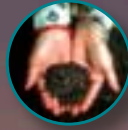
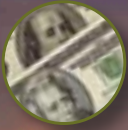


# NETWORK Connection

PEOPLE LOBBYING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

## Convention Fuels Passion for the Common Good



## dear members

We are still savoring the amazing experience of the Convention and our gratitude to you all for making it happen. I describe the experience as Pentecost—where all of us heard in our own languages and were nourished. It was a time for marvel and gratitude. It was so wonderful to celebrate the gift of faith lived in community.

We at NETWORK came back to DC from Philadelphia with renewed spring in our step and enriched commitment to living Catholic Social Teaching in our daily work. But we also know that as wonderful as the experience of the Convention was, it was only one moment in time. It was designed to affirm our Platform and mobilize us to action. The next steps are the critical work needed to make the Platform process and the Convention a success.

We need to work together in this election year to make known the fullness of Catholic Social Teaching, to get people out to vote, to have discussions in all corners of our country about the crying needs of our time. We must take this opportunity—such critical moments do not come often. We must be active for the common good.

Together we can do it. It is a time of opportunity. If you find yourself getting discouraged, give us a call and chat with one of us. We are here to be a support community. If you have a success, call us and let us celebrate together. Only by shared engagement will we be able to make the changes that are necessary. We delight that we will be working together on all of these steps. It is living the Gospel today—it gives us life.

*Simone Campbell SSS*

## NETWORK Board Nominations Needed

It is time to nominate new candidates for NETWORK's Board of Directors. Help us identify candidates willing and able to further NETWORK's mission and vision. A nomination form can be found on the back page and on our Web site ([www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)).

**Deadline for nominations is October 2.**

### 3 envisioning

#### Everyone Knows

...what the problems are. Simone Campbell, SSS, tells us it is time to act!

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### 13 spread the word

#### Platform for the Common Good

Copy and distribute this two-page summary of the Platform and how to use it.

### 15 making a difference

#### People Make the Difference

Convention delegates don't just talk about justice, they create it!



## NETWORK

A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

**NETWORK—a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace—educates, organizes and lobbies for economic and social transformation.**

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Cover: sunset by Joseph Helfenberger, others by NETWORK. L-R: Convention for the Common Good delegates; Senator Robert Casey (D-PA) and Rep. Nancy Kaptur (D-OH) address the Convention; Common Good Choir.

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# Everyone Knows

BY SIMONE CAMPBELL, SSS



Maybe it is just because I live and work in our nation's capital, but I believe that this 2008 election is among the most important in our history. We have been living in a time of extreme individualism, growing wealth gaps and shrinking middle class, foreign policy defined as military might, and a sense that the political "victors" can do whatever they want. This **MUST CHANGE**.

We treat our political candidates as Hollywood stars or reality TV shows. Each political party tries to "score points" off the other by negative innuendo or outright attack. While professing to run a "clean campaign," the members of the parties let loose with negative ads, books and interviews. The media gobbles up this conflict as they live by the mantra, "Conflict sells." This too **MUST CHANGE**.

The issues of our neighborhoods, states, country and world are such that we do not have the luxury of the current "gotcha politics," which is somewhat reminiscent of the middle school playground with its childish antagonisms. We need to be more mature in our engagement as a country. Democracy is a form of government that requires, even demands, educated engagement about the issues and thoughtful conversation about ways to resolution.

It is tempting to say that "people are not interested" or "ordinary people do not know what the overriding issues are." But over and over I discover that this is not true. First I heard how excited people were in our pre-Convention Platform Dialogue process to have the opportunity to talk about the needs of our time and what can be done to address them. Then I heard from one person who ran a Platform Dialogue process in a homeless shelter for women and their children that she was pleased to learn that the women were clearly familiar with the issues and were not afraid to talk about them from their perspectives—and to seek solutions.

What this says to me is that people throughout our society are hungry to be asked to engage the issues of our time. So let's engage in new conversations to address the new and old problems of our day, including those related to globalization that have changed the rules and affected all our lives. Everyone knows that our economy, both nationally and globally, is faltering—so let's engage this challenge and move to investing in our future and not just consuming in the present. Everyone knows that our twenty-first century foreign policy has created war and violence as well as marginalizing the United States as a partner in the world—so let's change this arrogant

approach and work as one nation among many for peaceful solutions to conflicts. Everyone knows that our healthcare system is not working—so let's engage in creating solutions so that all can receive quality affordable care. Everyone knows that our immigration system is broken—so let's engage in creating comprehensive solutions that respond to a global reality. Everyone knows that our Earth is in a perilous state ecologically—so let's change our patterns of consumption and focus on sustainability.

In order to engage these critical issues, *We the People* must claim our place and our role. We can't wait to be asked by the politicians what we think. We must urge each other to speak up as we offer our insights during the campaign and then hold elected officials accountable after the election. It is for this reason that we created the *Platform for the Common Good* (in English at <http://networklobby.org/PlatformfortheCommonGood.pdf> and in Spanish at [http://networklobby.org/PlatformfortheCommonGood\\_Spanish.pdf](http://networklobby.org/PlatformfortheCommonGood_Spanish.pdf)). We urge you to use it in your local area for conversation and accountability. It is a simple tool that sets out an alternative vision and gives practical suggestions for ways forward. The time is **NOW** to engage in these critical issues. Our future as a nation and a world community demands it.

*Simone Campbell, SSS, is NETWORK's Executive Director.*

NETWORK



# Convention Fuels Passion for the Common Good

BY STEPHANIE NIEDRINGHAUS

Dr. M. Shawn Copeland called it a “daring event.” The Convention for the Common Good, first envisioned at NETWORK and ultimately brought into being in partnership with Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good and a long list of cosponsors, was a radical undertaking that brought eight hundred faith activists to Philadelphia in July. Together, they affirmed a faith and justice platform and promised to move its agenda forward. More than merely a learning experience, it inspired those present and fueled their passion for justice.

**R**adical—a word that has fallen into disrepute. Wrongly equated by some with only terrorism and violence. And yet, as Dr. Copeland, Sister Helen Prejean and Bishop Walter Sullivan told Convention delegates, Jesus himself was a radical. His Gospel remains, above all, a radical message of hope.

In a rousing commissioning ceremony at the end of the Convention, Helen Prejean reminded delegates that Jesus had dared to form a community—our Church—that welcomed women and others marginalized by society. They followed him from village to village in radical solidarity.

But what, she asked, has happened to our image of Jesus over the centuries? He is supposed to be a “wild lion,” but we have domesticated him. And where is the wildness of Jesus in us?

