

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

August, 2008



A CALL TO POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY

An election year reminds us of our roles and duties as citizens and voters, as well as the challenges that come with these roles. According to our Catholic tradition, the fact that we are citizens of a democratic society and of the world, we have a moral obligation to work for the common good of our community, nation and planet.

The beliefs that every human is made in God's image and that every other person is "bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh" calls each of us to work for a society where all persons are free, protected and equal and where each of us recognizes the stranger as neighbor.

As we prepare for the U.S. Presidential election we cannot put aside our latest commitment to addressing human trafficking, or our ongoing actions to live out of the U.N. Earth Charter, and the Millennium Development Goals. Have no doubt that what will take place in the voting booth will impact these issues, as well as the growing reality of poverty that is impacting not only our country, but the global community as well.

**ELECTION DAY 2008
MAY PROVE TO BE A DECISIVE
MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY WHEN A
GLOBAL VISION EMERGES THAT
WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
SHAPE.**



In the voting booth as in other places – we must follow our conscience, selecting the candidates, party, or propositions we believe represent the best moral choice, for we have a duty as people of faith and citizens to work for a just and moral society.

Before we mark our ballots, we must first do the hard work of getting the most accurate information regarding the critical issues facing our nation and the world. Our faith tradition calls us to evaluate the candidate's platforms, and their positions in terms of their contributions to the common good.

During Assembly days the publication “The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” was distributed for the purpose of using the document for study and discussion with others. We have included in this issue information on this website along with others that may be helpful to you as you further study the issues.

“Faithful Citizenship”: Resources for further study of this theme:

www.faithfulcitizenship.org

Center of Concern: Voting the Common Good, Election 2008

A good source for information on the issues. Also includes tools for analysis and evaluation of programs and candidates.

www.coc.org/election2008

Loving Our Neighbor in a Shrinking World

Election guide prepared by Maryknoll Global Concerns Office based on the principles of Catholic social tradition and gospel teachings, and experience of Maryknoll missionaries.

www.maryknollogc.org/2008elections

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good

Promotes awareness of the Catholic social tradition and its core values of justice, human dignity and the common good.

www.catholicsinalliance.org



COMING IN SEPTEMBER ISSUES AND ACTIONS:

We look forward to having Sister Ann Maureen share the highlights of her attendance at the “Platform for the Common Good” convention in Philadelphia. The purpose of the convention was to bring people representing religious and social justice communities, political leaders and social justice advocates, to develop a Platform for the Common Good based on real world concerns of people around our nation, and present this to both parties for incorporation into their 2008 platforms. This will be another excellent resource available to us as we prepare for Election 2008.

AUGUST DATES FOR REMEMBRANCE/PRAAYER/ACTION:

August 6 & 9th: Anniversaries of the dropping of the Atomic Bombs: Pray for peace and dialog among the peoples of the world.

August 23: International Day for the remembrance of the Abolition of the Slave Trade. This is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the stories we have heard on modern day slavery, and our commitment to take action on the issue of trafficking. Visit the Not For Sale website: www.notforsalecampaign.org/

View the DVD “Amazing Grace”: This is the actual movie edition shown in theaters. The story of William Wilberforce, a British statesman and his 20 year fight to abolish the British slave trade. It is an excellent example of the human virtue of conscience put into practice on behalf of others.

The DVD and study guide can be borrowed through our Peace and Justice Committee. Contact: Sister Elaine Marie Sanchez.

FOCUS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We, Sisters of the Holy Family and Associates, witness to the good news and stand against conditions that demean or undermine the dignity of persons or the sacredness of the family. We witness to each person’s dignity, worth and the right to a full human life and, at this time in our history, stand against the devastating evil of human trafficking. We stand with every woman, man and child who has been victimized by human trafficking and support their healing, restoration and re-integration into a life worthy of her/his human dignity. Thus,

We commit ourselves to continue raising our own awareness of human trafficking as well as the awareness of others.

We commit ourselves to finding creative ways to support those rescued from human trafficking.

We commit ourselves to supporting legislative action and advocacy on behalf of all caught in the web of human trafficking.



Submitted by the Peace and Justice Committee