco Corp, Coca Cola, Colgate Palmolive Co., ExxonMobil Corp., Ford Motor Co., General Motors Co. PepsiCo, Placer Dome, Procter & Gamble Co., Texas Instruments.

A push for HIV Reporting has meant

pressing for companies to issue a report analyzing the impact of HIV/AIDS on the company, as well as their response to the HIV/AIDS crisis.

### ***Advocacy & Networking***

In his 2003 State of the Union address President Bush announced the audacious plan to spend \$15 billion over five years. The bulk of the Bush administration's overseas spending against the epidemic is weighted toward the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Some funding however is also directed to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria which is a multilateral collaborative effort of many countries

Advocacy efforts in Washington are focused on monitoring the annual appropriations requests which the White House recommends for the PEPFAR program and for the Global Fund. Working together religious organizations and other NGO's have organized an effective grassroots constituency that is ready to contact legislators in their home districts to advocate for increased funding as the appropriation process takes place. Advocacy was instrumental in passing an amendment that ap-

proved \$800 million as the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund. A good example of how this process works is recorded in the spring 2005 update from the Global Aids Alliance in Washington DC.

[www.globalaidsalliance.org/Spring\\_2005\\_newsletter.cfm](http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/Spring_2005_newsletter.cfm)

### ***New Campaign Focuses on Access to Affordable Generics***

Because India is now required to comply with WTO regulations on pharmaceutical patents a new advocacy campaign has been launched to protect the critical supply of low-cost generic medications for people with HIV/AIDS and other diseases across the developing world. India was the most important supplier of generics for HIV/AIDS. The monthly cost of a generic AIDS drug cocktail is about \$30, compared to \$500-\$750 for drugs sold by major pharmaceutical companies, and roughly half of the 700,000 people receiving ARV treatment in poor countries rely on Indian generics.

*This report in its unedited form, with further resources for more information can be found at [omi.usajpic.org](http://omi.usajpic.org).*



## The G-8 Debt Deal: First Step on a Long Journey

*Debayani Kar and Neil Watkins*

*Reprinted from Foreign Policy In Focus  
www.fpiif.org*

Jubilee campaigns and debt cancellation advocates can be proud of their efforts. The Finance Ministers of the eight rich-country governments as represented at the Group of 8 (G-8) have announced a deal on 100% debt cancellation of International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and African Development Fund debt for some impoverished nations. But much more work remains to be done to achieve the full Jubilee vision of debt cancellation for all impoverished countries and countries in crisis, without harmful economic conditions.

The debt deal enacts 100% cancellation to these creditors for 18 countries in the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. The other 20 countries that are part of the HIPC Initiative will be eligible for debt cancellation on much less favorable terms: only after reaching the “completion point” in the HIPC Initiative; to reach this point, these nations must adhere to

economic policy conditions which have been detrimental to growth and poverty eradication. The HIPC Initiative was set up by the IMF and World Bank to address the severe debt burdens of impoverished countries. The limited debt relief delivered under HIPC created the need for this G-8 agreement.



Efforts by campaigners and people of faith and conscience all across the U.S. and around the world over the past several years helped result in this important first step on debt.

### ***Precedents Set***

Several important precedents were set by the G-8 agreement. First, the principle of 100% multilat-

eral debt cancellation was established. Up until this point, the HIPC Initiative allowed only partial relief – on average 33% reductions in debt service payments for eligible nations.

Second, the debt stock cancellation approach won out over a more limited approach put forward by

the US carried the day.

Another important step was inclusion of debt of the qualifying countries to the IMF, which had been in danger of not being included. In April the U.S. government had taken IMF debt cancellation off the table at the G-8 negotiations due to their opposition to utilizing IMF gold sales to finance that cancellation. Campaigners mobilized to highlight the unacceptable nature of this important missing piece, which helped to include IMF debt in the final G-8 deal.

It is important to acknowledge victories when they happen. But it is important to put the G-8 deal in proper perspective. The G-8 deal on 100% debt cancellation, though a critical first step, falls well short of what is necessary to conclusively end the debt crisis facing impoverished nations. There have unfortunately been many premature announcements in the media claiming that the G-8 deal represents full debt cancellation for Africa and the global South.

### ***More Work Ahead***

After this weekend, our work is not done. Too



many impoverished nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America will continue to pay more in debt service than they spend on health care and education.