During this critical time in our history, we can no longer afford to be inertly swept along by injustice in the world. We must confront

TIM O'CONNOR



that injustice, and the *Platform for the Common Good*, affirmed by Convention delegates, provides us with a critical tool. As Helen Prejean told delegates, it contains “words of life for the nation, and we are the troubadours who are going to bring this message and make it come alive in this nation.”

And that, indeed, is what must happen.

## Democracy and the Common Good

Dr. Copeland, a renowned theologian, opened the Convention by likening fulfillment of citizen responsibilities in our democracy to “an exercise in piety.” As Catholic citizens, she told the delegates, we are heirs to a long tradition of Catholic social thought influenced by the work of Plato and Aristotle, articulated by Saints Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, and further refined by the actions and teachings of many others. Inherent in this tradition is the concept of the common good, which she described as “friendly authenticity through which we seek one another’s well-being.”

We already know the importance of community—which can range from book clubs to Little League teams to neighborhoods to far beyond—and we feel the delight of relationships, friendship and love. These connections and emotions lay the groundwork for our work in solidarity with one another for human rights, for healthcare for all, for compassionate governance, and for peace.

We must also be conscious of the fact that the common good is a human achievement that must be carefully nurtured in any form of government, including our own. Achieving the common good in our democratic system can prove challenging since it straddles two very different traditions—responsibility for one another and individual rights. When friendly authenticity and mutual trust are lacking, we can easily fall into selfishness.

Authentic democracy is far more complicated than mere majority rule. It requires our conscious deliberation about what we hold in common and how

FROM TOP: Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia; Dr. M. Shawn Copeland; Convention delegates vote to affirm the Platform for the Common Good.



NETWORK PHOTOS





NETWORK

Center for American Progress president John Podesta, journalist E.J. Dionne, and former U.S. Rep. Charles Dougherty (R-PA) discuss the current political scene.

to meet societal needs. In our democracy, the common good is a fragile thing. It relies on people's good will and attention to the reality of our day. We must conscientiously nurture it because its power is a critical component of the democratic promise of opportunity for all.

If we are to make this country "our best hope this side of the reign of God," Dr. Copeland suggests that we focus on the following:

- Recognize that our communities and our world will not change if we do not. This calls us to work and to pray, to embrace a spirit that rejects excess and embraces other people. We must open our arms in the same way that Jesus did.
- Cultivate the virtue of hope. While our nation has a reputation of optimism, hope is even more important. Recogniz-

*ing that we are currently in decline, mired in war and economic turbulence, we must nurture a sense of hope, which is the work of imagination, intelligence, sacrifice and love.*

- *As heirs to a rich Catholic tradition of theological and spiritual resources, let us pray and, if possible, take on the discipline of fasting. The next president cannot solve our nation's difficult problems instantly. Perhaps our prayer and fasting can help move our country in the right direction by begging God's grace.*

### The Challenges We Face

Obstacles on the road ahead can seem daunting, but we are nevertheless called to action. In the words of the *Platform for the Common Good*, "In this time of perilous change, we have an urgent need to build on the best of our founding vision and claim our role as *We the People of the United States*." This work will require perseverance and sacrifice.

What do we see around us? As noted by thousands of people who provided input for the Platform, too many of us have lost a consistent ethic of life, as evidenced by our nation's continuing inability to address violence, poverty and other assaults on human dignity. People are put to death by our government simply, as Helen Prejean told delegates, because citizens don't really want to think about it. Women have abortions because they lack access to services they need to support their children, and working families find it increasingly difficult to find housing and put food on the table. Wages for too many are inadequate, while the gap between rich and poor has become a chasm. Groups and individuals are



***"Restoring health and vitality to the planet is an immediate necessity, and fundamental to the common good of all people and life on this planet."***

ECOLOGY BREAKOUT SESSION

systematically marginalized, especially immigrants and communities of color. Our unjust immigration system draws heated political rhetoric instead of reasoned actions to fix its flaws.

Meanwhile, billions of dollars are diverted to a war and occupation that have cost thousands of lives and untold misery. Trade policies and overwhelming debt impoverish some nations while powerful corporations enjoy record profits. And insufficient attention to the needs of our fragile planet set the stage for an ecological disaster if we do not act quickly.

The challenges are indeed many.

### Meeting the Challenges

How do we begin to address the needs of our nation and our Earth? Our faith and the founding ideals of our nation provide important guidelines.

The *Platform for the Common Good* was composed as an intentional blending of our civic and Catholic traditions. Quoting the U.S. Bishops' newest *Faithful Citizenship* message, it reminded us that "we are a nation founded on 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,' but the right to life itself is not protected." Needless death and suffering are the result of inattention to human needs and rights, and wealth acquisition becomes an overriding goal.

In the summer of 1787, our nation's founders gathered in Philadelphia to articulate a vision that would enable: *We the People of the United States...to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity...* These words formed the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. Like the Declaration of Independence a



***"We believe in a global economic system that truly recognizes all people as equal partners; where civil society, governments and corporations collaborate and are held accountable in creating healthy and sustainable communities where each person's basic rights are met and protected."***

ECOLOGY BREAKOUT SESSION

decade earlier, the Constitution helped define our nation's founding ideals. Inspired by twin desires to end tyranny and promote the common good, both documents were rooted in the principle of citizens actively engaged in governance.

Today, our faith calls us to do all that we can to build on and more fully realize our founders' ideals. Catholic Social Teaching focuses us on the common good and grounds us in a belief in the dignity of each person and of all life. Inherent in that dignity are human rights that include the basic right to life and to all that is needed to sustain it.

While building on the early ideals, we must remain conscious of the fact that our world has moved far beyond the local vision of the 13 original states. Globalization has indelibly connected us with



***"...immigrants have always been essential contributors to the economic, social, political, cultural and religious fabric of this nation. Efforts to criminalize and marginalize immigrants destroy that fabric, and undermine the common good."***

**IMMIGRATION BREAKOUT SESSION**

communities and nations around our planet. Suffering or economic progress thousands of miles away affects us all.

The *Platform for the Common Good*, acknowledging our interdependence, seeks to blend the best of our civic and faith ideals in a single document that also includes concrete suggestions for turning those ideals into justice activism. In the words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, it tells us that *We the People* are called to ...

### **Economic Justice**

Jim Hug, SJ, reminded Convention delegates that, according to Catholic social thought, the economy cannot be focused on the creation of wealth.

Instead, it must be based on the nurturing of healthy communities with strong, self-fulfilled individuals.

