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JustPeace is now accepting submissions in prose and poetry via fax, e-mail or mail. *JustPeace* is available on our web site in Spanish and English.

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“So you must befriend the alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.”

Deuteronomy 10:9

“Have the same love for the alien as for yourself.” Lev. 19:34

Although Advent has just begun, it is not a far leap to picture the Holy Family migrating from Nazareth to Egypt. One wonders how they were received or what would have happened if they had encountered a 700-mile wall on the Egyptian border. Currently, comprehensive immigration reform in the U.S. is in limbo. The Border Patrol Anti-terrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 (HR447) passed December 16, 2005, by a vote of 239-182. This House bill focuses on strict enforcement. It would

- make felons of all undocumented immigrants including children.
- make it a criminal offense to offer aid to those who help an undocumented immigrant (church-run shelters providing food and other services).

Senate Bill 2611 passed May 25, 2006, by a vote of 62-36. This bill is more comprehensive and includes a temporary worker program and a process by which illegal immigrants currently in the U.S. could, under certain circumstances, eventually qualify for citizenship. These bills were to be brought together in a conference committee. Instead, perhaps because of the November elections, the only action taken was the passing of the Secure Fence Act allowing for the building of a 700-mile-long fence along the Mexican/U.S. border.

President Bush signed the bill, even though it would derail the comprehensive immigration reform he desired. The Secure Fence Act does not address the root causes of illegal immigration and erodes the ability to negotiate a comprehensive reform. Three parts of the issue include:

- border security — which handicaps the economy’s need for a legal supply of labor
- undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

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***Merry Christmas! May we recognize Jesus present in our neighbor.
 Wishing you a New Year filled with God’s blessings.***

Immigration Myths (from Justice for Immigrants web site)

Immigrants don't pay taxes

- Immigrants pay taxes, in the form of income, property, sales, and taxes at the federal and state level. As far as income tax payments go, sources vary in their accounts, but a range of studies finds that immigrants pay between \$90 and \$140 billion a year in federal, state, and local taxes. Undocumented immigrants pay income taxes as well, as evidenced by the Social Security Administration's "suspense file" (taxes that cannot be matched to workers' names and social security numbers), which grew by \$20 billion between 1990 and 1998 (Source: http://www.immigrationforum.org/about/articles/tax_study.htm)

Immigrants come here to take welfare

- Immigrants come to work and reunite with family members. Immigrant labor force participation is consistently higher than native-born, and immigrant workers make up a larger share of the U.S. labor force (12.4%) than does the U.S. population (11.5%). Moreover, the ratio between immigrant use of public benefits and the amount of taxes they pay is consistently favorable to the U.S. In one estimate, immigrants earn about \$240 billion a year, pay about \$90 billion a year in taxes, and use about \$5 billion in public benefits. In another cut of the data, immigrant tax payments total \$20 to \$30 billion more than the amount of government services they use. (Source: "Questioning Immigration Policy – Can We Afford to Open Our Arms?", Friends Committee on National Legislation Document #G-606-DOM, January 25, 1996. <http://www.fas.org/pub/gen/fcnl/immigra.html>)

Immigrants send all their money back to their home countries

- In addition to the consumer spending of immigrant households, immigrants and their businesses contribute \$162 billion in tax revenue to U.S. federal, state, and local governments. While it is true that immigrants remit billions of dollars a year to their home countries, this is one of the most targeted and effective forms of direct foreign investment. (Source: <http://www.cato.org/research/articles/griswold-020218.html>.)

Immigrants take jobs and opportunity away from Americans

- The largest wave of immigration to the U.S. since the early 1900s coincided with our lowest national unemployment rate and fastest economic growth. Immigrant entrepreneurs create jobs for U.S. and foreign workers, and foreign-born students allow many U.S.

graduate programs to keep their doors open. While there has been no comprehensive study done of immigrant-owned businesses, we have countless examples: in Silicon Valley, companies begun by Chinese and Indian immigrants generated more than \$19.5 billion in sales and nearly 73,000 jobs in 2000. (Source: Richard Vedder, Lowell Gallaway, and Stephen Moore, *Immigration and Unemployment: New Evidence*, Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, Arlington, VA (Mar. 1994), p. 13.