Nigeria for instance will continue to spend \$1.7 billion a year on debt service payments. Last year, this amount devoted to debt service payments was five times what Nigeria spent on education and 13 times that spent on health. The four Latin American nations included among the 18 beneficiaries – Bolivia, Guyana, Honduras, and Nicaragua — will still pay a total of almost \$1.4 billion in debt service over the next five years to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The government of Guyana put out a statement Tuesday urging the full cancellation of their IDB debt.

For the 20 HIPC countries beyond the 18 that have now qualified for cancellation, it could take years before they become eligible for cancellation. After all, it took the 18 countries included in the G-8 proposal eight years to satisfactorily implement the harmful economic conditions mandated in the HIPC process and thereby reach “completion point”. In order to progress

to these points, nations must draft and have the IMF/World Bank approve Poverty Reduction Strategy papers (PRSPs) and be in compliance with conditions on other World Bank and IMF loan agreements, including the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) of the IMF. PRSPs and PRGF loans contain hundreds of policy conditions that nations must enact in order to qualify for debt cancellation. Jubilee USA and social movements oppose the linking of debt cancellation to countries’ implementation of such economic policies.

These economic policies include privatization of government-run services and other entities, increased trade liberalization, and budgetary spending restrictions, as mandated by the IMF and World Bank. These policies have not been proven to increase per capita income growth or reduce poverty as found in research by the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Jubilee USA and social movements clearly call for these conditions and policies to be abandoned.

***Left Out of the Deal***  
Beyond the 38 countries

contained in the HIPC Initiative, there are dozens of other countries in urgent need of 100% debt cancellation that the G-8 deal leaves out. As the Jubilee Debt Campaign and Christian Aid have identified, there are 62 low-income countries that need full debt cancellation to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The \$56 billion in debt stock being cancelled under the current G-8 agreement amounts to less than 10% of the total external debt of all low-income countries that need 100% cancellation to meet the MDGs. The World Bank itself identifies 26 middle-income countries as having “severe” debt burdens, including Indonesia and Ecuador. Governments in non-HIPC countries such as Kenya have expressed in recent days their disappointment in being excluded from the G-8 deal.

Jubilee South identifies many more countries that require the cancellation of their odious or illegitimate debts. In advocating the cancellation of Iraq’s debt, the U.S. government had made the argument that loans contracted by undemocratic regimes which worked to the detriment of

their populations should be annulled. This odious debt argument applies to debts contracted by the apartheid regime in South Africa, by Mobutu Sse Seko in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, the military junta in Argentina, and many more.

Some G-8 nations have argued they have limited the country list because further cancellation is unaffordable. But resources exist to finance this further debt cancellation.. One financing option that had been proposed by the U.K. government was the limited sale of the IMF’s gold reserves, which the IMF demonstrated as being feasible in a March report. Another potential resource at the international financial institutions is the accumulated and future profits of the World Bank. Drawing funds from the IMF’s low-income lending arm is another possibility, which apparently the U.S. considered during the course of the negotiations.

None of this should take away from the significance of the G-8 deal for the 18 countries that qualified for 100% cancellation. Debt relief to date has

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## Social Justice Movies: Some titles to check out

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Many of us prefer to get information about social justice issues ranging from the death penalty to immigration, to genocide from documentaries and from films that tell a story. The most recent **Blueprint for Social Justice** issue listed films submitted by their readers as the best socially aware films out there. We have included here a short selection of the titles of some of the movies suggested. The magazine includes extensive descriptions, so go to <http://www.loyno.edu/twomey> in order to learn more about these films. If you would like to subscribe to that publication, please e-mail [blueprint@loyno.edu](mailto:blueprint@loyno.edu) in order to subscribe.

**The Battle of Algiers** (1965 - 125 minutes) Focuses on Algeria's struggle for independence from France.

**Bloody Sunday** (2002 - 110 minutes) Depicts Irish massacre of 1972, nominated for Independent Spirit Awards.

**City of God** (2002 - 130 minutes) Tells the story of several people who live in a housing project in Rio de Janeiro.

**Cry Freedom** (1987-159 minutes) In segregated South Africa, unlikely friends work together to end Apartheid.

**Dead Man Walking** (1995 - 122 minutes) Sr. Helen Prejean ministers to a man about to be put to death for murder.

**El Norte** (1983 - 139 minutes) Guatemalan peasants make the journey North, to the United States

**Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story** (1996 - 110 minutes) Tells the story of the spiritual journey of Day.

