



# Justice & Peace

News from National Justice & Peace Network

Spring 2007

## National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN)

39 Eccleston Square  
London SW1V 1BX  
Tel: 020 7901 4864  
Fax: 020 7901 4821  
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk  
Email: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK  
A UK Registered Charity no. 1114947  
Company no. 5036866  
Registered Office  
39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

The National Justice & Peace Network co-ordinates and encourages work for justice and peace within the Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales.

*This newsletter is produced three times a year by the Network. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the National Justice and Peace Network.*

Editor  
Maureen Matthews

### Contents

Catholic Social Thought	2
News from Honduras	2
Conference 2007	3
Visit to Holy Land	3
Diary	4
Appeal for Support	4

NEXT ISSUE DATE

**MAY 2007**

COPY DATE

**5 APRIL 2007**

## ROMERO Our-Patron-Saint-in-Waiting?

A new charity, the Archbishop Romero Trust, had its public launch on 11 January. The Trust will promote Oscar Romero's life and teaching and raise money to finance projects to continue his work for social justice and human rights in Central America. We hope it will have the strong support of NJPN.

Archbishop Romero was shot dead with a marksman's bullet as he offered the bread and wine at mass on 24 March 1980. He paid the ultimate price for his fidelity to the gospel and the option for the poor.

Looking back today he stands out as one of the great prophetic figures of the post Vatican II Church. He was a man of profound personal spirituality and a bishop of unshakeable loyalty to the magisterium of the Church. Gaudium et Spes ran through his veins: he was immersed in the joys and anxieties of his suffering people. In his daily life and in all his ministry as archbishop he was 'the option for the poor' made flesh. His love for his people was palpable and in the end he gave his life for them.



Archbishop Oscar Romero

Romero is on the road to canonisation. His Cause is in Rome and it seems there remain no fundamental obstacles to beatification. It can only be a matter of time now - a martyr of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and a saint for the 21<sup>st</sup>. At Westminster Cathedral's Memorial Mass for Romero in 1980 Cardinal Hume said "It would be wrong for me to anticipate the mind of the Church but I do believe that one day Oscar Romero will be recognised as a saint of the Church". 2007 will surely bring us closer to the realisation of that prophesy.

The Archbishop Romero Trust has been founded to celebrate his life and death in memorial liturgies and to promote private prayer for his beatification, to foster study of his life and teachings, and to finance small projects in his memory. It has already funded the refurbishment of Romero's little house at the cancer hospital which has become a place of pilgrimage. The vestments and clothes on display there, which he was wearing at the time of his martyrdom, were in danger of decay and

disintegration because of the heat and humidity.

We have organised talks, sermons and days of recollection. In May 2007 we plan to inaugurate an Archbishop Romero Lecture with Mgr Ricardo Urioste, Romero's former Secretary and Vicar General. He will speak in Roehampton on Wednesday 16 May, Aylesford on Saturday 19 May Norwich Cathedral on Sunday 20 May and in Central London and Scotland on nearby dates. **Please put it in your diary now.**

On 24 March, which is 'Romero Day', we hope to encourage liturgies to celebrate his life and witness. In Liverpool there has been a memorial mass for 27 years. Elsewhere we have not been so faithful.

The Trust is now a registered charity with the Catholic Archbishops of Westminster, Edinburgh and Dublin and the Anglican Archbishops of Canterbury and York as Patrons. Your donations and membership of the 'Friends of Romero'

association that we are setting up alongside the Trust would be greatly welcomed.

Archbishop Romero is alive today in the hearts of millions of Latin Americans. He has inspired Christians all over the world to give themselves selflessly putting into practice the Charter of Compassion which is the Beatitudes. His homilies and writings are full of timeless evangelical wisdom for a Church in pursuit of justice in this globalising world. He shows that we cannot endlessly trot out the phrase 'the option for the poor' and yet avoid engagement in the messy crises of the world. He remains a model bishop and an example for us all now.

