



COMBONI PRESS NETWORK

The News Service Of The Comboni Missionaries

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Comboni Press Network (CPN) newsletter provides access to information on global issues from church and mission-related sources. Our focus is on justice and peace issues, and the effect U.S. policies have on Third World countries. Please share your suggestions and ideas with us—we're only a fax or e-mail away!

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GLOBAL CONNECTIONS:

From **ELECTION 2008: ISSUES PLATFORM USEFUL IN EVALUATING CANDIDATES:**

IJPC The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC) encourages people to view election issues through the lens of nonviolence, the common good, the needs of people living in poverty, human dignity, appreciation of diversity and respect for the earth. The IJPC Platform is available at www.ijpc-cincinnati.org/newsletter/newsletters_pdfs/sp_08.pdf. **Here are some questions to ask the candidates:**

√ **Economy:** How would you address the growing poverty and economic distress? job creation/increased benefits/training for the unemployed? the loss of good paying manufacturing/technical jobs through global trade policies?

√ **Peace:** How do you approach a timeline for withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan and for rebuilding of the infrastructure? What about Nuclear proliferation? What about restructuring the U.S. budget with a growing emphasis on social needs, veteran care and education? A globally cooperative diplomatic approach to world conflict?

√ **Healthcare:** In creating a comprehensive plan where all people can have access to care and prescription drugs, where do you stand on the single payer and the private insurance and *Medicare for All* plan?

From **ANNUAL G-8 ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN JAPAN—IS IT SAME OLD, SAME OLD?** At the virtually unopposed G-8 Summit held recently in Hokkaido Toyako, Japan, there was an opportunity for world leaders to deepen their commitments and actions on the following themes: ♦ Environment and Climate Change; ♦ Development in Africa; ♦ Status of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); ♦ the World Economy; ♦ Political Issues including Non-proliferation; and ♦ Terrorism and Regional Issues. Again, the people wonder: were there any decisions of real merit? **Get the follow-up on the Summit at www.g8summit.go.jp/eng; www.g8.utoronto.ca, including summit documents at www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/doc/index.html. Also, visit www.usccb.org for a statement sent by the presidents of the bishops' conferences of the G-8 countries.**

From **XENOPHOBIA: A REPLACEMENT FOR APARTHEID?** The hatred of foreigners has steadily worsened in South Africa since 1994, and no more glaring than in the areas around Johannesburg recently. Africans turned on immigrant and refugee Africans, fearing these “new neighbors” would have better access to services and might take their present jobs. They also blamed them for the increased crime and social ills. In her 2006 thesis, *Implementing the immigration act: a cause of or hindrance to xenophobia in South Africa?* Cairia Neveling concluded that if South Africa wants to solve this evil phenomenon, it must address immigration policy and factors influencing the implementation of that policy. **Read the statement of the *South African Institute of Race Relations* at www.sairr.org.za/press-office/archive/; search word “xenophobia.” Also, get the media statement of Archbishop Tlhagale at www.sacbc.org.za.**

UPDATE ON AFRICOM: Thanks to the efforts of countless people, the cry against AFRICOM was heard, and the government is working to revamp the initiative. **Resist Africom** has plans for a short educational video. **Learn more at www.resistafricom.org.**

DID YOU KNOW? Telephone conference calls offer a popular format to gather current worldwide input on critical world issues and pinpoint concrete ways to help. For example, on June 24, a student union coalition set up a conference call in Harare, Zimbabwe to share firsthand the impressions of what's going on there post-elections. **To join future calls on African hot topics, contact Briggs Bamba at *Africa Action* at briggs@africaaction.org.**

HOMILY HELPS: The **Maryknoll Missioners** around the world have written Sunday and Holy Day reading reflections, or “homily starters,” reflecting on the ways in which U.S. policy affects the lives of the people with whom they live and work. These reflections are now available a month in advance at the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns' web site, www.maryknollogc.org/2008elections/homilyhelps.html.