**Gandhi** (1982 - 190 minutes) Awe-inspiring story of the Indian lawyer who became a symbol of nonviolence.

**Hotel Rwanda** (2005 - 122 minutes) Amid the holocaust of Rwanda, one man musters the courage to save 1000.

**In This World** (2003 - 88 minutes) Two Afghan cousins become refugees and embark on a clandestine odyssey.

**Iron Jawed Angels** (2004 - 124 minutes) Fiery young suffragettes band together to change the U.S. constitution.

**Johnny Got His Gun** (1971 -111 minutes) In WWI, a young American soldier loses his limbs, remembers his life.

**The Long Walk Home** (1990 - 98 minutes) A housewife in Montgomery, Alabama gets involved in civil rights work.

**Maria Full of Grace** (2004 - 101 minutes) A Colombian woman becomes involved with drug trafficking, awards won.

**Matewan** (1987 - 142 minutes) A union organizer travels to West Virginia in 1920 and touches off violence.

**Milagro Beanfield War** (1988 - 120 minutes) New Mexican farmers face off against a local resort owner.

**Missing** (1982 -123 min.) An American expatriate vanishes in a South American country, exposes Chile's dictatorship.

**Mission** (1986 - 125 minutes) A Jesuit missionary establishes a church in the hostile jungles of Brazil (circa 1750).

**Motorcycle Diaries** (2004 - 128 min.) A young Che Guevara travels across South America.

**Rabbit-Proof Fence** (2002 - 93 min.) Australia's aboriginal integration program of the 1930s broke countless hearts.

**Romero** (1989 - 102 minutes) The inspiring story of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador.

**Veronica Guerin** (2003 - 98 minutes) Real life story of a Dublin reporter who explores the world of drug lords.

### Documentaries:

**Amandla! An Evolution in 4-Part Harmony** (2002 - 103 minutes) Music and political change in South Africa.

**American Dream** (1991 - 102 minutes) Unsettling account of months long strike at Hormel in Minnesota (1984).

**Control Room** (2004 - 83 minutes) Focuses on controversial and dangerous operations of Al Jazeera news network.

**The Corporation** (2004 -145 minutes) Charts the spectacular rise of corporations as a dramatic presence in our lives.

**A Day's Work; A Day's Pay** (2001 - 57 minutes) Follows welfare recipients in NYC in a welfare-to-work program.

**The Farm: Life Inside Angola Prison** (1998 - 100 minutes) Focuses on life in a Louisiana Prison - award winning.

**Hearts and Minds** (1974 - 112 minutes) Academy Award winning - Critical of US actions during the Vietnam War.

**The Hidden Face of Globalization** (2003 - 34 minutes) Documents lives and working conditions in Bangladesh.

**Life and Debt** (2001 - 86 minutes) Documentary examines impact of World Bank, etc. on the Jamaican economy.

**The Lost Boys of Sudan** (2003 - 87 minutes) Follows two Sudanese refugees throughout their intense journey.

**Panama Deception** (1992 - 91 minutes) Examines motivation behind the 1989 invasion of Panama by the U.S.

**The Tuskegee Airmen** (2003 - 60 minutes) Examines these African-American soldiers' efforts to combat racism.

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## Slavery Today: Human Trafficking

by Mary O'Herron

Human trafficking is the practice of moving people usually against their wills from one place to another. Estimates claim that between 800,000 and 900,000 people are taken across international borders annually and forced to work in factories, fields, as domestic servants or used for sexual purposes. Between 18,000 and 20,000 are brought into the U.S. each year. Over half of those trafficked each year are children.

Unsophisticated and poor people — particularly woman and girls — are enticed by the prospect of high-paying jobs. Upon reaching their destination, victims' documents are often taken and they are made work to pay "debts" incurred in their transport. Sexual exploitation, beating and other abuse is frequently involved. Human trafficking is second only to drug trafficking as a criminal endeavor and is increasing at a great rate.

The following information may be helpful if you are concerned that someone is a victim of human trafficking.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services suggests the following signs to look for and questions to ask:

Evidence of being controlled/accompanied by another person who seems to dominate

Evidence of inability to move, leave a job or even allowed in public unaccompanied

Bruises or other signs of physical abuse

Fear, depression, submissiveness

Not speaking on own behalf and/or non English-speaking

No passport or other identification

What type of work do you do?

