

# Peace and Justice at St. Francis of Assisi

**St. Francis of Assisi Partnerships.** One of St. Francis of Assisi's strongest partnerships is with St. Joseph Basilica Cathedral in downtown San José. The Cathedral Outreach Ministry serves the poor and vulnerable in downtown. The food and toiletry collections at St. Francis are designated for the Cathedral. The Cathedral is also a major recipient and distributor for our bread program. In addition, the 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM Ecclesial Communities, and the Serra Club make sandwiches for this ministry weekly. Earlier this year, through the generosity of parishioners to the Francis Fund, we were able to provide \$1,000 for bus passes to the Cathedral. This partnership is a blessing which St. Francis treasures.

**Words of Wisdom.** "We are stumbling blindly through a spiritual blindness while toying with the precarious secrets of life and death. The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than about peace, and more about killing than living."

—General Omar Bradley



## Social Justice Quiz.

- **Question 1**—What country in the world spends the most on military expenditures and weapons of death and terror?
- **Question 2**—Which country has used WMDs on enemy civilian populations?

## Upcoming Social Justice Initiatives.

- Back-to-School Drive — August 13<sup>th</sup>
- Dayworker Sock Drive — September 10<sup>th</sup>
- Voter Registration and Absentee Voter Registration — September-October

**Words of Wisdom.** "Once we classify people as evil, it can lead us to do evil ourselves. In fact, we may easily think we are entitled to suppress them."

—Kofi Annan  
Secretary General of  
the United Nations

**Catholic Social Teaching Principles.** One of the CST principles is *solidarity*, our *interdependence* with each other. *Solidarity* is about being one human family and about speaking out for those without voices, those not invited to the table. *Solidarity* is about global justice. It is about racism and sexism. It's also about immigration, day workers, and fair trade. Pope John Paul II reminded us that, "we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers." The US Catholic Bishops tell us that *solidarity is* about our connectedness with our brothers and sisters in Christ. With the many challenges in today's world, we have many opportunities to demonstrate our *solidarity* with all.

**Words of Wisdom.** "A guru asked his disciples how they could tell when the night has ended and day begun. One said, 'When you see an animal in the distance and can tell whether it is a cow or a horse.' 'No!' said the guru. 'When you look at a tree in the distance and can tell if it is a neem tree or a mango tree.' 'Wrong again!' said the guru. 'Well then, what is it?' 'When you look into the face of a man and recognize your brother in him; when you look into the face of any woman and recognize in her, your sister. If you cannot do this, no matter what time it is by the sun, it is still night.'"

—Fr. Anthony Mello, S.J.

**Justice for Immigrants.** One of the greatest challenges currently facing the followers of Christ is the mean-spirited legislation being contemplated by our House of Representatives. The Catholic bishops have called for comprehensive immigration reform. Their call is for a "globalization of solidarity" and an overhaul of the US immigration system which includes a broad-based earned legalization program for the undocumented; reforms to allow reuniting family members; employment reforms; abandonment of the "blockade" enforcement strategy; and restoration of due process protection for immigrants. More information is available at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).



## Social Justice Quiz Answers:

**Question 1:** The US spends as much on military expenditures as the rest of the world combined. We spend 29 times as much as the states we have identified as "rogue states," Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria.

**Question 2:** Unfortunately, over sixty years ago this month, the US used WMDs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, instantly killing 200,000 civilians. 200,000 more subsequently died from radiation. The sad part is that our nation has done nothing to reduce the huge WMD arsenal and is attempting to build more WMDs.