Immigrants are a drain on the U.S. economy

- During the 1990s, half of all new workers were foreign-born, filling gaps left by native-born workers in both the high- and low-skill ends of the spectrum. Immigrants fill jobs in key sectors, start their own businesses, and contribute to a thriving economy. The net benefit of immigration to the U.S. is nearly \$10 billion annually. As Alan Greenspan points out, 70% of immigrants arrive in prime working age. That means we haven't spent a penny on their education, yet they are transplanted into our workforce and will contribute \$500 billion toward our social security system over the next 20 years. (Source: Andrew Sum, Mykhaylo Trubskyy, Ishwar Khatiwada, et al., *Immigrant Workers in the New England Labor Market: Implications for Workforce Development Policy*, Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University, Boston, Prepared for the New England Regional Office, the Employment and Training Administration, and the U.S. Department of Labor, Boston, Massachusetts, October 2002.) [http://www.nupr.neu.edu/1102/immigration.PDF#search=center%20for%20labor%20market%20studies%20at%20Northeastern%20University%20studies'](http://www.nupr.neu.edu/1102/immigration.PDF#search=center%20for%20labor%20market%20studies%20at%20Northeastern%20University%20studies)

Immigrants don't want to learn English or become Americans

- Within ten years of arrival, more than 75% of immigrants speak English well; moreover, demand for English classes at the adult level far exceeds supply. Greater than 33% of immigrants are naturalized citizens; given increased immigration in the 1990s, this figure will rise as more legal permanent residents become eligible for naturalization in the coming years. The number of immigrants naturalizing spiked sharply after two events: enactment of immigration and welfare reform laws in 1996, and the terrorist attacks in 2001. (Source: American Immigration Lawyers Association, "Myths & Facts in the Immigration Debate", 8/14/03.

Continued on page 3

Immigration Myths / Continued from page 2

<http://www.aila.org/contentViewer.aspx?bc=17,142#section4>) (Source: Simon Romero and Janet Elder, "Hispanics in the US Report Optimism" *New York Times*, (Aug. 6, 2003).

Today's immigrants are different than those of 100 years ago

- The percentage of the U.S. population that is foreign-born now stands at 11.5%; in the early 20th century it was approximately 15%. Similar to accusations about today's immigrants, those of 100 years ago initially often settled in mono-ethnic neighborhoods, spoke their native languages, and built up newspapers and businesses that catered to their fellow émigrés. They also experienced the same types of discrimination that today's immigrants face, and integrated within American culture at a similar rate. If we view history objectively, we remember that every new wave of immigrants has been met with suspicion and doubt and yet, ultimately, every past wave of immigrants has been vindicated and saluted. (Source: Census Data: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/c2kprof00-us.pdf>, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/censr-4.pdf>)

Most immigrants cross the border illegally

- Around 75% of today's immigrants have legal permanent (immigrant) visas; of the 25% that are undocumented, 40% overstayed temporary (non-immigrant) visas. (Source: Department of Homeland Security (<http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/statistics/index.htm>))

The war on terrorism can be won through immigration restrictions

- No security expert since September 11th, 2001, has said that restrictive immigration measures would have prevented the terrorist attacks—instead, the key is effective use of good intelligence. Most of the 9/11 hijackers were here on legal visas. Since 9/11, the myriad of measures targeting immigrants in the name of national security have netted no terrorism prosecutions. In fact, several of these measures could have the opposite effect and actually make us less safe, as targeted communities of immigrants are afraid to come forward with information. (Source: Associated Press/Dow Jones Newswires, "US Senate Subcommittee Hears Immigration Testimony", Oct. 17, 2001.) (Source: Cato Institute: "Don't Blame Immigrants for Terrorism," Daniel Griswold, Assoc. Director of Cato Institute's Center for Trade Policy Studies (see: <http://www.cato.org/dailys/10-23-01.html>) *****

U.S. and Mexico

Besides sharing a 700-mile border, the U.S. and Mexico share a long history as well. As early as the late 1880s, U.S. employers began recruiting workers from Mexico to fuel the growth of the railroad, agriculture, and mining industries. In 1914 a government recruitment program was established to respond to the labor shortages during World War I.

