



# J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



**APRIL 2013** ([en español](#))

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## *Immigration Reform*

The group of eight Senators released S-744, *Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013*.

Here is a [summary and brief analysis](#) from the National Immigration Law Center. This analysis is for you to consider, not necessarily something to agree with in all aspects. Here is a [press release from USCCB](#). The Justice for Immigrants

Campaign encourages you to [send this](#)

[electronic postcard](#) to your congressional representatives. So far, over 30,000 have been sent!

**Parish Resources:** Bulletin or pulpit [announcement](#); prayer cards in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), and a list of educational and advocacy [activities](#).

## *Advocacy Conference*

May 20-21, 2013



The Justice for Immigrants Campaign and CLINIC are sponsoring a conference. The Advocacy Day is an opportunity for Justice for Immigrants points of contacts, CLINIC affiliates and other supporters of immigrants to be briefed on immigration reform legislation currently in the U.S. Senate and House

of Representatives and then meet with lawmakers in Washington, DC, to advocate for immigration reform.

**Registration website:** [click here](#)

**When:** Monday (afternoon) – Tuesday (all day) May 20-21, 2013

**Where:** Crystal City, VA, and Washington, DC

**Who should attend:** Lay Members of the Catholic community, Diocesan Staff, including Justice for Immigrants points of contact, CLINIC Affiliates, State Catholic Conference staff, Men and Women Religious, Parish ministry leaders, Priests, and Pastors.

### **Hotel Information:**

Reservations: use Discount code CBB either [online](#) or by phone: 1-888-294-5059

The group rate is \$179 per night for a single room. The rate for a double, or shared room, is half of the single room rate. *Please let Tony know if you want to stay in a double or share*

a room so that he may arrange that with the hotel.

We ask that you pay for your lodging directly with the hotel and, in turn, we will cover the costs for all meals, convening materials, transportation to/from the Hill on May 21st, and other planned events. The hotel also provides a complimentary shuttle to/from Reagan National Airport and the nearest Metro station.

**Contact:** Tony Cube at 202-541-3165 or [acube@uscceb.org](mailto:acube@uscceb.org)

## *JPIC Immigration Program*

The **SVD - SSps - SSpsAP Joint Venture on Immigration Team** offers a full-day or half-day program on the Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of Mexico and the United States: "**Strangers No Longer**" to interested Religious Communities of Priest, Brothers, or Sisters as well as Catholic Parishes and inter-Faith groups. Beginning this summer, we are willing to give either a day-long or half-day program for religious communities/parishes who want it. For more details [click here](#)... For a brochure [click here](#).

## *Gun Violence*

The recent vote in the Senate that failed to reach the agreed on requirement of 60 votes illuminates the grip that *fear and financial profit* have in our policymaking. This grip is not just impacting gun legislation, but continues to impact too many policymakers, who have decisions of life and death in their hands, on issues of immigration, i.e. border security, of the death penalty, of war, i.e. drones, of our prison system, of our treatment of children, etc. I encourage you to read [Gabby Giffords op-ed in the NY Times](#).

If you live in states where your Senator voted against the background checks, I encourage you to contact them (U.S. Capital Switchboard: 202-224-3121) and *in love* express your disappointment and hope for their change when the next opportunity arises. These are the Senators who voted against the background checks:



--Alexander, Ayotte, Barrasso, **Baucus (D)**, **Begich (D)**, Blunt, Boozman, Burr, Chambliss, Coats, Coburn, Cochran, Corker, Cornyn, Crapo, Cruz, Enzi, Fischer, Flake, Graham, Grassley, Hatch, **Heitkamp (D)**, Heller, Hoenes, Inhofe, Isakson, Johanns, Johnson (WI), Lee, McConnell, Moran, Murkowski, Paul, Portman, **Pryor (D)**, Reid (switched to preserve option for motion to reconsider), Risch, Roberts, Rubio, Scott, Sessions, Shelby, Thune, Vitter, Wicker.

## *Drones*

A hearing on drones took place Tuesday, April 23, 2013, in Congress. A [person from Yemen spoke](#) about his village being bombed by a drone and the fear that has spread there. He said that the person they were after could have been arrested. He also stated that such bombing helps Al Qaeda's message that the U.S. is at war with Yemen. [Here](#) is an article I wrote about the issue and suggested an alternative ethical framework for analyzing armed drones. If you'd like to see an interactive show about armed drones, [click here](#).

