



J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



November 2012 (en español)

- [Federal Budget](#)
- [Immigration: Hyatt Boycott](#)
- [Catholic Social Ministry Gathering](#)
- [Celebrate Human Rights Day](#)
- [Death Penalty Vote in CA](#)
- [Hunger: Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#)
- [Position Opening](#)
- [JP Ministry Tip: Fair Trade for Christmas](#)

Federal Budget

On Nov. 29th Heads of Communion and Christian Organizations will be gathering in DC to advocate for the poor and marginalized by promoting the Faithful Budget to Congress. Please pray for this event and [sign on](#) if you haven't already.

Financial Transaction Tax

Treaties of financial disclosure and closing tax loopholes are key initiatives. In addition, many argue that a financial transaction tax (FTT) would raise more revenue than any other revenue proposals, and thus enhance the argument for at least maintaining the responsible programs for the poor and marginalized. The FTT would place a **very small tax (usually between 0.0001% and 0.5%) on different financial transactions**. The general purpose of a FTT would be to help enhance the financial stability of the existing monetary system by curtailing "undue speculation," creating a long-term benefit by reducing short-term turnovers in financial instruments. **Stability in financial markets helps protect the common good**. The Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace has explicitly endorsed the idea.

Action: Sometime before Dec. 1, we encourage you to contact any members of the [Domestic](#) and [International](#) USCCB committees, especially those you may know or the religious bishops, and ask them to consider this as an example for revenue enhancement in their policy advocacy. [Sending this one pager is a good introduction](#).

Pentagon Spending

The U.S. spends about 45% of all global military spending. In 2010, we spent over \$700 billion on our military and only offered about \$25 billion in official international development assistance to the programs for the poor.

See this list of [talking points](#) on "Practical Options to Save Billions in the Military Budget," "Profits and Pentagon Contractors," and "The Pentagon Jobs Myth."

Contact Congress: to ask that they *at the very least* maintain the commitment in the current law to simply slow the growth of the Pentagon's budget by \$1 Trillion over 10 years: [click here](#).

Immigration: Hyatt Boycott

As part of our focus on



the needs of migrants and immigration reform, reps from CMSM and LCWR met with representatives of the Unite Here group led by Fr. Clete Kiley.

The group represents workers in Hyatt hotels who are mostly women immigrants suffering under numerous unjust conditions and pay. CMSM's justice and peace committee has recommended that

CMSM participate in this boycott and invites particular institutes to consider joining.

Follow the link to [read a letter explaining this issue](#) in the context of Catholic Social Teaching and for an opportunity to pledge to honor the boycott as an individual or as an institute then. *Some Hyatt's are exempted from this list due to agreements made with the workers as you will see by clicking the "pledge" link.

Contact Fr. Clete Kiley for more details: <ckiley@unitehere.org>.

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

[Register now](#) for the CSMG to Connect-Learn-Pray-Advocate in Washington DC on Feb. 10-13, 2013! Early registration discount lasts until Dec. 12 (\$295). This is a great opportunity to learn and advocate on key policy issues with many of your peers in Catholic social ministry around the country!

CMSM and LCWR will host a joint session for any religious on Sunday Feb. 10, 1-2:15 p.m.

Celebrate Human Rights Day

Monday Dec. 10 is [International Human Rights Day](#) designated by the UN as commemorating the 1948 adoption by the UN of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We encourage you to consider celebrating this day.

For example, Franciscans International (FI) is piloting an initiative to raise awareness about Human Rights by inviting Franciscan Parishes, Universities, Colleges and Schools to celebrate '*FI Human Rights Day*' on **Sunday 9th December**. The theme FI is focusing on for this FI Human Rights Day is the '*Human Right to Water and Sanitation*'.

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Death Penalty Vote in California

By Karen Clifton, Executive Director, Catholic Mobilizing Network

Nearly 4.5 million Californians brought the state within inches of choosing life without parole over the

use of the death penalty. Although Proposition 34 failed to pass, the outcome shows promise that we are close to changing the culture of California -- from one of retribution to one of restorative justice. Of the six proposals that failed, Prop 34 lost by the narrowest margin of all of them and had the most votes in favor -- indicating the truly close call that it was. Just 500,000 votes determined the final outcome.



