

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

September, 2008



CONVENTION FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Submitted by Ann Maureen Murphy, SHF

“Come help chart a new vision for our country, one that is not based on narrow partisan agendas but a concern for the common good. Come help build a platform that addresses many of the pressing social justice issues of the day – health care, poverty, economic justice, immigration, global warming and promoting a culture of life. Come hear religious leaders, elected officials, and representatives of the social justice community discuss their vision of the common good. Come help shape a Platform for the Common Good that will be presented to both political parties, asking them to make sure our government reflects a commitment to the common good, not simply the interests of a privileged few. Join representatives of faith communities, social justice advocates and others as we launch a Campaign for the Common Good.”

This was our welcome to the Convention for the Common Good, July 11-13, 2008, which was held in Philadelphia! The Conveners of this conference were two groups –Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good and NETWORK.

I cannot begin to adequately describe the quality of the presenters and their presentations. The good news is that the five main sessions are on DVDs and the “breakout sessions” (Ecology, Economy, Health Care, Immigration, and War/Peace) are on CDs. These will soon be available for borrowing through our Peace and Justice Committee. It is the next best thing to attending the convention!

Our Sunday morning session was devoted to training all of the 800 delegates in attendance so that we could bring home all of the information we had received. Unbeknownst to us the conference’s website was changed that morning to www.votethecommongood.com. The first thing I did upon getting home was to practice the “8 in 08”! I set about e-mailing 8 Sisters and Associates, 8 at a time. Pat Petit was a major help in reaching all of the Associates. Thank you, Pat! If you haven’t had the opportunity to “Vote the Common Good” please go to the website listed above and read the Summary of the Platform and sign on if you are so inclined. We have over 5,000 supporters as I write this, and our goal is 10,000. This platform will be presented to both presidential candidates in the very near future.

My hope is that I may have at least whet your appetite to learn more about this Convention. The Convention planners took on a task that was almost beyond conception to me, and pulled off an unbelievable experience packed into one weekend. Please take a look at the website for more information. The Peace and Justice Committee will let all know when the DVDs and CDs are available to borrow.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND JOIN THIS MOVEMENT!



In the statement ***Forming Consciences for Citizenship***, the U.S. Bishops remind us that, “In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation” (No.5). The decisions we make as citizens about who leads us and what policies are enacted have important moral and ethical dimensions. The values of our faith should be our guide to public life. www.faithfulcitizenship.org



The work of NETWORK is rooted in the Catholic social justice tradition- encompassing Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, and the lived experience of Jesus and followers of the Gospel call for justice. NETWORK has prepared a chart that places both presidential candidates’ position within this framework. www.networklobby.org

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER
 September 15 through October 15 - National Hispanic Heritage Month
 September 21 - International Day of Peace

Submitted by the Peace and Justice Committee