

Pax Christi USA

NATIONAL CATHOLIC PEACE MOVEMENT



(continued from p. 1) consciences and mobilizing them for action. I like to think of us as a grassroots organization practicing what Clodovis Boff has called “feet on the ground” theology. Let us not be deterred by the problems of “awakening” but rather motivated by its opportunities. Let us never forget that the engine driving PCUSA to achieve its goals is the active participation of the members of this organization.

I have an older friend who says that when he was growing up, the attention of the church of his faith was on the individual alone. “But,” as he says, “we now know better.” And indeed we do. We now speak clearly about “social sins” and have Catholic Social Teaching to guide us. However, it is not enough to simply know what these sins are, whether they be war, racism, coups against democracy and the people, economic injustice, brutality committed against others with impunity, or the devastation of the good earth given to us by God. It is not enough to know these sins. We, all of us together, must do something about them.

How then shall we begin? What better way than by marking July 16-18 on your calendar and planning to meet fellow PCUSA members in Chicago for our National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking, “Know Justice, Know Peace: Ending War at Home and Abroad.” It is impossible to overstate the importance of this conference. First, it will present a systematic and far-reaching analysis of a number of issues bearing directly on peace both here and worldwide. I’m thrilled that this year our speakers will include a trio of brightly lit signposts on the road to understanding: Rev. Bryan Massingale, a specialist in social ethics within the context of Catholic Social Teaching; Elena Segura, the Director of the Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigrant Education in the Archdiocese of Chicago, Cook, and Lake Counties; and Jeremy Scahill, investigative journalist and author of the international best-seller, *Blackwater: The Rise of the World’s Most Powerful Mercenary Army*. We are sure to get a clear and finely etched picture of the war within and the war abroad from these powerful speakers.

Second, in Chicago, we will present a framework encompassing what we believe is the most effective approach we of Pax Christi can take to fulfill our mission. Included will be a consideration of the basic grassroots organization of the Catholic peace movement, the local parish, and how to activate its commitment to Catholic Social Teaching and, thus, to challenge the social sins facing nation and world. Another focus or track will be devoted to a similar consideration of student activism on Catholic col-

lege campuses. The third track will involve racism at home and abroad and its role in social sins including the current, and too often ill-informed, controversy over immigration; the fourth will deal with the spirituality of nonviolence and its effective claim on the moral center in the struggle to create a more peaceful world. (Please check the PCUSA Website for more detailed information about the conference.)

Third, and so very important, plenty of time will be set aside so that you have the opportunity to present your own ideas and comments and to work these into Pax Christi USA’s plans for the coming year. After all, isn’t this a member organization? Of course, it is! So please, please come and give us all the benefit of your thoughts, ideas, and concerns. We hope to see you there!

Before our conference, there is another important event with which we will be involved. Some years ago, the United Nations designated June 26 as the UN International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors. Since that time, June has been a month to bring to the forefront the global practice of torture. PCUSA will work in concert with torture survivors and other organizations to call for the abolition of torture. Visit our Website for more details. And if it is possible, on June 26, would you light a candle and say a prayer for all those who did not survive their torture and those being tortured at that very moment?

We hope you will join in PCUSA’s efforts to create just and lasting peace in our world. For me, the work ahead of us is not a reason for despair but for genuine excitement, the excitement of seeing Catholic Social Teaching in action. It is a pleasure to think of PCUSA’s past accomplishments and a thrill to contemplate what we will accomplish in the future, beginning this very month. In all of this, it is already and will continue to be a joy working alongside an absolutely dedicated team.

And, dear friends, words cannot express how very much I look forward to working with each of you in the cause of promoting the Gospel values of human decency, justice, and nonviolence—those very values that are the foundation of our faith. What a time for PCUSA and us all!

PLEASE continue to support PCUSA’s ministry. We look forward to seeing you at the conference in July!

We at the DC office wish you and your loved ones a happy, safe, and healthy summer.

Together on the journey,

Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU

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PEACEMAKING quote

If you are trying to transform a brutalized society into one where people can live in dignity and hope, you begin with the empowering of the most powerless. You build from the ground up.
- Adrienne Rich

Welcome to our June newsletter! As the flowers bloom, the birds sing, and spring turns into summer, all of us here in the Washington, DC, office—Amy, Beth, Manuel, Ron, and I—send greetings of peace to each of you. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to work with you on issues of such great importance to our world.