## *Restorative Justice*

The *Catholic Mobilizing Network* has produced a power point that introduces Catholics to the concept of restorative justice in Catholic Social Teaching and its growing importance for our society. Please consider using this for your communities. Particularly as we reflect on and respond to the ***Boston bombings***, we need to counteract the tendencies toward a retributive justice focus that can dangerously mix with nationalism. [Click here](#) for the PowerPoint presentation.



Here is an example of advocating for legislation on RJ at the state level: **HB 13-1254**, a bill championed by Rep. Pete Lee that will open the channels for the "[Restorative Justice Pilot Project](#)," to be focused on two new RJ programs in the 10th and 19th Judicial Districts in CO, and that will further along the efforts to model a juvenile system in **Colorado** after the highly successful model in motion for over a decade in New Zealand. Your support and networking of this bill is critical to its passage. The bill has passed the House and is making its way through the Senate. Major support for the bill comes from the State Restorative Justice Council and working programs such as the Longmont Community Justice Partnership, one of Colorado's leading RJ programs offering Law Enforcement, Schools, and Community systems that have a proven track record in significantly reducing recidivism and saving the State a massive amount of money by diverting incarceration. If you live in Colorado, we encourage you to contact your Senators!

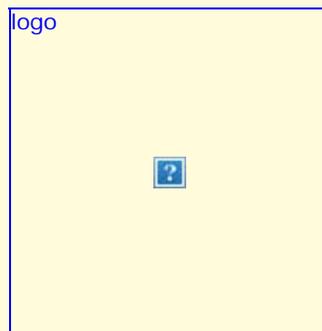
## *Faithful Budget*

The interfaith advocacy community called Heads of Washington Offices has released an updated version of the Faithful Budget for the pending budget debates in Congress. Please consider using this in your educational ministry and with Congress. [Read the Faithful Budget](#) and its accompanying [press release](#). We invite you to use this press release to draft your own, add a quote from your own organizational head, and send it to your media contacts. For more details and to sign the preamble go here: [www.faithfulbudget.org](http://www.faithfulbudget.org).

## *Income Tax Spending Breakdown*

National Priorities Project has released a [Tax Day analysis](#) to help you see where your 2012 federal income taxes were spent. **This year, in addition, they've launched:**

- a [tax receipt](#) so you can see how you personally contributed to programs ranging from WIC to nuclear weapons
- an *all-new version* of our popular [Trade-Offs tool](#) so you can see how much taxpayers in your own city or town pay toward a variety of federal programs -- and



what else that money could buy.

- an animated video [If Paychecks Could Talk](#)... because if they could, they'd explain that the taxes we pay fund programs like clean water, health care, and roads and bridges.

## *Wage Gap*

One of the major structural injustices that contribute to poverty and the temptations of exorbitant wealth is the increasing wage gap between CEOs/upper management and the average workers, not to mention the low income workers. We encourage you to consider how to address this issue in your communities and relationships with companies. Here is a petition you can sign and pass around, which asks Congress to cap CEO pay at 50 times the salary of the average worker:

"The ratio of CEO pay in the United States has ballooned to 380 times that of the average worker. Pass legislation to limit the salary of CEOs to 50 times as much as the average employee at their companies.

"A recent viral video highlighted how massive wealth inequality in the U.S. has become in recent years, with the richest 1% of the country possessing more money than the poorest 80% combined. A major driver of this inequality is pay disparity, with CEOs in Fortune 500 companies now **making 380 times as much money as the average worker**. This is a massive increase from 1980, when CEOs were making 42 times as much as the average worker.

"To help rectify this problem, Congress needs to pass legislation that caps the ratio of CEO pay to average worker pay at 50 times. CEOs can still be very well compensated, but this will help to drive down the massive disparity we're facing right now. Sign this petition to demand Congress help fix our income inequality problem by capping CEO pay."

[Click here](#) to sign the petition.