During the Great Depression, Mexican workers were deported, only to be recruited again in 1942 for the labor needs during World War II. A century of these immigrant patterns has created deeply rooted family and social networks.

The Department of Labor is projecting a significant labor shortage over the next 10 years. Currently key industries such as construction, meat packing, agriculture, hotels and restaurants are dependent on immigrant labor.

During the last 25 years, the U.S. has shaped Mexico's economic policies—policies that benefitted some Mexicans but ultimately contributed to deeper and more widespread impoverishment. Mexico experienced a debt crisis in 1982 and the peso crashed in 1994. "Deals" brokered by the IMF, World Bank and the U.S. left the Mexicans paying a heavy price today for that bailout.

In 1994, NAFTA brought the promise that free trade would allow Mexico to export goods instead of people. That did not happen. A 2004 report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace found that at least 1.3 million Mexican agricultural jobs have been lost and well-paying domestic manufacturing jobs have disappeared. Real wages are lower today than before NAFTA and the percentage of Mexicans living in poverty is higher than it was in the late 1970s.

When NAFTA came into effect, tens of thousands of Mexican businesses were unable to compete with U.S. companies and

collapsed. Well over 3000 migrants are reported to have died since NAFTA as they tried to find work in the U.S. (Taken from "U.S. Helped Create Migrant Flow" by Erica Dahl-Bredine as found in 11/22/06 issue of the *National Catholic Reporter*)



For more excellent information, go to www.justiceforimmigrants.org

Profile of the Migrant

The following information was obtained by José Luis Gonzáles from a sampling of 200 migrants who passed through the Migrant Center in Ariaga, Mexico (near Guatemala) from March 16-19, 2006.

Country of origin: 45% from Honduras, 29% from El Salvador, 14% from Guatemala, 11.5% from Nicaragua and 0.5% from Panama. According to the priest in charge of the Center, they have occasionally had people from Bolivia, Ecuador, and other South American countries.

Sex: 89.5% men and 10.5% women.

Religion: 58% Catholic, 26% Evangelical and 16% not religious. We have to bear in mind that most of them knew the Center is run by the Catholic Church, and may have replied “Catholic” to remain in our good graces.



Marital status: 24% married, 35% living with a partner, 36% single—a third of these with children.

Education: Most had no more than a primary school education, if that, although some had gone to college. It caught my attention that the Nicaraguans tended to have a higher education level, while the Hondurans had the lowest.

Assault, extortion, robbery, rape: Over half of these people had been assaulted at least once along the railroad tracks that run from Tapachula. In addition to facing gangs and criminals, there’s the danger of extortion from any of Mexico’s many security forces: the Federal Preventative Police, Federal Highway Police, Judicial Police, local police, army and immigration officers. Rape is also common.

The migrants are also the object of mockery and insults. An entire industry has been built along the migrants’ route, with the participation of government authorities, security forces, employers, transport workers, gangs and even regular people who exploit the oft-repeated threat, “Be quiet, this isn’t your country.”

José Luis Gonzáles, *Envio* 6/6 pp. 39-40

Some Facts with Implication for Immigration

1. Population Density

United States	29 inhabitants per sq. kilometer
Belgium	337
Germany	233
United Kingdom	244
Denmark	125
Italy	192
Switzerland	177
France	109
Spain	79

Source: *Envio* 6/06, p. 49

2. Percentage of U.S. residents born abroad

Year	1890	1990	1910	2000
% foreigner	14.7	14.7	7.9	11.1

Source: *Envio* 6/06, p. 48

3. The hourly wage of some California

farm workers, adjusted for inflation, has fallen by over 50% since 1980. The undocumented status of so many of those immigrants deprives them of good salaries and other benefits.