The very first thing I want to do is to thank you for your warm welcome into the Pax Christi family. Your emails, notes, and words of confidence have meant so much to me. In the years immediately following my torture in Guatemala, I came to believe that I would neither trust nor feel safe ever again. As you may know, prior to joining Pax Christi USA’s staff, I worked for a decade with other torture survivors to make public the true nature of this crime against humanity and its perennial effects on the tortured, their families and communities, and society itself. I found it a gratifying ministry but at the same time, a debilitating one. Importantly, in the company of other survivors, I found the ability to trust beginning to bloom anew. Your welcome has warmed my heart and renewed my faith in the belief that together, those of us at the grassroots can work in solidarity to change our world for the better. I cannot tell you how good it is to be here and to be working with you all.

It is also a real pleasure to share with you that, beginning with this newsletter, I have been entrusted with the responsibility of providing a look into the work that will be flowing from the DC office. Keeping you, our fellow members, apprised of PCUSA’s programmatic work is a priority. In establishing and carrying out these programs, we are ever mindful that Pax Christi USA’s past accomplishments, for which you are responsible, serve as a guide pointing us toward new paths that will be effective in responding

to the needs of our sisters and brothers—whether in Arizona, Afghanistan, Honduras, Haiti, Japan, or what sometimes appear to be the long, cold, and heartless halls of Congress.

And so, it is ever before us that so many of you are the genuine heroes and heroines “on the ground”—actively confronting such social sins as war, nuclear proliferation, racism, and economic injustice, all with a nonviolent commitment that anything that denigrates human dignity and the earth that we call home must not be allowed to stand unchallenged.

We look to you as our compass—giving direction as we seek to carry out PCUSA’s ministry of shaping a world consistent with the ethics and nonviolent teachings of Jesus. With your support, we will better advocate for primacy of conscience, economic and social justice, and respect for Mother Earth—those very values that are rooted in the teachings of our Church.

We are aware that the economic crisis has left an imprint on all our lives, and we do understand the financial challenges many of you have experienced. Still, despite these difficult times, many of you have made a great effort to support PCUSA. *Please know that we say a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your faithful and unending support. We hope that as much as humanly possible, your support will continue.*

As we enter the summer months, dreams of upcoming vacations abound, but not here at Pax Christi USA. We’re going to be busier than ever, and I want to share at least some of our plans with you. (More will be coming in future newsletters.)

In the words of Adrienne Rich, poet and feminist, “It’s exhilarating to be alive in a time of awakening consciousness; it can also be confusing, disorienting, and painful.” Pax Christi USA is in the business of awakening (continued on p. 8)

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Visit www.paxchristiusa.org for more educational and spiritual resources for peace.

PAX CHRISTI USA

**PAX CHRISTI MASSACHUSETTS, HOLY CROSS
LOSE GREAT VOICE FOR JUSTICE**

Former Pax Christi USA National Council member Kim McElaney passed away in early May after a long battle with cancer. Kim served as a chaplain at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, for 25 years, serving as director for 18 of those years. She began a Pax Christi chapter on campus shortly after she arrived and faithfully mentored students in the group throughout her Holy Cross career. She was a passionate advocate for social justice, and she worked to integrate social justice education and formation into the campus ministry programs at Holy Cross. She created a service immersion program in Mexico shortly after arriving at Holy Cross that became a building block for the college's service immersion program. The campus Pax Christi chapter thrived under her leadership, and it continues to be a prophetic voice on campus today. It is also a forum for forming the next generation of peacemakers, as Kim so carefully sought to do throughout her life in ministry.

Kim was also an important voice for lay leadership in the Catholic Church. She was the first layperson and first woman to direct the chaplain's office. She began a program to form students for leadership in ministry and mentored that program up until a week before her death. In 1994, she received the Pedro Arrupe Medal for Excellence in Ministry from Weston Jesuit School of Theology.