Are you being paid?

Can you keep what you earn or is someone holding it for you?

Can you leave your job if you want to?

Can you come and go as you please?

Have you or your family been threatened?

What are your working and living conditions like?

Where do you sleep and eat?

Do you have to ask permission to eat/sleep/go to the bathroom?

Are there locks on your doors/windows so you cannot get out?

Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?

For children:

Why did you come to the US?

What did you expect when you came?

Were you scared?

Do you have any papers?

Who has them?  
Are you in school?

Are you working?

Can you leave if you want?

Where do you live?

Who else lives there?

Are you scared to leave?

Has anybody ever threatened you to keep you from running away?

Did anyone ever touch you or hurt you?



### If you suspect someone may be a victim of human trafficking:

*Call the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline 1-888-373-7888*

### Other Resources:

*US Department of Health and Human Services – [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)*

*Protection Project — [www.protectionproject.org](http://www.protectionproject.org)*

*Pray for the victims, those trying to stop human trafficking and those benefiting from it.*

### *G-8 Debt Relief*

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worked. The limited debt relief so far has doubled poverty alleviation expenditures in the countries that received it. Savings from debt relief have more than doubled school enrollment in Uganda, provided 3 extra years of school for Honduran children, and provided resources to fight against HIV/AIDS in Mali, Mozambique, Senegal and

Cameroon. 100% debt cancellation for 18 countries means real resources for real people. But as Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane of South Africa noted: "Our objective is a clean slate - a total cancellation of odious and unpayable debts owed by African countries." The G-8 deal has fallen short on this and other measures, and the global Jubilee movement will continue to

work to break the chains of debt in the global South. While we celebrate an important step forward, only full debt cancellation will fulfill the Jubilee vision of a world where external debt no longer diverts resources from impoverished people or constrains policy choices. For a full analysis of the G-8 deal, see [www.jubileeusa.org](http://www.jubileeusa.org).

*Continued from page 5...*  
not provide benefits to their workers. The result has been that wages earned by undocumented laborers since 1986 have remained largely unchanged, while those of documented workers have decreased. Thus in the U.S. labor force the proportion of undocumented workers with no labor rights is increasing while that of documented workers with labor rights is decreasing.

Particularly striking was the great concern among Mexican pastoral agents about the treatment of Central Americans in Mexico. Most of the questions posed to the Mexican Foreign Minister were from his own nationals on this issue. Mr. Derbez acknowledged that law enforcement and political processes in Mexico are still too tainted by the deep-seated culture of corruption there, but he encouraged the participants to help victims denounce the perpetrators, whether officials or people-smugglers, to the authorities. Some participants noted, however, that in many cases the authorities were precisely the problem. Mr. Derbez shared how this is not just a policy issue for him, since his own sister runs an immigrant hospitality house in San Luis Potosi which he has often visited.

Several speakers from Mexico emphasized how part of the ministry among migrants has to be a minis-



*Left to right: Frank Betz, Rueben Cooley, President, Joe Jukubiak, Mike Kintzel, Sam Smith.*

The men in this photo are members of St. John Fisher parish in West Palm Beach, FL., the site of Fr. Darrell Rupiper, OMI's first Ecological Mission. Pat Hilgardner, the liason with Fr. Darrell, informed us that the Men's group took an important step in caring for Earth by replacing hundreds of plastic disposable table settings used in the parish hall with reusable ones. Bravo!

Pat also participated in the organization of a clean-up of West Palm Beach for Earth day. She writes: "No effort is too small. Over time each small step can lead to saving God's beautiful masterpiece, "the planet Earth" for future generations to marvel at." Fr. Darrell has given his mission in 25 parishes. At this time he has another 13 scheduled. Contact him at 760-469-7323.



try among the families back in their home towns which have been weakened by their departure. Some pastoral agents from the U.S. Midwest shared how they help facilitate communications between migrants and the families which they have left behind. On the “sending” end, an American priest working fulltime among the migrant-sending communities for a diocese in Michoacan shared how he was facilitating the contacting of Mexican migrants in the United States by U.S. pastoral agents by working through their families in Michoacan. Fr. Dan Groody (University of Notre Dame) shared how a culturally adapted Cursillo-type ministry among immigrants in the Coachella Valley of California by one of his Holy Cross elders effectively addressed their strong experience of marginalization and loneliness in this country and their questioning of their purpose or actual accomplishments. Another speaker emphasized that those who hire immigrants needed to learn their stories, to see them as equal persons and not just as less expensive laborers.

