

# ISSUES AND ACTIONS

September 2009



## UN Millennium Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

## Labor Day

What does “Labor Day” mean to Holy Family today? Before our founding, the pioneers that came West for the great treasure in 1849 were in search of a living for their families. Many met with unforeseen hardships and Holy Family was there for them. Labor Day 2009 we are still called to labor for the needy: those who have lost jobs, those without homes, people who find themselves without adequate health care, the victims of trafficking, and immigrants trying to create a home for themselves in America. Today we must actively advocate for these people. In living the principles of the Gospel, the Earth Charter and the Millennium Development Goals, we are called to educate ourselves to the current issues, and communicate with our legislators to meet the needs of all people.



## Feast of the Seven Dolors



It is no accident that Lizzie Armer became Sister Dolores. Her young community had a mission to share the love of God, and to alleviate the sorrows experienced by the people in San Francisco at that time. It is our call to carry on the charism to “seek out and advocate for the poor and needy, especially children and families for the Kingdom of God.” We must keep in prayer, this month, the Seven Sorrows of our Blessed Mother, focusing on the modern day sorrows we are committed to help alleviate.

Richard Rohr says, “Contemplation is an appreciation of and a response to what is real.” Ecological destruction of the Earth is real. There is an order of the universe that has to be respected. Many current atmospheric threats are from chemical pollutants and ozone depletion. As the temperature increases, we get the green house effect of climate change. This is the greatest threat to the earth. The loss of the Earth is not an option for us, we are called to ‘an anxiety’ that will move us to make a difference.”

Margaret Wheatley said, “There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.” The integration of spirituality and ecological sustainability is necessary.



As Religious, vowed and associates, we are being called to a new sensitivity to the voice of God; a spirituality that is born of wonder and grief. Religious life is a liminal (cutting edge) movement that belongs to the world - not just to the church. May we place ourselves and our resources at the service of cutting edge groups in today’s world.

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**The following two items are from:**

**Network - A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)**

## Peacemaking



“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”  
Matthew 5:9

The Catholic Social Teaching principle of universal human dignity demands not only that we end the war in Iraq, but that we help rebuild that country so that its citizens have what they need to lead peaceful, productive, stable lives.

Small investments in economic development, refugee and internally displaced assistance and support for the development of the rule of law (especially in property disputes) can have a significant impact in peace building in Iraq.

Further, NETWORK believes that the U.S. should develop ethical foreign policies that emphasize conflict resolution through multilateral diplomacy instead of unilateral U.S. military action. In making decisions on how we wage war and promote peace, our nation should:

- Recognize that the majority of U.S. citizens are opposed to the war in Iraq, and that there is a cost of war, particularly its disproportionate effects on persons who are poor.

- Take financial responsibility in promoting healing and support for traumatized veterans and Iraqi refugees.
- Take back Congress's constitutional obligation to oversee the president's waging of war.

We believe that the U.S., as a world leader, has a duty to build peace.

## Healthcare Access

“Affordable and accessible health care is an essential safeguard of human life and a fundamental human right. Any plan to reform the nation’s health care system must be rooted in values that respect human dignity, protect human life, and meet the unique needs of [people who are] poor. We support health care that is affordable and accessible to all.”

U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium*

NETWORK believes, on the basis of Catholic Social Teaching, that access for all to affordable, quality healthcare is a fundamental social good – i.e., something that benefits all of us. The current state of healthcare in the United States constitutes social sin that must be eradicated through broad and deep engagement of the public conscience. We advocate for a healthcare system that is:



- Accessible to everyone in the U.S.
- Affordable, funded and administered in a simple, direct way
- Comprehensive, including preventative, primary, acute, long-term, and hospice care

In the meantime, we also advocate for the preservation and expansion of publicly funded healthcare programs that benefit children, low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities, including Medicaid, Medicare, the Immigrant Children’s Health Improvement Act and the State Children’s Health Program. As we continue to ground our actions in our faith values, NETWORK is working in the 111th Congress for:

- Inclusion of provisions for healthcare reform in efforts to address current economic problems
- Increased funding to states for their Medicaid programs
- Stronger children’s health program.

Prepared by the Peace and Justice Committee