We have lost a holy soul, and heaven has gained a great light. May her light shine upon us as we continue to walk the road of peace. (submitted by Nancy Small)

**PAX CHRISTI SEATTLE STARTS NEW GROUP
AND HOSTS MARIE DENNIS**

A group of Seattle-based Pax Christi members hosted a special gathering April 27 for persons interested in learning more about Pax Christi USA. The event was hosted at the Pastoral Center of St. James Cathedral in Seattle with participants from 13 parishes in the greater Seattle area. Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International, addressed the group, sharing about Pax Christi's beginnings and history, its inspiration, its organization, and the extent of its outreach. The local organizing committee met May 11 to process plans for starting a new Pax Christi group and future outreach.

**PAX CHRISTI USA LEADS, PARTICIPATES IN EVENTS
AT THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Pax Christi USA, along with Pax Christi International and several other national Pax Christi sections, sponsored and participated in events at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, starting May 3, in New York City. Pax Christi USA staff and members participated in the International Conference for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just, and Sustainable World, as well as the International Day of Action and the Interfaith Convocation for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons that took place the day before the start of the NPT conference.

Pax Christi USA hosted a test screening of the new movie, *The Forgotten Bomb*, from Pax Christi New Mexico member Bud Ryan and partner Stuart Overbey. PCUSA also hosted a special reception for Archbishop Joseph Takami of Nagasaki at the event. Following the opening events in New York City, Pax Christi USA, with Pax Christi Metro D.C., hosted a delegation of Japanese anti-nuclear activists and *hibakusha* (nuclear bomb survivors) for a speaking engagement and lobbying in Washington, D.C. Late in May, Pax Christi USA Executive Director Dave Robinson, together with Ibrahim Ramey of the Muslim American Society, facilitated a Muslim-Christian dialogue for delegates at the United Nations.

**HUDSON VALLEY PAX CHRISTI HOSTS PEACE WEEK,
KAIROS REFLECTION DAY FOR STUDENTS**

At the end of April, Hudson Valley Pax Christi hosted their annual Peace Week, focusing on nuclear disarmament and the NPT Review Conference. Peace Week festivities included a special talk given by Sr. Lucianne Siers on the United Nations and Nuclear Disarmament. The 4th Annual Peace Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's parish with the homily given by Deacon Tom Cornell of the Catholic Worker. Following Mass, the group hosted a showing of the film, *Hiroshima: Repentance and Renewal*, which included a discussion. The Kairos Day of Reflection brought together students from the State University of New York-New Paltz to discuss peace and their discipleship to Jesus. Peace Week concluded with a breathtaking and beautiful peace concert with a candlelight peace vigil.

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**ARIZONA MEMBERS OF PAX CHRISTI
SPEAK OUT AGAINST UNJUST IMMIGRATION LAW**

Following the passing of a controversial law that amounts to the de facto racial profiling of Latino immigrants, members of Pax Christi in Arizona drafted an open letter on the subject of immigration. The letter was sent to *The Catholic Sun*, *The National Catholic Reporter*, *U.S. Catholic*, and the Franciscan Renewal Center for publication in the Sunday bulletin. Members of Pax Christi Phoenix and Pax Christi chapters throughout the Valley publicly stated their deep concern regarding the challenges posed by immigration in our communities and the various responses to them. The letter read, in part: "Although we rightly respect the law

of the land and our elected government, we have a solemn responsibility to ensure that our laws are just and that our officials are acting for the common good of everyone. In our current immigration crisis, it is clear that U.S. laws are not just, effective or, in many cases, moral. It is, therefore, necessary for people of faith (and even people of no faith who seek justice) to speak out on government-sanctioned discrimination against our Hispanic sisters and brothers." The letter went on to articulate opposition to laws that break up families and to the militarization of the border. The letter ended by saying that Pax Christi members "are compelled by adherence to the higher law of God to support humane treatment of all people and reform immigration laws which accommodate human needs on both sides of our border."

**PAX CHRISTI USA TO HONOR THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OF
WOMEN RELIGIOUS (LCWR) AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

In 2007, Pax Christi USA instituted a new award to periodically honor a group or individual who has made a strong and extraordinary prophetic witness for peace in a time or situation of devastating violence or injustice. The award is named for Eileen Egan, one of the co-founders of Pax Christi USA, a long-time executive with Catholic Relief Services and friend to both Dorothy Day and Mother Teresa. The recipient of the Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award exhibits the same spirit we associate with Eileen: steady courage to speak the truth of nonviolence in a world addicted to war-making, deep compassion for the victims of violence and poverty, and unshakeable perseverance to change the world for the better.