Bishop Samuel Ruiz asserted that in order to address the root causes of migration people needed to be sensitized to the reality that the increasing migration worldwide is an effect of the globalization of poverty by neoliberal economics and politics. From his own experience in Chiapas, he

## Community Organizing Along the Texas Border

*John Lasseigne, OMI*

Parishioners at St. John the Baptist Parish in San Juan, Texas, have been active recently in a number of political and legislative issues affecting families.

The parish belongs to Valley Interfaith, a local non-partisan political association that trains church members to take responsibility for their communities.

Many of the parish’s activities have focused on Austin, where the 79<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Texas State Legislature opened in January 2005.

In the last few months, hundreds of St. John’s parishioners have written letters and made phone calls to their state legislators.

They asked legislators to preserve the “Robin Hood” law, which redistributes property tax moneys from rich school districts to poorer school districts.

The local school district, known as Pharr-San Juan-Alamo (PSJA),

believes that some of the gangs (not all) which are becoming an increasingly serious problem in Mexico and are harassing defenseless immigrants are actually paramilitary operations. In recent days, the turf wars

depends on redistributed tax money to meet the needs of its poor, but rapidly growing student population.

St. John’s parishioners have also called on state lawmakers to restore funding cuts made in 2003 to the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). More than half the children in San Juan do not have adequate health insurance.

The parish’s Catholics also urged legislators to reject several bills that would legalize and tax casino gambling and video slot machines.

In February, St. John’s pastor, Fr. John Lasseigne, OMI, testified before the House Ways and Means Committee of the Texas Legislature about the harm legalized gambling has caused to his home state of Louisiana since the early 1990s.

As can be seen from their legislative agenda, Valley Interfaith leaders from poor cities like San

and escalating violence of these gangs along the Mexican side of the border have gained international attention.

In a very informative workshop on how to

Juan have needed to fight mostly defensive battles.

Many have noted that conservative, corporate-sponsored politicians—mostly, though not only Republicans—currently control every branch of the Texas state government, including the legislature and the governor’s mansion.

Closer to home, St. John’s Parish organized an accountability session for school board and San Juan city candidates on April 14.

At the accountability session, parish leaders asked candidates to take a stand on a number of issues, including improved sewage and trash pick-up services and greater school safety.

In the weeks following the session, the parish’s Valley Interfaith leaders then conducted a “get out the vote” drive to encourage residents to vote in the May 7 elections.

The leaders were especially pleased with the higher than usual voter turnout in the city races.

advocate for immigration reform, Doug Rivlin of the National Immigration Forum made several recommendations. For 80% of the likely U.S. electorate, immigration is not a top priority issue.

*Continued from page 13*

Half of those 80% say to keep the level of legal immigration as it is, the other half say to reduce it. It is these two groups whom advocates of a better immigration policy need to address, not the 10% on either end who say either totally eliminate immigration or increase the level of immigration. To do this effectively, the public dialogue on immigration should do the following things: 1) define the real problem, rather than letting others misrepresent it (e.g., national security, we're being overrun by immigrants, etc.): the current system is broken, it is not working for either those trying to prevent immigration nor those trying to treat immigrants humanely; immigration laws are colliding with reality and reality is winning; 2) attacking the anti-immigrant group (10% of likely voters) is counterproductive (i.e., calling them 'racist,' 'xenophobic,' etc.); 3) rather give the solution: we need to have a certain level of immigration to support our economy (Congress, business, labor unions all agree), and immigration needs to be properly controlled, so that it is known who is entering the country and so that those entering are safe and respected; 4) speak of the values that immigrants really represent — hard-working, tax-paying,

wanting to play by the rules, usually having strong families — and that they are not going to disappear; 5) speak to the values of who we have historically been as a country and church: a nation of immigrants, a land of opportunity, a beacon of hope not based on where you came from (all of our ancestors were given this opportunity); 6) distinguish between the U.S. sense of law which makes undocumented immigrants illegal and the natural and divine law which gives people the right to migrate for a better life while respecting a nation's right to preserve its own society; 7) do not advocate amnesty for the undocumented, but rather a path for them toward earned legalization; 8) for the general public audience, stay away from too many facts and figures, people want the gut issues; 9) in dialoguing with politicians and making public statements, it is more effective to work ecumenically (evidencing broad-based support).

