

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

September, 2005



ENSURE THAT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS PROMOTE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN AN EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE MANNER

Earth Charter, III #10

Labor Day Message from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn and chairman of the USCCB Domestic Policy Committee... *“On Labor Day 2005, there are some daunting challenges to how we live the Gospel of Work, and how we respect the dignity of work and the rights of workers today,”* Bishop DiMarzio said. *“In this economy many are moving forward, reaping the rewards of their education, skills and hard work. Others can be left behind, hungry, homeless, or poor, often struggling with rent or paying for decent health insurance. Families in the middle can be one lost job, one major illness, one unanticipated setback away from serious economic trouble. As their children grow, parents are faced with balancing the costs of education and saving for their own retirement. Too many families find it difficult to reconcile the demands of work, the duties of family life, and the obligations of community and spiritual life.”*

(Entire text: <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2005/05-182.shtml>)



OIL USAGE IN THE US

Where does US oil come from? Is it time to change our foreign policy regarding importing oil from the Middle East?

Major companies that import Middle Eastern Oil

Shell.....	205,742,000 barrels
Chevron/Texaco.....	144,332,000 barrels
Exxon/Mobil.....	130,082,000 barrels
Marathon/Speedway. . .	117,740,000 barrels
Amoco.....	62,231,000 barrels

Large companies that do not import oil from the Middle East

Citgo.....	0 barrels
Sunoco.....	0
Sinclair.....	0
BP/Phillips.....	0
ARCO.....	0

These facts are available through the Department of Energy. Each company is required to state where they get their oil and how much they are importing.

Is it time to use our purchasing power in buying our gas from companies that do not rely on oil from the Middle East? It will mean a little research regarding what is available in your geographical location. If you are using a Congressional gas card you will notice that our card is accepted in some of these stations.

EXPOSING EXXON

For years, this Company has led the charge to deny the existence of global warming and fund \$15 million in junk science to cloud the policy debate. Exxon has refused to invest serious funds in clean energy technologies, despite raking in record profits at the expense of the American consumer.

Exxon persisted in pushing to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, when all other companies have pulled out of the pro-drilling coalition.

Exposing and changing ExxonMobil's irresponsible behavior is the mission of "Exxpose Exxon" a new campaign sponsored by a coalition of America's largest public interest and environmental groups. Check the website: www.ExxposeExxon.com

This site sheds light on the environmental track record of the world's largest and most profitable oil company.

SENATOR BOXER FIGHTS for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

After rebuffing repeated attempts by the administration to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to new oil drilling, the Senate finally succumbed and passed a budget bill that contained a rider allowing drilling in ANWR. As a result, Senator Barbara Boxer is organizing a consumer boycott of any oil company that decides to drill in the pristine Alaskan wilderness area.



To join Senator Boxer's boycott, visit her PAC for a Change website where you can write letters to the CEOs of BP, Shell, ChevronTexaco, ConocoPhillips, and ExxonMobil to let them know you disapprove of Arctic drilling as a solution to the nation's energy needs. Contact: Barbara Boxer's PAC for Change: <http://ga4.org/campaign/boycott>

RELIEF FOR HURRICANE KATRINA: Catholic Charities is providing food, shelter and other assistance to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in response to the devastation caused by the recent hurricane. If you wish to assist in the effort, make checks payable to Catholic Charities with notation, "Hurricane Katrina Relief" and mail directly to Catholic Charities USA, 1731 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Enclosed in this mailing is a brochure "Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty" from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). More information to follow in the October edition of *Issues and Actions*.