It is Pax Christi USA's great pleasure to honor the Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR) with the Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award at the National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking, in Chicago, July 16-18. Pax Christi USA recognizes that women religious are the backbone of the Catholic peace and justice movement. These strong, prophetic, and compassionate women are always on the frontlines where those who are weak and most vulnerable suffer at the hands of violent and unjust power. They have been our teachers, our guides, our mentors, and our conscience. They have called us to be a people committed to living lives fashioned by the heart of the gospel which Jesus proclaimed. For the dedication to peace and justice that they have shown in our Church and to the world, Pax Christi USA recognizes and honors them with this award.

The Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award will be given to LCWR on Sunday, July 18, as part of the morning plenary. Throughout the weekend, we will create opportunities for all participants to express their gratitude for the role that women religious have played in our individual lives, in the life of the Church, and within our movement. LCWR is the third recipient of this award, previously given to Camilo Mejia, the first U.S. soldier to publicly refuse to fight in Iraq, and the Rev. Vien The Nguyen of Mary Queen of Vietnam Church in New Orleans, who during and after Hurricane Katrina mobilized his parish community to be advocates and activists for the most vulnerable who were devastated first by the hurricane and then by the lack of leadership in its aftermath.

National Conference Focus on and Opportunities for Students and Young Adults



This summer's National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking includes several special opportunities focused on students and young adults. For the 2010-2011 school

year, Pax Christi USA is launching a new project, the Catholic Campus Action Network, a unique project aimed at uniting the voices and efforts of Catholic students across the United States for the purpose of exercising greater power and influence over the urgent issues of the time. A special track during the conference will be offered to help facilitate the launch of this project: "United in Faith and Action: Seeding the Catholic Campus Action Network."

The track will be led by Eric LeCompte, executive director of Jubilee USA; Brigitte Gynther, Coordinator and National Organizer of Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida; and Adrienne Alexander, National Council Member of Pax Christi USA. The track description states: "The issues facing our world and the issues we face as young adult people of faith cry out for a movement that prepares us to act on our discipleship to the nonviolent Jesus and the transforming proc-

lamation of the reign of God. Together this weekend, students, young adults, and those who minister alongside them will gather in this track to discern the signs of the times

and build a united Catholic student-young adult network that calls us to action on the values we most deeply believe in. . ." You can register for this specific track on the regular conference registration.

Also, prior to the start of the conference and at the same location, Pax Christi USA will host the Summer 2010 Retreat for students and young adults, ages 18-35, facilitated by author and activist Rev. John Dear, S.J. The retreat will start Wednesday evening, July 14, and continue through Thursday evening, July 15. The theme of the retreat is "The Power of Gospel Nonviolence." All retreat participants get complimentary registration to the National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking, July 16-18. To register for the retreat and conference, contact Beth Kenyon at beth@paxchristiusa.org or 202-635-2741.

PAX CHRISTI USA ANTI-RACISM TEAM

The Pax Christi Anti-Racism Team (PCART) is now accepting applicants to be team members. Please visit the PCUSA Website (www.paxchristiusa.org) for the application and more information. Applications are due August 15.

Pax Christi USA, the national Catholic peace movement, and JustFaith Ministries are thrilled to announce a new partnership focused on promoting and practicing the social mission of the church among Catholics throughout the United States.

"This is an exciting match for Pax Christi USA," stated Dave Robinson, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA. "JustFaith is one of the most incredible engines for educating people in the pew on Catholic Social Teaching and the gospel values from which that teaching springs. We look forward to how our two organizations together can reach Catholics who are hungering for the gospel vision of a more peaceful, more just, and more sustainable world."

JustFaith Ministries provides programs that transform people and expand their commitment to social ministry through the study and experience of Christ's call to care for the poor and vulnerable. The program is well-known to many Pax Christi members; Pax Christi members

throughout the United States have served as facilitators and participants in JustFaith programs in their parishes. Over 20,000 people have participated in the JustFaith program.