Source : *Envio* 6/06, p. 52

Did you know?

◆ that 3/4 of Americans believe the Bible teaches that “God helps those help themselves?” It was Benjamin Franklin who said it and it is quite counter biblical where we are given the radical summons to love our neighbor.

◆ that 85% of American people call themselves Christian; 75% claim they pray to God on a daily basis and 33% go to church weekly. What if we actually lived as Jesus challenged us?

◆ that in 2004, the U.S. ranked second to last after Italy, among developed countries in the share of our economy that was given to foreign aid?

(From “The Christian Paradox” in *Harper’s Magazine*, 11/15/05)

Socially Responsible Investing

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility is a coalition of faith-based institutional investors. ICCR seeks to build a more just and sustainable society by integrating social values into corporate and investor decisions.

The Core Values are:

- Faith-based: Faith guides and shapes our priorities for action.
- Justice: We challenge ourselves and corporations to accountability for right relationship with all creation.
- Integrity: We are striving to be credible practitioners of the values we set forth.
- Inclusive: We welcome diversity as we covenant to work together.

In 2006, ICCR members filed 258 resolutions with 171 companies and engaged in 276 dialogs with 200 companies. (See chart.)

ICCR has nine working groups. They are:

- ◆ Access to Health Care
- ◆ Contract Supplier System
- ◆ Corporate Governance
- ◆ Enabling Access to Credit
- ◆ Environmental Justice
- ◆ Global Warming
- ◆ Promoting Human Rights
- ◆ Violence and Militarization of Society
- ◆ Water and Food

There are also member issue groups such as tobacco and fair trade.

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes (CSA)

CSA has participated in filing shareholder resolutions for many years; first as part of Wisconsin Coalition and beginning in 1999 as a separate member of ICCR. Since 1999, CSA has been involved in 94 actions with numerous corporations and on a variety of issues.

During 2006, CSA filed four resolutions with **tobacco companies**. Altria, Loews and Reynolds American were asked to undertake a campaign aimed at African

Americans, apprising them of the unique health hazards they face in smoking menthol cigarettes. UST (a holding company for its subsidiary, U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company) was asked to submit all its internet advertising to an independent panel of academics to make sure it is fulfilling the letter and spirit of the law regarding such advertising or terminate its internet advertising.

CSA took two actions in the **Contract Supplier** category which includes resolutions on labor standards, vendor standards, implementing and monitoring supplier codes and sustainability reporting. In other words, reducing sweatshop conditions.

Apple was asked to amend its standard purchase contracts and supplier codes based on the United Nation's International Labor Organization standards, and to establish a credible monitoring process that adheres to those standards, and to report on adherence. Due to positive results of dialogs with

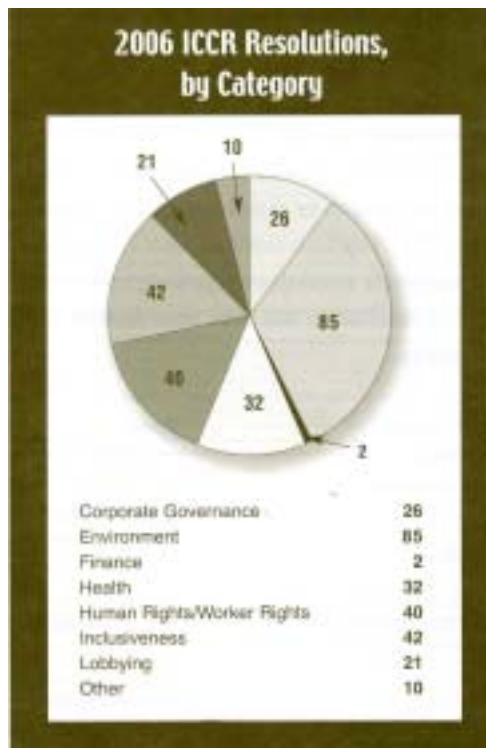
Apple, that resolution was withdrawn.