NOT-TO-BE-MISSED RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

√ ***Bridges of Faith*** by Dennis O'Connor helps faith communities take the first steps towards establishing Sister/Parish relationships with other faith communities abroad. This book of best practices and guidance provides direction for setting up partnerships. There's also a personal journal for members of a twinning team. All of the materials are deeply rooted in Catholic Social Teaching. \$20, book; \$5, journal. Both available through *St. Anthony Messenger Press* at 1-800-488-0488.

√ ***The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*** by Martin Meredith is a narrative history of the 50 years of independence, enlightening readers on the state of the continent, and contributing greatly to the local/global debate. Having lived in Africa on and off for 40 years, Meredith understands what is important to the reader who wants a grasp on contemporary African politics and to truly understand Africa and its people. 752 pages, 2005, \$21.95. In bookstores.

√ ***The High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy***, from June 3-5, 2008 in Rome, Italy, resolved "to use all means to alleviate the suffering caused by the current crisis, to stimulate food production and to increase investment in agriculture, to address obstacles to food access and to use the planet's resources sustainably, for present and future generations." **For declaration and documents, go to www.fao.org/foodclimate/conference/doclist/en/?no_cache=1.**

√ ***The Uprising***, by David Sirota, is a biting critique of our politics that probes ordinary Americans on both the Right and the Left who are tired of being disenfranchised by corrupt politicians and are organizing for change. Sirota investigates whether the present "uprising" or populist revolt can be transformed into a unified, lasting political movement like some in the past. His invigorating give-and-take reporting takes the reader from the headquarters of the most powerful third party in America to the bowels of the U.S. Senate; from an ExxonMobil shareholder meeting to the quasi-military staging area of a vigilante force on the Mexican border. In bookstores.

NOTABLE BOOKMARKS:

- ◆ On **immigration**: (1) American Immigration Lawyers Association: www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=1019; (2) United Methodist Hispanic Ministries: www.umhispanicministries.com/immigration; (3) ***We Can Stop the Hate*** video: www.wecanstopthehate.org.
- ◆ The **Lambeth Conference** takes place in July in Canterbury, England, and is sure to stir discussion over the Church of England's vote to support women to become bishops. Visit www.lambethconference.org.

FUTURE DATES FOR FUTURE THINKERS AND PLANNERS:

- **July 11-13, 2008: The Convention for the Common Good**, convened by *Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good* and *NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby*, is set for Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel. Help raise "the common good" as a defining perspective in this year's electoral process, and build a platform to address health care, poverty, economic justice, immigration, global warming, and more. \$225. **Contact:** 1-800-266-0866 or Tom O'Neill; (202) 429-9685/ E-mail: toneill@catholicsinalliance.org/ Web sites: www.commongoodconvention.org; www.maryknollogc.org.
- **July 20-25, 2008: Social Action Summer Institute** will be held in Atlanta, Georgia and includes a *Catholic Social Teaching* track with Fr. Thomas Massaro, SJ and Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, and an *Advanced Symposium on Racism*. Diocesan and parish staff, commission members, and other leaders will have opportunities to sharpen their skills in either the *Diocesan Skills* or *Parish Skills for Social Action* tracks. Also, a visit to the King Center has been incorporated to mark the 40th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. **For more information, contact** Jeff Korgen at jkorgen@nplc.org.
- **August 3-8, 2008: The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and the 2008 International AIDS Conference (IAC)** will be held in Mexico City. The ecumenical pre-conference starts July 31 and runs through August 2. There will be multilingual coverage, faith-based preparation for the IAC, and much more. Visit www.e-alliance.ch/iac_2008.jsp.

COMBONILINE: ◆ **Congratulations to Fr. Angelo Biancalana and Fr. Joseph Forlani on 50 Years of Priesthood; Frs. Dennis Conway and Luigi Zanotto on 40 years; ◆ Congratulations to Fr. Maurizio Binaghi** recipient of the *Caritas et Veritas Award* from the Dominican University in River Forest (Chicago) for his service to the community, and for his special award from his hometown in northern Italy for his ministry at the Peace Corner; ◆ **Welcome to Jeanie Stephens**, the Comboni Missionaries' Director of Development and Jim Devlin, managing editor, both based in Cincinnati. **You can reach them at stephens@combonimissionaries.org and devlin@combonimissionaries.org.**