## *Churches for Middle East Peace*



### *Advocacy Conference*

May 20-21, 2013

Secretary of State John Kerry and President Obama have recently visited the Holy Land. As Israel continues to build settlements in the E-1 area and Palestinians struggle with unity, time is running short for a two-state solution. We need to activate this political energy with peacemakers from across the United States by joining together at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. May 20th and 21st to pray and learn to effectively advocate for peace in the Holy Land at the annual Advocacy Conference. Two hundred CMEP advocates are expected to gather at the Edward J. Pryzbyla Center at The Catholic University of America, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church and throughout Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. [Click here](#) for more details and to register.

***Education Trips to the Holy Land***

CMEP is now recruiting for its grassroots trip this October called "Peace Journeys." This trip is part of the Grassroots Development Plan. Information about the trip may be found [here](#). This trip focuses on grassroots visits, and group discussion, reflection and learning for future engagement. If you have any local people you think would be interested in the trip and who would be potential future grassroots leaders working with CMEP, please let them know about this opportunity.

## *Pax Christi Conference*

June 14-16, 2013



Join Pax Christi USA in Atlanta, GA, for their 40th Anniversary Conference called "Remembering the Past with Gratitude, Living the Present with Enthusiasm, Embracing the Future with Confidence and Hope." Keynote speakers include Rev. Bryan Massingale, STD and Bishop Thomas Gumbleton. For more details and registration: [click here](#).

## *Social Action Summer Institute*

**"Many Borders, One Body in Christ"**

June 16 -20, University of Arizona in Tucson

Bishop Gerald Kicanas of the Diocese of Tucson and Archbishop Jose Ulises Macias of the Archdiocese of Hermosillo will take part as well as Rev. Daniel Groody, Kevin Appleby of USCCB, and Jeff Korgen who will focus on border push factors.

The **Social Action Summer Institute** is sponsored by the [Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Action Directors](#). For more information on the event or to register online [click here](#). You can also [download a PDF brochure](#) or contact Adam Brown at 202-635-2757, ext. 133, or send him an email at [coordinator@catholicroundtable.org](mailto:coordinator@catholicroundtable.org).

## *Torture Awareness Month*

June 2013

Recently a high level report by the *Constitution Project* on torture in the U.S. has concluded that there is "indisputable" proof that the U.S. tortured detainees after 9/11. [Click here](#) for details.



Torture Awareness Month will again be commemorated in June. This year's theme is "Healing the Culture of Torture," encompassing the need to reflect, pray, and act in light of the deep physical and spiritual harm done by torture, and the need to create opportunities

for torture victims and society to begin to heal the wounds that torture inflicts.

NRCAT's Congregational Toolkit includes bulletin inserts, prayers, litanies, and a downloadable poster. The Torture Awareness Month toolkit is available on NRCAT's website – and will be sent to people who [register here](#).

Healing can take place when the truth about torture is known. During Torture Awareness Month, NRCAT will highlight the need to:

- Urge the Senate Intelligence Committee to release its 6,000 page report on CIA torture.
- Share the report of the Task Force on Detainee Treatment of the Constitution Project, a high level bi-partisan report on U.S.-sponsored torture.
- Encourage people of faith to learn the facts about prolonged solitary confinement in U.S. prisons, including the placement of youth in solitary.
- Urge people of faith and religious institutions to participate in NRCAT's efforts to end the use of prolonged solitary confinement.

As you begin to plan for June's Torture Awareness Month activities, **please be sure to tell your congregations, regional bodies and other key leaders of your denomination or religious organization to [go here](#) for materials to mark the month.**

## *Recent Sign-On Letters*

Faith Community Letter on International Aid: [click here](#)

Faith Community Letter on Drones: [click here](#)

With Hope,



Eli S. McCarthy, PhD  
Justice and Peace Director

**CMSM**



- *assists major superiors in their role as leaders;*
- *promotes dialogue and collaboration with the conference of bishops and other major groups in church and society;*
- *provides a corporate influence in church and society.*

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This newsletter is sent to members and associate members of CMSM.

It is also sent to justice and peace directors of CMSM member organizations, and to others who have expressed an interest.

If you fall into the last category and no longer wish to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to [postmaster@cmsm.org](mailto:postmaster@cmsm.org) and you will be removed from the list.