Indeed, Pope John Paul II taught that Catholic tradition calls for a "society of work, enterprise and participation... [that] demands that the market be appropriately controlled by the forces of society and by the state to assure that the basic needs of the whole society are satisfied." (*Centesimus Annus* 35)

As people of faith, we are called to remember that an authentic vision of the "good life" means healthy communities in our country and around the world. Fair trade policies and lifting the burdens of oppressive debt in impoverished nations are essential if we are to achieve the vision. We must always be conscious of the fact that we are all part of an interdependent global community.

Our communal advocacy must therefore include work for sustainable, global economic systems in which civil society, business, government and individuals are held accountable for fostering communities that serve the needs and rights of all people, not just the few.

### **Ensure Domestic Tranquility**

As our faith tradition has often instructed us, there can be no peace without justice. In our nation and our world today, oppressive structures and rhetoric are turning communities against one another, with vulnerable people usually paying the highest price.

One example of such suffering comes as a result of our nation's inability to fully come to terms with the causes of immigration and to appreciate the contributions that immigrants make to our economic and cultural life. Instead, they are often scapegoated for our nation's economic ills as discrimination and ugly rhetoric increase.

In the words of Convention speaker Luis Hurtado, originally from Colombia, "My community is living in fear and terrorized by raids and the generalized hatred you feel in the air." He told horrifying stories of raids on workplaces where immigrants were rounded up, separated from their families, and unjustly imprisoned. "Why," he asked, "is the most powerful nation in the world investing its resources to punish working people, members of families, whose greatest crime is to provide for their families?"

How we address the injustice of our



***"We believe, on the basis of Catholic social teaching, that healthcare is a basic human right. The current state of healthcare in the United States constitutes social sin. This social sin must be eradicated through broad and deep engagement of the public conscience."***

**HEALTHCARE BREAKOUT SESSION**

immigration system could well turn out to be a defining moment for our society, our Church and our nation. As noted at the Convention by Frank Sharry of "America's Voice," "Immigration is really not about immigrants in the end. It is about what kind of country America is going to be. Are we going to cave in to our worst instincts or our finest ideals? This is going to become the moral challenge of our generation, I predict."

### **Provide for the Common Defense**

"Defense" has become increasingly synonymous with "war" in recent years. The reasons for this go far beyond the effects of the September 11 attacks. In the words of author Thomas Cordaro, who spoke at the Convention's "War and Peace" breakout session, "Peace today is mostly understood as enforced order, driven by the principle of scarcity, which makes conflict inevitable. Acquisition becomes a virtue."

Sadly, the vision of peace that is more authentically part of the American narrative has been largely supplanted by this new view. The driving principle of our earlier vision came out of a sense of abundance, not scarcity. We were a nation of boundless, unfolding opportunity.

Today, according to speaker David Robinson of Pax Christi USA, "The life's blood of the globalization process is oil. The pulse is how much gets pumped out of the ground. To control that pulse, you have to control the source and the flow of oil... Why are we at war in Iraq? I believe we are there for the oil." Our nation's unbridled thirst for oil and our

fear that pipelines may be shut off to us have had disastrous consequences.

It is time that we take to heart Gandhi's reminder that there is already enough in the world to satisfy everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed. Our ability to achieve real peace could well depend on that.

War and violence only lead to more of the same. We can no longer afford to travel down those roads.

### Promote the General Welfare

Our faith and our nation's ideals require that we ensure "that the right to life and to fulfillment of human needs essential for life, including food, quality healthcare, safe housing and quality education, are available to everyone." (*Platform for the Common Good*)

Have we fully realized these goals? Clearly not. One need only look at our current healthcare system to see how far we have to go. Statistics about millions without health insurance are well known—and almost everyone acknowledges that we must address this crisis. Why, then, is it so difficult to make progress?

During the Convention's healthcare breakout session, Jack Glaser (Center for Healthcare Reform of the St. Joseph Health System) provided an answer. "Though there is broad discontent with the status quo, there is no comprehensive shared vision that is clear enough in specifics, broad enough in comprehensiveness, and powerful enough in conviction to overcome the enormous social forces that anchor the status quo



*"... we challenge Congress to recognize that the majority of U.S. citizens are opposed to the war in Iraq... [and] we call on [Congress] to remember that the U.S. as a world leader has a duty to build peace."*

WAR AND PEACE BREAKOUT SESSION

in place... [But we] have done even bigger things than this [e.g., abolishment of slavery]... The work that has to happen here is public conscience work." In short, when the will of the people is fully engaged on this issue our elected officials must and will respond.

We have to make sure that the sleeping giant of American public opinion is fully awakened and prodded to forcefully demand change. That must be a priority of justice activists everywhere.

### Secure the Blessings of Liberty to Ourselves and our Posterity

The operative words of this part of the Preamble are "and our Posterity." We cannot afford to consider only our own wants and desires. The needs of generations to come and the long-term viability of our planet must be part of the equation.

Our beloved Earth is under continual assault. At the Convention, Sharon and David Gauth, of the Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing, told listeners that human footprints are destroying the land along the beautiful Mississippi River. Joan Brown, OSF (Social Justice Office of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe) talked about the crisis of global warming and the need for everyone to understand that "we are all part of a sacred Earth Community."

The speakers and participants in the ecology breakout session all agreed that we must work to restore health and vitality to our planet and to create sustainable systems that nourish all Creation.

And the time is now.

### So Now We Act

It is never enough to simply identify our problems unless we also resolve to address them. Journalist E.J. Dionne acknowledged that Convention delegates were already actively working to create justice: "I just want to salute the people in this room. You are the people who care for and comfort the sick. You stand up for the immigrant, for the poor person, for the laborer. You organize communities and you give priority to the poor and the marginalized. You don't just talk about this, and it's not just about something you do every two years or every four years. You do this day after day...and I really honor your work."

Yes, the delegates were already people who "do," but the needs are so great that it became increasingly evident during the course of the Convention that they, along with the rest of us, are called to do even more.

A prophetic faith voice rooted in Catholic social tradition, when combined with political activism that is both powerful and sustained, will indeed transform unjust systems into justice for all. Passion is the driving force, and hope will keep it alive.