One day soon we must proclaim him the Patron of our Justice and Peace movement.

Julian Filochowski

***If you would like to become a 'Friend of Romero' for £10 per annum or to make a donation towards the work of the Trust please write to Archbishop Romero Trust, 8 Deans Mews, London W1G 9EE or contact [romerotrust@btinternet.com](mailto:romerotrust@btinternet.com)***

# Catholic Social Thought



Michael Hornsby-Smith

Justice & Peace groups often find themselves struggling to get off the ground and can remain rather ineffective in raising awareness and bringing about change. Sometimes it's a matter of being unable to focus on specific issues, sometimes it's lack of group skills in the midst of strong-minded people, but mostly it's limited awareness of the wealth of material already available in the tradition of Catholic Social Thought.

The fact is we've never had a coherent work that lays out in an accessible way Gospel inspiration, official teaching and social analysis in a full range of contemporary issues, together with parallel secular thought and finally action responses. Michael Hornsby-Smith has done us a great service in produced such an overview, with the sort of thoroughness one might expect from the author of *Roman Catholic Beliefs in England*.

After a brief account of the injustices that challenge us in the social reality of our contemporary world, the book presents tools for the social analysis of the causes. The processes of globalisation and the dominant ideology of liberal capitalism need to be understood if their structures are to be regulated and the arbitrary exercise of power and increasing inequality prevented.

The second section of the book reviews the theological resources in order that Christians can make an action response. The chapter on *The Kingdom of God* draws extensively on Fuellenbach's work, reflecting on Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom and its meaning for Christians today. Next it is useful to hear about the contribution of political theologians and of secular writers; but particularly valuable is the reflection on *citizenship* characterised by participation, freedom, equality and solidarity, once seen as revolutionary but now recognised as based on kingdom values. The final chapter of this section outlines Catholic social thought, its key documents, concepts and development.

The most substantial part of the book is the consideration of six main areas in which Catholic social thought makes a valuable contribution: human rights, the family & bioethical issues, economic life, social exclusion, authentic development, and war & peace. This is where justice and peace activists will find so much that is helpful, bringing together as it does an understanding of the issue in some detail, together with the developments in the Church's analysis and thinking over the years.

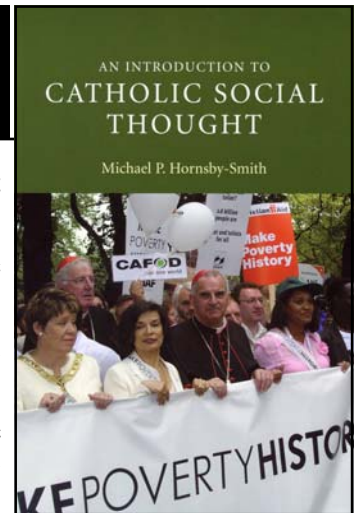
It is perhaps surprising to find the family as one of the main areas, simply because it is usually kept separate from social teaching. But Hornsby-Smith is surely right: the family cannot be left out of the basic structure of society to which the principles of justice are to apply. Another surprise is that environment is not one of these main areas, but only a subsection of that on authentic development. Again the author is consistent: the environment has not had such a major place in Catholic social thought till very recently. Hence Sean McDonagh's strongly expressed criticisms.

Finally the book deals with the last stage of the pastoral cycle: social action responses to the injustices that have been analysed and viewed in the light of theological reflection. Here we find some perceptive comments on the significance of Catholic NGO's and the effectiveness of a justice and peace network.

I would strongly recommend it to NJPN Newsletter readers. Maybe £17.99 for the paperback version seems expensive but it is a volume of some 400 pages and groups might consider sharing the cost.

