

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

May, 2006



IMMIGRATION

Today we live in a time where the Church’s voice on behalf of immigrants is more critically needed than ever before. A growing anti-immigrant sentiment is taking hold in this nation of immigrants, even among some Catholics who themselves trace their roots to the emigrant experience. We have the opportunity to live out our mission as advocates as we become better informed about the situation of immigrants and how our nation’s laws need to be changed to reflect a more just approach toward immigrants and immigration policy.



I PLEDGE TO

**Exhibit Gospel attitudes toward newcomers and encourage others to do the same;
Be an advocate on behalf of justice for immigrants;
Join the Immigrant Justice Action Network.**

Join the Network by Logging onto Justice for Immigrant Campaign Website at www.Justiceforimmigrants.org

TAKING ACTION IN BEHALF OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Yes, it’s true. We are all making difference in the many ways we have committed ourselves to living out the principles of the Earth Charter. Still, there are always new ideas as additional information comes forward. We are always open to any new ideas you may have. Just send them on to the Social Concerns Committee, and we will include them in Issues and Actions.

Here are a few of the “oldies” with some fresh ideas.

- Skip one car trip a week. Carpool, take public transportation, walk
- Shift from salmon, especially Atlantic salmon. See Seafood Watch at www.MontereyBayAquarium.org
- Stop junk mail; www.StopJunkMail.org
- Green your spring cleaning; www.seventhgeneration.com
- Buy locally and organically grown produce
- Plant a garden with heirloom and organic seeds or plants; www.seedsofchange.com
- Replace one beef meal
- Use low-cost water savers
- Use energy-efficient light bulbs
- Move the thermostat by 3 degrees
- Eliminate pesticides
- Inspire two friends to **TAKE ACTION**

WATER: ESSENTIAL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

An Interfaith Statement to the World Water Forum – March 2006

“Water is a gift, inspiring in all of us a response of gratitude. A spirituality of gratitude takes us beyond the consideration of water as only a physical, economic, social, or cultural goods to its status as a gift of the Creator, having a unique life-giving role in creation.”

Please check out this statement in its entirety. It can be found on our SHF Website.

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REFLECTION ON A BEAUTIFUL STORY

On December 15, 2005 the front page of the San Francisco Chronicle had a story about a female humpback whale that had become entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines. She was weighted down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat. She had hundreds of yards of line (rope) wrapped around her body – her tail, her torso, a line tugging in her mouth.

A fisherman spotted her just east of the Farallon Islands (outside the Golden Gate) and radioed an environmental group for help. Within a few hours the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad off, the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her – a very dangerous proposition; one slap of the tail could kill a few rescuers.

They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed them gently around – she thanked them . . . Some say it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives. The man who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the whole time and he will never be the same.

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FAIR TRADE

Brought back by popular demand - FAIR TRADE COFFEE and CHOCOLATE will be sold at our Annual Assembly. Your purchase will benefit both the farmer, and Catholic Relief Services. The company we are dealing with this year, “Earth Friendly Coffee,” donates a percentage of its sales to Catholic Relief Services.

SUBMITTED BY THE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Ask the animals
and they will teach you;
The birds of the air,
and they will tell you;
Ask the plants of the earth,
and they will teach you;
And the fish of the sea
will declare to you...
In God's hand
is the life of every living thing
And the breath of every human being.
Job 12:7,8,10

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