*Stephanie Niedringhaus is the NETWORK Communications Coordinator. Along with other NETWORK staff members, she was part of the Steering Committee of the Convention for the Common Good. For more information about how you can act for the Common Good, see page 14 in this issue.*

NETWORK Board and Staff Members with Sr. Helen Prejean and Maureen Fenlon, OP, at the Convention (L-R: Marge Clark, BVM, Mary Yelenick, Ann Dunn, Stephanie Niedringhaus, Joy Wigwe, Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ, Sr. Helen Prejean, Hanna Rutz, Sara Dwyer, ASC, Simone Campbell, SSS, and Maureen Fenlon, OP)



# Congress Grapples with Full Agenda in Short Work Session

BY MARGE CLARK, BVM, CATHERINE PINKERTON, CSJ, SIMONE CAMPBELL, SSS

Congress adjourned for five weeks of summer recess and is scheduled to return September 8 to a full agenda for a three-week work session. Deepening economic problems in the U.S. are plunging already struggling families further into poverty. As unemployment numbers increase, it seems more evident that a second economic recovery and jobs package is needed. Meanwhile, Congress continues to grapple with ways it can effectively address our nation's energy needs. And, of course, politics strongly impacts legislators' votes as many undergo reelection campaigns.

## Budget

Not one of the twelve final appropriations bills has been approved by both the House and Senate, creating the mandate for passage of a continuing resolution prior to the end of the 2008 fiscal year on September 30.

As noted in *Congressional Quarterly*, "In a year in which Democrats expected only limited progress on appropriations bills, they have achieved much less than originally planned." Earlier in the year, the president threatened to veto spending bills that exceeded his requests. At first, Democratic legislators said they would likely delay completing the appropriations process until the president leaves office in order to

avoid a veto fight, but they still wanted to move the 12 regular spending bills as far along as possible. Progress halted when Republicans pressed for amendments to increase domestic oil and gas production, including offshore drilling opposed by Democrats. The Democratic leadership stopped the progress of the bills in order to avoid voting on the issue. [Note: On August 16, during the summer recess, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced that she would no longer oppose a vote on offshore drilling.]

Assistance to those with the least economic stability must come either through a package for economic recovery and jobs or as part of the continuing resolution. Emergency funding is being considered in several areas:

- *Repair of infrastructure* would not only begin to deal with bridges and roads that are crumbling due to minimal

oversight and maintenance, but would also be one source of new jobs and job training.

- *Aid to states* could help prevent further layoffs of workers and additional cuts to programs focused on basic human needs services (e.g., Medicaid). It could also delay some tax increases in areas hard hit by the economic downturn.
- *Energy assistance* in the form of a rebate or increased funding of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) would assist the neediest families with transportation to work and other energy costs.
- *Increased support of food and nutrition programs* such as Food Stamps, WIC and school meal programs would help ensure that children are provided a healthy diet.
- *Investment in a "green stimulus"* for construction, renovation, transportation and other energy-conserving improvements would have a long-term effect on energy use and ecological responsibility—and would encourage job-training programs for development of greening skills.
- *Restructuring of unemployment insurance* would assist families and communities facing the most serious levels of job loss.

NETWORK strongly supports assistance to those experiencing the greatest pain due to the economic downturn. This Congress has only three weeks to make progress in addressing their needs.

## Housing Success

After eight long years, a national housing trust fund has finally come into being!

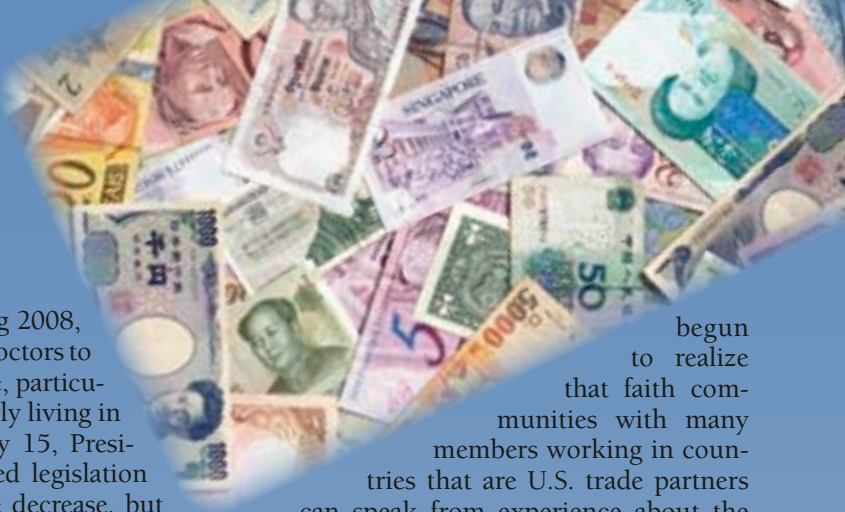
Need up-to-date information about legislation in Congress? Check out NETWORK's Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/networklobby/issues/bills/>



To learn what happened to legislation you followed in the past, go to <http://capwiz.com/networklobby/issues/votes/> and enter your zip code in the "Key Votes" field.







On July 30, President Bush signed the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (H.R. 3221), the massive housing bill that included the housing trust fund and its initial dedicated source of funding. Money will be diverted to a program to keep foreclosed properties occupied during the first three years (at the rates of 100%, 50% and 25%). In the fourth year, all the money will go to the trust fund.

The trust fund is a permanent program with a dedicated source of funding that does not depend on the appropriations process. At least 90% of the money goes to the production, preservation, rehabilitation, or operation of rental housing, and up to 10% can be used for first-time homebuyers. Almost all of the funding must benefit extremely low income households.

Congratulations to our members! Your many letters and calls over the years have enabled us to achieve this tremendous success.

### Child Tax Credit

Both the House and Senate will continue to consider extensions of tax credits when they return in September. The House has passed legislation making an adjustment in the Child Tax Credit, which provides very critical support for families with the lowest incomes. The current refundable Child Tax Credit is not available to workers at the lowest pay levels—those earning under \$12,500 per year for 2008. Each year, the income floor has been raised as it is tied to inflation.

H.R. 6049 removes the tie to inflation and places the floor at \$8500. This will benefit an additional three million children.

### Medicare

An increase in payments to physicians for treating Medicare patients will allow more doctors to continue this practice. The 2003 Medicare changes had mandated a decrease of 10% in these

payments during 2008, pushing many doctors to discontinue care, particularly of the elderly living in poverty. On July 15, President Bush vetoed legislation to eliminate the decrease, but Congress quickly voted to override his veto.

### New Trade Act Advances

The long title of the new trade initiative, “Trade Expansion Requires Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act,” introduced June 4, 2008 by Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Representatives Mike Michaud (D-ME) and Linda Sanchez (D-CA), and supported by many other Members of Congress, has been making its rounds on Capitol Hill. The TRADE Act is generating wide, fine-tuned discussion and rightly so. Why?

The TRADE Act enters the congressional scene at a strategic moment as presidential candidates weigh the pros and cons of current NAFTA-cloned trade pacts. It dramatically forges a highly principled debate on the justice and viability of the nation’s current trade agreements in this age of globalization. Its insertion at this point into the debate also signals and clarifies to the next president that Congress is serious about retaking its constitutional role over commerce, rather than again relinquishing that power through Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). TPA gave the Bush Administration the right to formulate trade agreements with other countries, reserving to Congress itself only the power of an up or down vote on the trade agreement without debate.