Pax Christi USA will formally announce the new partnership with JustFaith staff members, including JustFaith Founder and Executive Director Jack Jezreel, on Friday, July 16, in Chicago at the National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking. Jezreel and Joe Grant will be featured speakers at the conference, presenting a track on "the peace-building parish." The announcement will be part of an open reception at 5:30pm at the site of the conference, the Rosemont Hotel at O'Hare, for conference participants and JustFaith graduates and program participants.

For more information on the partnership, visit the Pax Christi USA Website, www.paxchristiusa.org.

JustFaith Ministries at the National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking, July 16-18

* **Pax Christi USA-JustFaith Ministries Open Reception** announcing the new partnership. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres served. Friday, July 16, from 5:30-6:30PM.

* **The Peace-Building Parish: Mapping the Grassroots Reclamation of the Social Mission of the Local Church** - A quick survey of the thousands of Catholic parishes nationwide would indicate that while most demonstrate some kind of commitment to charitable giving and activity, this is compared to a relative scarcity of parish-based Pax Christi chapters, peace and justice committees, and social change initiatives. Given the current polemical climate in the country and the growing ideological gap that pervades our cultural, political, and religious institutions, how can the parish become the locus for the reconciling, prophetic mission of the Gospel? Where and how do we resume the healing process of dialogue? What transformative tools are needed to build relationships that transcend the drive to alienate? How do we begin to envision the challenges of peace-building within a church divided? Jack Jezreel and Joe Grant of the JustFaith Ministries' national staff will map out some of the challenges of parish peace-building. This interactive presentation will invite sharing questions and strategies. Together we will envision the reclamation of the Catholic peace parish and invoke the creative gifts of the Spirit to restore and reinvigorate us and our communities of faith. Saturday, July 17, 10:30AM to 5:30PM.

* **JustFaith Ministries Exhibit Table:** Visit JustFaith Ministries in the exhibition area for more information and resources throughout the conference beginning Friday afternoon, July 16.

Plus all JustFaith graduates or participants registered for the conference will receive a gift from Pax Christi USA. Visit the Pax Christi USA sales table during the conference.

The Security We Seek: A Catholic Perspective
 By Rev. Bryan N. Massingale, S.T.D.

The following is an excerpt from a speech Rev. Bryan N. Massingale, S.T.D., gave at the Roundtable Symposium, February 8, 2003. The theme of the talk was “security,” and Rev. Massingale discusses and contrasts the American ethos of security with the ethos of Christian faith. You can read this entire speech on the Pax Christi USA website at www.paxchristiusa.org/TheSecurityWeSeek.pdf.

What wisdom can we offer at this crucial and critical juncture in the history of our world and nation? What vision can guide our ministries of justice seeking and peace-making during this precarious and perilous time? The charge given to me is to articulate a theological and spiritual perspective on the pursuit of “security” that so preoccupies our nation and its policies. To do this, I propose that we need to go beyond a narrowly partisan analysis; that is, we should not endeavor to simply critique a particular policy. . . . Rather we should expose, challenge and critique the mood, attitudes, perceptions, the mentality and ethos that sustains, fuels, and even demands such obsession with “security.”

In other words, I argue that the issue is not simply Iraq, or terrorism, or even “security.” We have to go behind or get underneath these presenting crises, and address a fundamental clash of competing visions of the world and the purpose of human life. . . .

Underlying the American pursuit and understanding of “security” is a deep sense of fear and vulnerability felt in the aftermath of the homeland attacks of 9-11. Our policy documents constantly play upon and remind us of the threats we face and our vulnerability to cold-blooded evil. Our way of life, a life of undisputed military dominance and unfettered economic prosperity, is under attack from nefarious enemies, both known and unknown, seen and unseen. Our fear and vulnerability demand that we maintain and bolster our military preeminence, in order to insure our continued economic prosperity and

consumer lifestyle. Indeed, our national security strategy makes clear the connection between military might and consumerism in ways that we seldom articulate. American national security policy is a concrete example of what some have called a worldview of *military consumerism*. . . .

[T]he “underside” of consumerism is the belief that having a disproportion of goods is appropriate, and that using force or violence to get or keep these goods is both necessary and legitimate. . . . A consumer society—the American way of life—depends upon violence, or the threat of violence, to maintain itself. . . .