CSA joined over 30 groups of investors in asking Wal-Mart to prepare a sustainability report, using the Global Reporting Initiative's Reporting Guidelines, which focus on direct economic impacts, the environment and labor. Again due to the willingness of Wal-Mart to cooperate, the resolution was withdrawn.

To promote **human rights**, Boeing was asked to develop and adopt a comprehensive human rights policy to include an explicit

commitment to support and uphold the principles and values contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and issue a report of progress made in this regard.

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Lifelong Learners



One of the services offered through the CSA ministry of Justice, Peace and Ecology is its lending library. Each issue of *JustPeace* lists and describes recent acquisitions. Since some of you may think the items are not meant for people like you, I urge you to look closely at the entire list on the CSA website (www.csasisters.org). Here I will feature some new items and some reviewed before. Often they give insights into current issues. Besides seeing them at home, they provide food for small group discussions and classrooms as well. Remember, the only cost to you is return postage, if out of town.

Books

The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else by Hernando Soto.

The basic premise is that where there are no property laws, there is no capital and, therefore, no wealth.

Bait and Switch, the (futile) result of the American Dream by Barbara Ehrenreich, who wrote *Nickel and Dimed*. She goes undercover in the shadowy world of white-collar unemployment.

The Great Deluge, Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast by Douglas Brinkley.

When Jesus Came to Harvard, Making Moral Choices Today by Harvey Cox. Good for everyone in leadership or in formation of leaders.

Washington's War on Nicaragua by Holly Sklar, 1988. This "oldy but goody" is a masterful account of U.S. Policy from the Sandinista revolution through the Iran-Contra scandal and beyond.

A History of God by Karen Armstrong is about the 4,000-year quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Ending Global Poverty, A Guide to What Works by Stephen C. Smith, 2005. This is a practical book that shows you don't have to be rich and powerful to help pull people out of extreme poverty.

Traveling With the Turtle: A Small Group Process in Women's Spirituality and Peace-Making by Preston-Pile and Woodward, 2006. This brand new workbook by Pace e Bene contains all you need for 13 sessions of deepening women's spirituality for peace making.

Engage: Exploring Nonviolent Living, 2006, is a study program for learning, practicing and experimenting with the power of creative nonviolence to transform our lives and our world. It is the updated and enhanced version of "From Violence to Wholeness" also by Pace e Bene.

Recent DVDs

Iraq for Sale, The War Profiteers - 70 minutes

Uncovered: The whole truth about the Iraq war, includes interview with more than 20 experts.

Invisible Children - It's a story of children in Uganda. It was created by three American youths who went to Africa to find a story. And they did!

Stolen Childhoods, narrated by Meryl Streep on global child labor including a section on trafficking

Fields of Mudan - This DVD in trafficking helps you understand the problem at an emotional level.

Beyond These Narrow Borders - is a story of reconciliation in the post war Balkans.

Sudan: Remembering, Responding and Rebuilding. This was produced by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and includes Darfur.

The Regeneration Project - gives many ways that church buildings can be more environmentally friendly and save money.

Too Hot to Handle - A 60-minute HBO program on global warming.

Videos

Children Are Not For Sale II is a 20-minute overview of trafficking of children put out by End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography And the Trafficking of children-ECPAT.

Chicago Matters: Seeking Justice #101, A Justice That Heals. This hour-long video deals with gangs in St. Nicholas parish in Evanston that includes murder and the difficult road to forgiveness.

Three videos on immigration:

-The Ties That Bind

-Uprooted: Refugees of the Global Economy

-Who Are My Sisters and Brothers?