NETWORK, along with the Interfaith Working Group on International Trade and Investment (IWG), has been involved in analyzing the provisions of the TRADE Act. The voice of the faith community is especially critical to the process. Members of Congress have

begun to realize that faith communities with many members working in countries that are U.S. trade partners can speak from experience about the effects of our trade agreements on these developing nations. Most certainly, trade agreements should protect the environment and benefit U.S. workers, farmers, businesses and consumers. But we also hold that valid trade agreements should be instruments of development for both the United States and the developing nations with whom we trade.

The introduction of this legislation offers hope that its provisions and the principles that undergird them will lead toward the formulation and implementation of trade and investment agreements that respect the rights of nations and people in the very process of their development, and that it will move us toward a more just, sustainable and prosperous global society.

### Iraq

NETWORK supports the bipartisan effort of Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) to address the needs of Iraqi refugees in a comprehensive fashion. His bill, H.R. 6496, is the best effort to date to coordinate and increase the U.S. response to this crisis. As the *Connection* went to press, it was seen as a long shot to actually pass this session. However, it becomes a good question to ask congressional and Senate candidates: If elected, would you support H.R. 6496? Would you be a cosponsor?

And above all, stress that NETWORK’s position is that we must meet the needs of Iraqi refugees and work for economic development by Iraqis and for Iraqis.

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*Marge Clark, BVM, and Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ, are NETWORK lobbyists. Simone Campbell, SSS, is NETWORK’s Executive Director.*

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Want timely information about key issues in Congress? NETWORK members can sign up for our weekly email legislative hotline. Send your name, zip code and email address to [jsammon@networklobby.org](mailto:jsammon@networklobby.org).

# The Colors of Taiwan's Democracy

BY LING PING CHEN, PHD



*"Trek against the wind" was the Taiwanese DPP campaign slogan of presidential candidate Frank Hsieh (with yellow tie) and vice presidential candidate Su Tseng-chang (with raised arm).*

It is well known in Taiwan, the Republic of China (ROC), that the two main political parties in the United States each has its own party symbol—a donkey for the Democrats and an elephant for the Republicans. Perhaps lesser known here is that each party also has its own color symbol—blue and red, respectively.

In Taiwan, by contrast, political parties are closely identified with their representative colors, and the party color is often used as a synonym for the party itself. Thus, sky blue represents the Kuomintang (KMT, the Nationalist Party), and the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has chosen green as its representative color to express its grassroots orientation. Other examples include yellow for the New Party, and orange for the People First Party (PFP), indicating the colorful nature of Taiwan's political arena.

## A Political History

In 1987, the KMT announced the lifting of 38 years of martial law, and shortly thereafter it eliminated media restrictions and a ban on the formation of political parties, all of which gave a great boost to democratic politics and freedom of expression. In 1986, on the eve of the end of martial law, the DPP announced its formation, bringing to an end the single-party system under the KMT.

Under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek and his son Chiang Ching-kuo, the KMT ruled Taiwan with an iron fist for some 40 years. Following the end of martial law, Lee Teng-hui—the first native Taiwanese to head the KMT—served as president for 12 years. In 2000, Chen

Shui-bian of the DPP was elected president of the ROC, ending half a century of KMT hegemony in Taiwanese politics. The DPP and Chen remained in power for eight years, but a series of scandals and increasing economic difficulties resulted in a loss of popular support. Thus, the KMT swept back into power when Ma Ying-jeou won the 2008 presidential election, indicating a successful transition to multi-party democracy and the maturity of democratic politics in Taiwan.

## Democracy's Challenges

Taiwan's transition to democracy inevitably had to face challenges posed by the more conservative elements of society. Ever since the lifting of martial law, the political atmosphere in Taiwan has been quite heated and the citizens of Taiwan seem to have become crazed with politics. Taiwanese like to think of themselves as open-minded, but they easily become enslaved by blue and green political ideologies, especially when it comes to the issue of Taiwan's political independence from Mainland China.

The KMT continues to make the most of the abundant political, economic and networking resources it accumulated during its many years in power, and it still adheres to its policy of reunification with Mainland China. Its reform-minded younger brother, the DPP, gives more importance to social welfare and Taiwanese culture, and it advocates political independence for Taiwan. The result of all this is fierce competition between the two main parties and a society clear-

ly divided along party lines, leaving the smaller political parties with little choice but to assume the ideologies of the two main parties.

The roots of this often-times bitter rivalry date back to when the KMT gained possession of Taiwan from Japan at the end of World War II and the subsequent influx of Mainland Chinese to the island. In 1947, an insurrection by the native Taiwanese (officially known as the "2-28 Incident") was brutally suppressed, and the imposition of martial law in 1948 served to tighten the KMT's grip on power while further exacerbating the division between mainlanders and native Taiwanese. By the time Chiang Kai-shek, accompanied by approximately two million Nationalist Chinese, retreated to Taiwan in 1949, the KMT had gained firm political, economic and social control over the island.

Largely due to the passage of time and gradually increasing interaction, the demarcations between mainlanders and native Taiwanese are not as pronounced as before. In recent years, the main conflict in Taiwanese society is between the vested interests and those seeking a larger piece of the pie. There is also widespread concern over the inequitable distribution of resources and the future prospects of Taiwan's economic development.

Still, the ideological specters of the provincial background and independence do continue to rear their ugly heads from time to time, especially amongst the KMT and DPP during election campaigns. Government administration and the enactment of legislation are often characterized

by meaningless political maneuvering. A recent example is the postal service name change fiasco. Such trivial bickering based on narrow party interests makes it clear that the democratic system in Taiwan still has much room for improvement.

Voters seem to be quite allured by the idea that putting a different party into power will bring change for the better, and in the past one of the DPP campaign slogans was “Taiwan independence; love Taiwan; depose the blues, and establish the land of green!” Now, however, the strengthening of cross-straits relations and the “one China common market” advocated by the KMT are seen as the most expedient solution to Taiwan’s economic stagnation. Such campaign slogans are a way of pandering to the demands of the voters, and a candidate’s actual political views are seen as less important than the ability of his party to remedy the ailing economy.