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.” The great social ethicist, Roland Bainton, observes, “Christians bring to social problems, not a detailed code of ethics or a new political theory, but a new scale of values.” Values are fundamental ways of being and seeing, that influence how we choose, decide, and act. As Christians, and especially as leaders in the Christian community, we hold values that give a different vision of and perspective on “security.” Our values stem from a worldview rooted in the concept of *shalom*.

We commonly translate *shalom* as “peace,” which it is—and much, much more. *Shalom* is a vision of social wholeness, a state of well-being for all, where everyone has access to the goods of creation intended to meet the needs of all. . . .

The scriptures insist that “if there is to be well-being, it will not be just for isolated, insulated individuals; it is, rather, security and prosperity granted to the *whole* community—young and old,

rich and poor, powerful and dependent. Always we are *all* in it *together*” (Walter Brueggemann).

The scriptures describe *shalom* as a state without fear, where natural enemies, such as the wolf and the lamb, the calf and the lion, peacefully coexist (Isaiah 11). Contrast this with the American mood of fear and vulnerability which causes us to see others as potential threats, and the world as filled with hostile menaces.

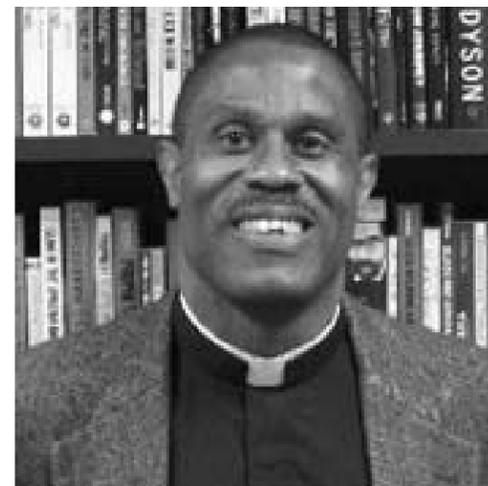
The worldview of the American security ethos is inward-looking and self-preoccupied, speaking of “homeland security,” “unilateral initiatives,” and the grim determination to go it alone if necessary. We see a dogged pursuit of self-interest; others’ interests matter only insofar as they advance or are compatible with our own. *Shalom*, on the other hand, is invitational and inclusive; it is concerned about communal welfare and expanding the circle of those who matter. We see this is the prophetic insistence that the community cannot enjoy *shalom* unless the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger; the tax collector and sinner; and the despised and insignificant also share in its blessings.

The American ethos is defensive, because it believes that things must be kept as they are.

The world is a grim place, where our forces are marshaled in a desperate holding action to keep things in place, or at least from further deteriorating. The vision of *shalom* is different. For *shalom* is both a divine gift and a human task. And it is “gift” before it is “task.” The fullness of *shalom* is not dependent on human efforts alone. We are its agents, but we are not the exclusive actors in the drama of peace. Moreover, we need not fear the newness that *shalom* requires, because we know that it bears fullness of life for all, ourselves included.

Thus “security,” in the biblical worldview, is an outcome of pursuing this more comprehensive vision of *shalom*. When *shalom* is established through the pursuit of justice, then true security is found. . . .

We have two competing visions of security, rooted in two highly divergent worldviews. The first is rooted in a world of fear, seeks security in military power directed to the end of defending economic privilege for a few. The other, rooted in a worldview of blessing, sees security lying in the effort of assuring that the blessings of creation are enjoyed by all. . . .



Rev. Massingale is a professor at Marquette University specializing in social ethics with a focus on Catholic Social Teaching, liberation theologies, African American religious ethics, and racial justice. His recent work applies Catholic social thought to the issues of affirmative action, racial reconciliation, environmental justice, HIV/AIDS stigma, racism post-Katrina (and now, post-Obama), and the challenge of peacemaking in an age of terrorism. He has authored over sixty articles, book chapters, and book reviews and is the author of *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*, published by Orbis Books. He is President of the Catholic Theological Society of America and Convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium. Rev. Massingale will be the opening keynote speaker at this summer’s National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking, “Know Justice, Know Peace: Ending War at Home and Abroad,” in Chicago, July 16-18.