To borrow these items, call Susan Ledesma at (920) 907-2316 or email sledesma@csasisters.org

- visa system—an insufficient number of work visas are issued for low-skilled workers

The U.S. Catholic Church has consistently been a supporter of just and comprehensive immigration reform. In a joint pastoral by the U.S. and Mexican bishops entitled “Strangers No Longer,” they call for a “globalization of solidarity” and an overhaul of the U.S. immigration system including the following:

- Global anti-poverty efforts;
- A broadbased legalization (permanent residency) of the undocumented of all nationalities;
- Reform of our family-based immigration system to allow family members to reunite with loved ones in the U.S.;
- Reform of the employment-based immigration system to provide legal pathways for migrants to come and work in a safe, humane, and orderly manner;
- Abandonment of the border “blockade” enforcement strategy.
- Restoration of the due process of protections for immigrants. (JustFaith Voices, Fall 06)

As the USA Today poll above shows, 63 % of the U.S. population agree to allowing illegal immigrants to become U.S. citizens if they meet requirements. It is encouraging to note that the majority of the U.S. citizens believe in the quotation at the base of the Statue of Liberty, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

—S. Stella Storch, OP

The dangers of **depleted uranium** (DU) are continually better understood. CSA, along with eight other investor groups, asked Lockheed Martin to report on their depleted uranium and other nuclear weapons related involvement, including a brief history of their involvement in management of nuclear weapons sites and production of DU components.

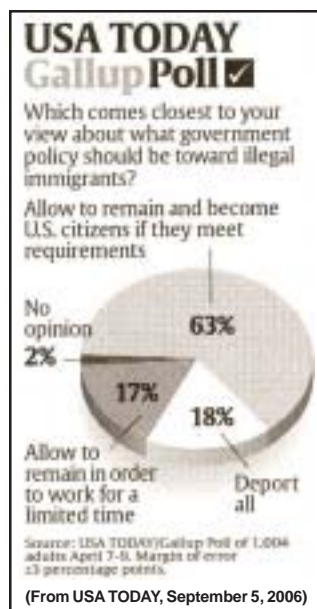
United Technologies, another military contractor, was asked to review and amend its codes of conduct and statements of **ethical criteria** for military production related contract bids, awards and contract execution and report to shareholders.

Although not directly involved in dialogs, CSA participated in labor standards issues with Dell, Hewlett-Packard Company, Intel and IBM and vendors standards with Kohl's Corporation and requested a sustainability report from Raytheon.

Another yearly activity includes Board diversity. In voting proxy resolutions for new Board members, CSA always votes “no” if there are no women on the Board. We then send a letter to the CEO explaining our “no” vote.

Networking

CSA is not only a member of ICCR but also UNANIMA International (UI). You may wonder why I mention both in the same sentence. UI is working against the trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation. Recently, ICCR member groups have begun writing letters to corporations in the hotel and travel businesses to learn if they have signed “the code,” which is the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. This is an ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Exploitation Purposes) project funded by UNICEF and supported by the World Tourism Organization. To see “the code,” go to www.thecode.org. Should companies not respond positively to the letter, ICCR members are prepared to file shareholder resolutions.





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Just Around the **CORNER**

2001- 2010 International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World

December

- 1 World AIDS Day
- 3 International Day of Disabled Persons
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 13 Peace Tree Celebration at Saint Agnes Convent, Fond du Lac
- 16 Hanukkah begins at sundown
- 18 International Migrants Day
- 22 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 First Day of Kwanzaa
- 29 International Day for Biodiversity

January 2007

- 1 New Year's Day
- 7-13 National Migration Week - "Welcome Christ in the Migrant"
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr.(b)

February

- 2 Presentation of Jesus
- 4 Rosa Parks b 1913
- 10 Veterans Day (observed)
- 12 Abraham Lincoln (birthday)
- 15 Susan B. Anthony b 1820
- 21 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 22 Winter Solstice

Las Posadas — The Journey

Please join the Sisters of St. Agnes in celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Lighting of the Peace Tree.

Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 7:00 pm, St. Agnes Convent, Founders Hall, 320 County Road K