Another feature of Taiwan politics is known as *zhuang jiao* (樁腳, *thiau-a-kha* in Taiwanese), literally “tying together one’s base piles.” This phrase is a metaphor for the foundation of a house, and refers to a politician earmarking money

in a budget in order to benefit key supporters (such as local political leaders, companies with government contracts, etc.) in return for their political support, either in the form of campaign contributions or votes. During ordinary times the *zhuang jiao* serves to strengthen a candidate’s relationship with his constituency and augment his personal network. During election campaigns, the *zhuang jiao* operates at the local, regional and community levels, using money or gifts to solicit votes from members in their association or its vicinity. Dating back to the KMT era, this practice has spread throughout the island and threatens to make a mockery of Taiwan’s fledgling democratic system.

When their sights are firmly set on securing *zhuang jiao* and political turf, candidates typically dole out various political favors as a way of gaining the recognition and support of the electorate. Examples include authorizing unlimited increases to government pensions and approving redundant construction projects, both of which are used to promote the party ideology or to cozy up with potential allies. At times, even brute force

is used to further a party’s interests.

The political climate created in Taiwan by both blue and green political ideologies has had a constricting effect on the development of democratic ideas and alternative policies. Amidst such mutual animosity, how much longer will the people of Taiwan continue to blindly support the *zhuang jiao* system and politicians well practiced in demagoguery? Perhaps it is still possible to bring the ideals of democracy into full play in the political process.

This is the main challenge to the future development of democracy in Taiwan.

*Dr. Ling Ping Chen, a Sister of Social Service, teaches in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work at the Chi Nan International University in Taiwan (ROC). Her areas of expertise include globalization and labor issues.*



Author (center) with students at fieldwork supervision trip to Macau.

Taiwan’s presidential candidates officially kicked off their campaigns on January 27 for elections on March 22, 2008. Waving the flag is presidential candidate (and winner of the election) Ma Ying-Jeou; on the right is his running mate Vincent Slew (Hsiao Wan-chang).



DANIEL M. SHIH

# Strategy for Justice: Engaging the Power of the Arts

A post-NETWORK adventure story BY MAUREEN FENLON, OP

In the fall of 2004, while I was completing my work as NETWORK's Interim National Coordinator, a surprise phone call came one morning from Sister Helen Prejean. With her inimitable gusto and enthusiasm, she invited me to come to New Orleans to manage her newly launched *Dead Man Walking School Theatre Project*. I was just as stunned by this invitation as Sr. Helen was excited to offer it!

would be found within the arts—music, literature, poetry, film, dance and the visual arts. This was the place where our hearts, minds and spirits opened to envision a just world, to hear new voices and ideas, and to begin experiencing that place where we could create and celebrate our good work and achievements.

When I worked with singer/songwriter Jane Sapp, she remarked that my style of community development and use of the arts was that of a “cultural worker.” She

project, 145 schools in the U.S. (over one-third Catholic) and eight Catholic high schools in England have presented outstanding productions of *Dead Man Walking*, as they also conducted a multi-disciplinary study of capital punishment. Many schools go well beyond the expectations of Sr. Helen and Tim Robbins by creating art shows and film festivals, by hosting guest speakers such as family members of victims or the accused, and by sponsoring presentations by local, state and national activist groups.

Our country struggles with a wide range of social justice problems, many of which have been addressed by

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEAD MAN WALKING PLAY PROJECT



L-R: Play performed in Jacksonville FL. Actor/producer/director Tim Robbins, who wrote play script, confers with author. Author with Sr. Helen Prejean.



We had met a few years earlier, at which time she learned of various social change projects I had developed or managed across the country—for example, prison visitor centers in Florida and California, hospitality houses for battered women and homeless people, socially responsible investment initiatives, and consultations with numerous community-based organizations hoping to strengthen or expand their missions and goals. What actually intrigued Sr. Helen was that I had identified myself as a “cultural worker” and I had engaged in this work since the 1970s.

Because of the wide variety of social change projects and diversity of my partnerships, it became clear that our common ground and inspiration source

had come to a deep understanding of the power of the arts in her own work as a musician and civil rights activist in the South during the 1960s. Indeed, it was music that fueled this justice movement, and we sing these freedom songs still!

So, imagine my surprise and delight to be given a stage play as a means to stir the waters of change! Knowing the power of live theatre, Sr. Helen urged Tim Robbins to turn his movie, *Dead Man Walking*, into a stage play so it could travel anywhere in the world. Not only did Tim write the play, but he also decided to give it to the students, the future leaders of this country. His only requirement was that their schools also engage in other education activities on the death penalty, thus giving birth to a powerful social change tool.

So far, in the first four years of the play

more than 35 years. Although capital punishment has not recently been one of NETWORK's core issues, it is a reflection of our society and remains an integral part of our justice system. Thus, what a timely gift it is to have a major work of art to spark a national discussion about the death penalty, a punishment carried out in our name.

The *DMW Play Project* is entering its fifth academic year. To join us in this good work, just email your contact information to [playproject@dpcdiscourse.org](mailto:playproject@dpcdiscourse.org) so we can send you an information packet that includes a copy of the *Dead Man Walking* script.

Maureen Fenlon, OP, is the National Coordinator of the *Dead Man Walking School Theatre Project* ([www.dmwplay.org](http://www.dmwplay.org)).



# Platform for the Common Good

INSPIRED BY FAITH AND BUILDING ON OUR NATION'S FOUNDING IDEALS

## Summary

Enlivened by the Gospel message of hope and the wisdom of Catholic Social Teaching, we, as people of faith, have come together with deep urgency to help make our nation “a more perfect union” focused on the common good. **In the words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution,**

***We the People of the United States*** are called to:

### ESTABLISH JUSTICE

To **establish Justice** we are challenged to protect *life* and to address disparities between “haves” and “have-nots” in this country and around the world. We are called to support policies that promote *economic equity*, ensure *human rights*, and eliminate all forms of exploitation and discrimination. We must address the root causes of migration and reform our flawed *immigration* system. And we need to change laws and mentalities that support institutional racism, sexism and classism, and discrimination based on disability, age or other factors.

### ENSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY

To **ensure domestic Tranquility** we need infrastructures and programs to build up local *communities* and businesses and to provide access to *education, jobs, needed services and green space*. Local businesses are important in developing strong communities that support families. Government, business and community partnerships must provide needed opportunities for children and families to flourish in an environment free from violence and criminal activity. We need to *reform our criminal justice systems* and focus more attention on rehabilitation programs and transitional support services for re-entry into communities.

### PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE

To **provide for the common defense** we need to develop an ethical U.S. foreign policy that emphasizes conflict resolution through *diplomacy* instead of military force—and that promotes stability abroad through fair trade laws, debt cancellation and increased responsible international *development aid*. Our nation must engage with other nations to develop creative solutions to common problems such as migration, human trafficking, drug trafficking, crime, weapons proliferation, global poverty, and climate change. Our country needs to do more to foster constructive relations with and improved understanding of other cultures. Supporting the *United Nations* is critical as is participating in and abiding by international treaties.

### PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE

To **promote the general Welfare** we must promote and protect life and all of the systems and supports that are required for *life and human dignity*. This includes embracing the goals of both the U.S. and the global campaigns to eliminate poverty and to increase access to quality *education, living wage jobs, safe housing, nutritious food, and comprehensive, quality healthcare*. We must create the essential conditions for a consistent culture of life that respects and promotes life at all stages.

### SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY

To **secure the Blessings of Liberty for ourselves and our posterity** we must organize our economic development and production to provide for long term sustainability. Ecological responsibility requires that we manage and distribute material resources across all humanity and into future generations. We envision a social and economic order that is sustainable and ecologically responsible; places human dignity above profits; harnesses renewable and clean sources of energy; balances corporate interests with the *global common good*; addresses the need to strengthen our *infrastructure*; eliminates *debt* that will harm future generations; recognizes and seeks to address discriminatory practices; promotes fair trade policies; and neither exploits persons and communities, nor abuses our *stewardship of the earth*.

## Call to Action

***We the People*** must continue to work together—as government, business, communities and individuals—to create a nation and world rooted in justice. We must speak, act, insist, demand and ensure that the common good is at the heart of all decisions and actions. These times call for renewed engagement across our differences. Political engagement is not just our right, but our responsibility.

—*The Delegates and Steering Committee of the Convention for the Common Good, and all who shared in this process*

**For more information and the complete Platform for the Common Good:**  
[www.catholicsinalliance.org](http://www.catholicsinalliance.org) or [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)

# To Create a Nation and World of the Common Good

**We the People** must work together—as government, business, communities and individuals—to create a nation and world rooted in justice. This is the most fundamental value of our faith and our nation’s founding. Here are some ways you can help.

- **Reflect** on the *Platform for the Common Good*, written with the input and prayers of thousands of people across our nation. (The full text can be found in English at <http://networklobby.org/PlatformfortheCommonGood.pdf> and in Spanish at [http://networklobby.org/PlatformfortheCommonGood\\_Spanish.pdf](http://networklobby.org/PlatformfortheCommonGood_Spanish.pdf).)
- **Invite a small group over** to discuss new ways of responding to its challenges.
- **Distribute copies** of the Platform summary or full document to individuals and groups (e.g., religious communities or peace and justice committees) and ask them to act on its contents.
- **Submit copies of the Summary and Call to Action** (last page of full document) to your parish for insertion in parish bulletins.
- **Deliver copies to your legislators’ offices** with cover letters calling for specific actions. Contact your elected officials on a regular basis and use different parts of the Platform to focus their attention on specific ways they can promote the common good.
- **Look for opportunities to attend gatherings** such as town hall meetings where you can deliver copies to candidates or elected officials—and talk to them about its contents.
- **Organize a parish meeting** on the topics of faithful citizenship and viewing our civic responsibilities through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. Use the Platform as a teaching tool.
- **Distribute the Platform** to your pastor, religious education/RCIA director and school principal. Ask them to incorporate its themes and contents in their work or to allow you to speak to their students or parishioners about it.
- **Write letters-to-the-editor and op-eds** that reference the Platform’s contents.
- **Offer Platforms to other religious groups** in your area and ask them to consider its contents in accordance with their own faith / justice traditions.
- **Commit personally to working on at least one activity** connected with each section of the Platform. In the words of the Preamble to the Constitution, *We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union*, are called to:
  - *establish Justice* (example: Support programs that promote a fair distribution of resources and serve vulnerable populations.)
  - *ensure domestic Tranquility* (example: Work to build a consistent culture of life and nonviolence.)
  - *provide for the common defense* (example: Participate in peacebuilding actions.)
  - *promote the general Welfare* (example: Make individual and communal choices that protect the dignity of all life.)
  - *secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity* (example: Learn about the connections between ecological issues and our life choices—and make better choices.)
- Lists of many additional actions for each section can be found in the full Platform at <http://networklobby.org/PlatformfortheCommonGood.pdf> and in Spanish at [http://networklobby.org/PlatformfortheCommonGood\\_Spanish.pdf](http://networklobby.org/PlatformfortheCommonGood_Spanish.pdf).
- Go to [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org) and [www.votethecommongood.com](http://www.votethecommongood.com) to learn more about how you can help create justice—and act today!

We encourage the reproduction and distribution of this back-to-back fact sheet, which includes a Summary of the *Platform for the Common Good*.



**NETWORK**—a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace  
25 E Street NW, Suite 200 • Washington DC 20001  
202-347-9797 • [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)

# People Make the Difference

BY JEAN SAMMON

Since this section of the *Connection* is about “making a difference,” I thought I would see if I could find out how the Convention for the Common Good addressed that goal. I contacted delegates by email and phone to solicit information to help me write the article.

I discovered that it is not a *convention* that makes a difference, it’s the *people* there who create change.

Carolyn, Cassandra, Josh, Lynn, Mary and William came to the Convention from the Contact Center in Cincinnati. For most of them, this was their first convention experience, but they have a lot of experience promoting the common good. These leaders know how to organize to improve the lives of people in poverty because they are personally affected by public policies on issues such as healthcare, child care, education and housing.

Carolyn told me that they go to their state capital to tell legislators about their experiences, and they also invite elected officials to local meetings. She told me that to create change you must work with other people, and you need to be bipartisan and not judgmental.

Lynn said that they also work with a statewide coalition to hold candidate forums to “educate” candidates. They also register people to vote, and then get them to the polls.

Another delegation—Candy, Catherine, Maria, Dona Maria, Maritza and Mary—came from the Mercy Center in the South Bronx. I had been to the center in April for a dialogue about issues

for the Platform for the Common Good, and I was moved by the spirit of the women and men there who are engaged in education, service and advocacy in the community. I was glad to hear that the convention gave them new energy to continue their work.

Theodora (Ted) and Dallas, delegates from New Rochelle NY, are active members of NETWORK and Pax Christi. They also work with many other groups, including Christians, Muslims and atheists, as they advocate for peace and justice. Ted told me that she thought they should have a little fun while promoting peace, and so she is now planning a “peace cabaret” that will feature the “Raging Grannies” and actress Ruby Dee!

I don’t know if Lena from New York and Sr. Mary Virginia from Minnesota met each other in the immigration breakout session, but they both learned that they are among many advocates around the country who are working for justice for immigrants.