A website is being established by the bishops along the Texas-Mexico border:

[www.texmexbishops.com](http://www.texmexbishops.com).

The Casas de Migrantes sponsored by the Mexican Church along the entire stretch of its border with the U.S. have a communications website

[www.migracion.org.mx](http://www.migracion.org.mx).

## Legislative and Advocacy Updates

### *Immigration Bill Introduced*

On May 12, a broad coalition of Republicans and Democrats led by Senators John McCain and Edward Kennedy introduced an immigration bill which would allow for a legal means of entry and eventually would permit immigrants to become citizens if they choose to.

While this bill is not perfect, it is worth supporting because it represents a viable alternative for undocumented people crossing into and living in the United States.

Please let your representatives know that you are in favor of comprehensive immigration reform such as that offered by this bill, which has received bill number H.R.2330.IH in the House and S.1033.IS in the Senate.

### *Important Hunger Legislation*

Urge your senators and representatives to cosponsor the Hunger-Free Communities Act of 2005 (S. 1120 in the Senate, H.R. 2717 in the House) and to oppose cutting funding or compromising the entitlement status of the Food Stamp Program.

Some points to make to them:

- Hunger has increased in the United States. More than 36 million people - including 13 million children - live in households that struggle to put food on the table.
- The national nutrition programs are the fastest, most direct way to prevent hunger.
- With leadership at the national and community levels, we can cut hunger by half in 2010 and end it by 2015

### *Have you added your support to the Pax Christi Iraq War Sign-On Statement?*

Pax Christi staff write: Three years of occupation and war in Iraq have left more than 1,600 U.S. soldiers dead, more than 10,000 wounded, and tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians dead and wounded. As people of faith, we believe that to honor the legacy of Pope John Paul II requires that we oppose this war and work tirelessly to bring the U.S. occupation to an end. We also affirm that our best efforts to assist the Iraqi people will not come through sustained military occupation, but through

determined humanitarian and political support as the country charts its new course through history.

Please visit the Pax Christi website at [paxchristiusa.org](http://paxchristiusa.org) in order to sign the statement.

### **CAFTA Alert**

As this newsletter goes

to print, the House of Representatives is preparing to consider the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Many peace and justice groups have opposed this agreement for many reasons among them: that CAFTA will likely drive small farmers in Central

America out of business, and that AIDS drugs will become increasingly unavailable with new regulations brought by CAFTA. From a moral perspective, it is clear that CAFTA fails John Paul II's test that those who can intervene to safeguard the dignity of the person must

do so. Instead, CAFTA intervenes to preserve the profits of pharmaceuticals, at the expense of human life itself. If CAFTA has not yet passed when you receive this newsletter, please let your legislators know of your stance on this important issue.

## Items from Bangladesh for Sale

The Oblates in Bangladesh continue to work with the indigenous Garo and Khasi people there. In an effort to raise much-needed financial resources they have produced crafts for sale. We appreciate the generous response to our sale of items last year.

To support this effort, the JPIC Office of the US Province has purchased more of these items and offers them to you at cost plus postage. Each item is made from a heavy fabric and is carefully crafted. A list of objects and the cost for each is below. Please contact the JPIC office at (202)483-0444 or [maryoh@omiusa.org](mailto:maryoh@omiusa.org) if you are interested in any of these items. In some cases, we have only a few of each item, but we will happily sell what we have as the requests arrive.

Item	Cost Each
Passport Holders	\$ 3 Unisex travel pouch with a thin fabric strap.
Shoulder Bags in 4 Sizes.	Each closes with a fold-over flap and has at least one zippered compartment:
	A. (7" x 9") \$6
	B. (9" x 9") \$7
	C. (9" x 11") \$8
	D. (10" X 14") \$9
Fold-over Wallets	\$2
Ladies Handbags:	\$8 (12" x 12") with fabric handles and zippered closing
Computer Bags:	\$17 (12" x 13") with shoulder strap and several compartments
Placemat and Table Runner Set:	\$30 The set contains 6 placemats (14" x 21") and 1 runner (14" x 60").

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Please visit our new website at  
[www.omiusajpic.org](http://www.omiusajpic.org)

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How can we not think with profound regret of the drama unfolding in Iraq, which has given rise to tragic situations of uncertainty and insecurity for all.

*Pope John Paul II*



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