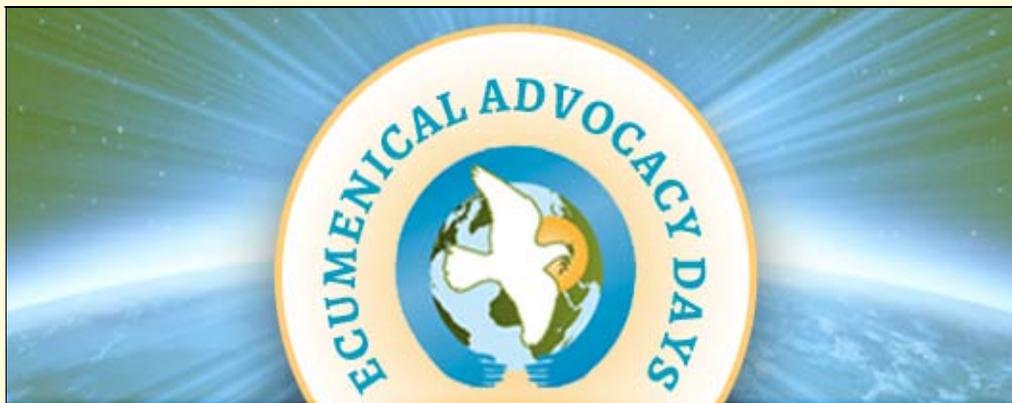
The Catholic Church -- represented by our bishops, priests, deacons, sisters, lay people, ministers and others -- was out in front during the campaign sharing our important message of life, justice and mercy. Along with these thousands, Catholic Mobilizing Network stands ready to carry on the good work of education and outreach that will one day close this narrow gap. There is more work to be done to change hearts and minds. Education is the key.

"The mere fact that the state is evenly divided is nothing short of extraordinary. In 1978, 71 percent of the electorate supported the Briggs Death Penalty Initiative and now, after hearing the facts, voters are almost evenly split," said Jeanne Woodford, the official proponent of the SAFE California Campaign and former Warden at San Quentin State Prison where she oversaw four executions. "This is a dramatic shift in public opinion. Millions of Californians now prefer the sentence of life in prison without possibility of parole to a wasteful and risky death penalty that has no benefit."

We are grateful for all of the work that has been done by Catholic Bishops, priests, deacons, Congregations of Sisters, ministers, and educators to promote the Church's unconditional pro-life teaching on the use of the death penalty. We are confident that California has the end of the use of the death penalty in sight.

*Sign up for CMN's e-letter: <http://catholicsmobilizing.org/>

Hunger and Food Justice: Ecumenical Advocacy Days



"While the percentage of the world population suffering from hunger has decreased over the past decades, the number of people suffering hunger in the growing world population has increased."

Read the full article "[Seeking Solutions to Global and Local Hunger](#)" by Maria Riley, OP with the Center of Concern.

This coming April 5-8, 2013, Ecumenical Advocacy Days will focus on "At God's Table: Food Justice for a Healthy World." This is a national gathering of over 1,000 Christians to learn about and advocate Congress in DC. "In a world that produces enough food for everyone, EAD will explore the injustices in global food systems that leave one billion people hungry, create food price shocks that destabilize communities everywhere, and undermine God's creation." [Register here](#).

Job Opening: Social Justice Organizer

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, a Roman Catholic religious order located in Silver Spring, MD, is seeking a full time Organizer as part of its three-person Social Justice Team. The primary focus of the Organizer is to prepare and mobilize Mercy members and partners in ministry to take action to build an effective movement for social change, promoting the Sisters of Mercy justice priorities. Qualifications include: prior non-profit experience in organizing, coalition work and advocating for justice; working knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching, systemic change and policy advocacy; strong writing and public speaking skills; and capacity for collaboration. Spanish-language skills are helpful, not necessary.

For full job description [click here](#)...send cover letter and resume by December 31st to: personnel@sistersofmercy.org.

J/P Ministry Tip: Promote Fair Trade for Christmas

See [CRS resources](#) for how to educate your communities and ministries about Fair Trade. *If* gifts will be bought, then just purchasing habits are key to building the Community of God.

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 and you will be removed from the list.