John, an experienced advocate and media activist in Alabama, organized a Platform dialogue with members of two parishes, and got the local TV station to cover it! He was particularly interested in dialogues with politicians at the Convention because he seeks to understand power structures and how to work with politicians. John says that “we have to make ourselves known,” and I know he is organizing people in Alabama to do just that.

Mary from Cincinnati appreciated

Sr. Helen Prejean’s comments about people who try to help other people fix their problems. Mary challenges us to include more people of color in decision-making roles.

Gary from Indiana chose to sleep in the streets instead of the hotel. He wondered what the impact would have been if all 800 delegates had joined him. He says that “putting ourselves in places that put us with the plight of the poor would help all of us downsize, simplify and change things by our conversion and not simply by politics or party or legislation.” He went on to say:

*As conversion takes place*

- you are always connected to “the least”
- you are growing in the wisdom of faith and morals
- you are both a person of charity and of justice
- you connect to community action groups
- you write your newspaper editor
- you write your politicians
- you stay connected to Catholic lobbying groups
- you read your Bible
- you live a sacramental life
- you participate in your church
- you live simple
- you become a good steward
- you are other-centered
- actions and actuality of the common good take place.

Jean Sammon is NETWORK’s Field Coordinator.



# NETWORK BOARD NOMINATION FORM

It is time to nominate candidates for the NETWORK Board. Please provide the information requested below and return your nomination no later than **October 2, 2008**. Thank you.

As stated in the bylaws, a Board member must be a member of NETWORK, have a serious commitment to social and political ministry, and be able and willing to attend Board meetings regularly. If you know of a good candidate who is not yet a NETWORK member, please invite that person to join.

There are usually 2-3 Board meetings in Washington each year. In 2009, they will take place April 23-26 and October 22-25, and July 16-19 in another city. As you consider candidates, please keep in mind that the Board should reflect diversity of ministry, region, economic background, race, ethnicity, age, affiliation (or not) with a community of women religious, contacts, and areas of expertise necessary to further the mission and vision of NETWORK. If possible, please contact your nominee prior to submitting the name.

YOUR NAME

YOUR DAYTIME PHONE

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

NOMINEE'S NAME

NOMINEE'S STREET ADDRESS

NOMINEE'S CITY

NOMINEE'S STATE ZIP

NOMINEE'S DAYTIME PHONE

NOMINEE'S EMAIL ADDRESS

**REASON(S) FOR NOMINATION:** (attach additional paper to complete)

Deadline for nominations is  
**October 2, 2008.**

Send nomination to:

**NETWORK Board Nomination**  
25 E Street NW, Suite 200  
Washington DC 20001  
202-347-9864 (fax)  
sniedringhaus@networklobby.org

## calendar

● **Simone Campbell, SSS, will be presenting:**

**September 6-7, Charlotte, NC**  
"Elections and the Common Good,"  
Interfaith Social Justice

**September 21, Portland, OR**  
"Saving Democracy: Voting the  
Common Good," St Michael's and  
All Angels Episcopal Church

**September 22, Portland, OR**  
"Faith Alive: Catholic Social  
Teaching, Spirituality and the '08  
Election," All Saints Parish

**September 23, Portland, OR**  
"Immigration: Good Fences Don't  
Make Good Neighbors," Saints  
Michael's and All Angels Parish  
and friends

**September 27, Encino, CA**  
"Politics, Poetry and Faith—A Day  
of Spiritual Engagement," Holy  
Spirit Retreat Center

**September 27, Encino, CA**  
"Elections and the Common Good,"  
evening at Holy Spirit Retreat  
Center

**October 4, New York, NY**  
"Faithful Citizenship: Catholic  
Social Teaching, American  
Realities, and Election 2008" Pax  
Christi, Fordham University Lincoln  
Center

**October 7, Blauvelt, NY**  
"Good Governance and the  
Common Good," Blauvelt  
Dominicans

**October 22, Boston, MA**  
"Catholic Social Teaching, the  
Common Good, and the Election,"  
LCWR Region I

● **Marge Clark, BVM, will be presenting:**

**September 22, Lansing, MI and  
Adrian, MI (general public)**  
"A Vision for the Common Good:  
2008 Elections and Beyond," part  
of Common Good Movement

**September 24, Adrian MI**  
Same title, Adrian Dominican  
Sisters

**September 26, Chicago, IL**  
"Citizenship and the Common  
Good," Sisters of Charity, BVM

**September 28, Chicago, IL**  
"Citizenship and the Common  
Good," St. Gertrude Church Hall,  
general public

● **Sara Dwyer, ASC, will be presenting:**

**September 7, Columbia, PA;  
September 14, St. Louis, MO;  
September 15, Ruma, IL;  
October 12, Wichita, KS**  
"Advocating and Voting for the  
Common Good," ASC Sisters and  
Associates

**September 13, O'Fallon, MO**  
"Voting for the Common Good,"  
CPPS Sisters, Associates and  
friends.

**September 20, West Hartford, CT**  
"Agenda for the Common Good," St  
Joseph's College

**September 25, Washington, DC**  
"Breathing With a Spirit of Justice,"  
Archdiocesan Department for  
Social Concerns

**September 27-29, Clemson, SC**  
St. Andrew's Church and friends

**September 30, Clemson, SC**  
"Theology on Tap," Clemson  
University

**October 5, Demarest, NJ**  
"Voting for the Common Good," St.  
Joseph's Parish

● **Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ, will be presenting:**

**September 27, Worcester, MA**  
Immigration Seminar, Holy Cross  
Community

**October 14-15, St. Paul, MN**  
"Faith Values: Women in Politics  
Seminar," College of St. Catherine

● **Jean Sammon will be presenting:**

**October 5, East Islip, NY**  
"Catholic Social Teaching and Vote  
Common Good," St. Mary's Parish

**October 29 & 30, Cleveland OH**  
"Catholic Social Teaching, Faithful  
Citizenship and Solidarity," John  
Carroll University Campus Ministry

## NETWORK recommends



**A Nation for  
All: How the  
Catholic  
Vision  
of the**

**Common Good Can Save  
America from the Politics of  
Division** by Chris Korzen and  
Alexia Kelley, Jossey-Bass.  
<http://www.josseybass.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470258624.html>

## Support the Common Good!



We at NETWORK are so excited about the upcoming election! Our lobbyists have been out delivering copies of the *Platform for the Common Good* to let elected officials know what we expect from them—both now and after November 4. Please help us by investing in this vital work. Feel free to use the envelope in the center of this magazine, contact Ann Dunn at 202-347-9797 x200, or make a donation at our website, [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org).

## NETWORK

A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

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[www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)

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