



NetworkNews

from
Franciscans *Network*

Spring 2009

*Happy Easter! May this season of renewal
bring you joy, peace and hope.*

Opportunities

Father Louis Vitale to speak on “Nonviolence: The Path to Peace”

Father Louis Vitale, OFM, well-known peace activist and founder of Peace e Bene Nonviolence Service, will invite us to move from a place of complacency into activity on Monday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Monica-St. George Church, 328 West McMillan Street in Cincinnati. The event is free and open to the public, with opportunity for a free-will donation. Franciscans *Network* is pleased to co-sponsor Father Vitale’s talk. You can find more information on our website, www.franciscansnetwork.org.

Interfaith Dialogue Opportunities

If you live in the greater Cincinnati area, you are invited to join our ongoing interfaith book club. Currently we are reading and discussing *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan. For details on meeting locations and dates, give us a call at 513-238-3214, or email us at franciscansnetwork@cinci.rr.com.

Attention, young adults! A Muslim-Christian dialogue group for people ages 18-35 will begin on April 22 and run for five Wednesday evenings. The gatherings will be held at the Rohs Street Café in Clifton, near U.C., from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Each evening will include food, short presentations, table dialogue and socializing. A visit to Calvary Episcopal Church and the Clifton Mosque will be included. Bring a friend and come share in the discovery! For more information, call Bill Lonneman at (513) 238-3214.

Franciscans *Network* is willing and able to help your parish, school, or group plan an interfaith discussion program or presentation on Islam. Contact us if you want to explore this opportunity.

Save the date!

Franciscans *Network* will once again gather to strengthen our network, celebrate our accomplishments, and inspire our ongoing dedication to working for human rights. Please mark your calendar for the *afternoon* of Sunday, November 8.

News

Franciscans Network joins effort to defend the rights of children

The International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE), a network of Catholic organizations promoting the dignity and rights of the child, will launch the World Appeal to a New Mobilization for Childhood on June 4, 2009. Their purpose is to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child with a renewed worldwide effort to promote the well-being of children. The United States is one of only two countries that has not yet ratified the U.N. Convention. Franciscans *Network* will help raise awareness of this situation and work for U.S. ratification of this important document. If you, or an institution you are part of, would like also to support this effort please visit www.biceinternational.org.

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“Witnesses of Faith” presentation

On March 25, Franciscans *Network* and the Brueggeman Center for Dialogue co-sponsored a well-attended panel discussion at Xavier University. The three speakers addressed the struggle for environmental justice and human rights in Brazil. Sister Joan Krimm, SND de N, told the inspiring story of Sr. Dorothy Stang, an advocate for the people and ecology of the Amazon rainforest, who was martyred in Brazil by opponents of her ministry. Brother Rodrigo Péret, OFM, described conditions of inequality in Brazil and elsewhere, and spoke of a new spirituality for the planet built on an emerging consciousness of the relationship between humanity and nature. Fran Niehaus related how a group of Cincinnati lawyers has responded to the needs in Brazil by sponsoring law students there. A time for questions and answers followed the presentations. Brother Rodrigo’s talk can be accessed from our website, www.franciscansnetwork.org.

Brother Rodrigo’s visit

In addition to taking part in the panel at Xavier University, FN board of trustees member Brother Rodrigo Péret, OFM, spent two days with Shirley Bihl’s religion students at St. John the Baptist School in Harrison. These students have an ongoing cultural exchange with students in two landless camps in Brazil. Brother Rodrigo also spoke at St. Monica-St. George Church, Bellarmine Chapel, and met with the group of lawyers who are supporting law students in Brazil. Franciscans *Network* is very grateful to Brother Rodrigo for taking a week from his ministry in Brazil to educate and inspire us.

Recognition from the Islamic community

The Council on American-Islamic Relations has selected Bill Lonneman, FN’s Advancement Coordinator, to receive the I-CAIR Justice Award in recognition of his leadership in bringing people of different backgrounds together for greater understanding. The award will be presented at the CAIR-Cincinnati 7th annual banquet on May 3, 2009. It’s gratifying to know that the Islamic community values the work of Bill and Franciscans *Network* in promoting interfaith dialogue. Congratulations, Bill!

Sabbatical

Fr. John Quigley will return to North America from Geneva in mid-May, as his contract with Caritas Internationalis has ended. The Franciscan Province of St. John the Baptist has granted Fr. John permission for a sabbatical. We pray that Fr. John will be richly blessed as he takes time for rest, study, and prayer.

Email us!

In order to make the best use of our resources, Franciscans *Network* plans to use the Internet for more of our communications. (Don’t worry—if you are not a “techie” we will continue to stay in touch with you through the U.S. Postal Service.) If you would like to be included on our email list, and have not already done so, please send your email address to franciscansnetwork@cinci.rr.com.

Please help strengthen our network by sharing with us your own efforts for peace, justice and the integrity of creation. We’d love to hear from you and to let others know of your work.

*In the spirit of
Saints Francis
and Clare of Assisi,
Franciscans Network
supports Franciscans
and other men
and women who
work to promote
and protect human
rights throughout
the world.*



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