***An Introduction to Catholic Social Thought*** by Michael Hornsby-Smith (CUP 2006) £45

Brian Davies



## BECAUSE LIFE IS DEFENDED WITH LIFE . . . We resist!

Readers who attended our 2005 Conference will remember the powerful testimony of Fr Andres Tamayo of Honduras. Fr Andres has been defending the forests of Olancho for over 20 years from loggers and miners who clear an estimated 80,000 hectares of forest each year. In 2003 Tamayo led a 250-km march of hundreds of peasant farmers, environmentalists and students to the presidential palace in Tegucigalpa in protest at the illegal logging.

Fr Tamayo told the conference of the dangers these protests have brought about. How he sleeps in a different place each night as there is a price of \$40,000 on his head. News has just reached us that on 20 December 2006 two of the leaders of the Environmental Movement of Olancho (MAO) were extrajudicially executed by National Police agents outside the Mayor's Office, in front of local residents. Heraldo Zuniga and Roger Ivan Cartagena join the many others who deaths MAO is seeking to have investigated.

Yet once more it is clear that the Environmental Movement of Olancho's motto still holds relevance: BECAUSE LIFE IS DEFENDED WITH LIFE . . . We resist!



Fr Andres Tamayo

## CONFERENCE 2007



## ACTION !

*"The profound message of Jesus is one of peace and reconciliation. That is a message for all humanity. Political solutions provide a framework, but lasting change can only come from conversion of the heart.*

*"Just as he was born into a time of turbulence and suffering, so I am conscious that is the same today across the Holy Land. But did not the Angel say: "Do not be afraid. I bring you tidings of great joy"?"*

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor

Go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Meet the people of Bethlehem and be in solidarity with them.

## CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS — Who me?

The 2007 NJPN Conference planning is well under way with the three-way cooperation of NJPN, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Pax Christi. This is a first, a genuine attempt to open the Conference to an ecumenical audience from the outset. As the title implies, the Conference will try to explore the Christian vocation to peacemaking – yes it is you, me, us who are the peacemakers, it is not something left for 'others' to do!

To help guide us in this exploration we have great resource people. The U.S based **John Dear SJ** writes, acts and supports peace-work in the US and beyond, focusing particularly on the nonviolent Jesus. **Zoughbi Zoughbi** is a Palestinian Christian from Bethlehem and founder of the Palestinian Centre for Conflict Resolution. From their distinctive backgrounds they will share scriptural and political insights into work for peace and nonviolence.

We will also hear testimonies from a number of people who have been invited to reflect on what the so-called war on terror has meant to them in their own lives –

where it has taken them, how it has impacted on them. So we will have **Norman Kember**, held hostage in Iraq for 118 days between 2005-2006, **Maya Evans**, a young woman who is the first person to be arrested under the new security laws for reading out the names of the Iraqi dead at Downing Street, **Ihtisham Hibatullah** a Muslim and member of the Muslim Association of Britain, and **Roula Marrouf**, a third-generation Palestinian from Lebanon currently studying in London.

There will be time to digest all of this in quieter times of reflection and discussion and through a variety of workshops that will look at peace issues and approaches to peacemaking and to celebrate the theme through liturgy and prayer.

This year the work of the youth programme will be fully integrated into the main theme and run by the peace education teams of FoR and Pax Christi. So don't wait, put the date in your diary now and get ready to book your place.

Pat Gaffney (*Pax Christi*)

## Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Shortly before Christmas The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor; the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Dr Rowan Williams; Free Churches Moderator, the Reverend David Coffey and the Primate of the Armenian Church of Great Britain Bishop Nathan Hovhannisian went on pilgrimage to the place of Jesus' birth.

They hoped to convey to the Christian communities of the Holy Land the solidarity of Christians in this land. The Christian communities in the Holy Land need to know that they are not forgotten and that their witness over two millennia, often in demanding circumstances, is acknowledged and appreciated. The pilgrimage intended to offer hope and encouragement to these beleaguered communities.

Having met local Church leaders in Jerusalem, the pilgrims crossed into Bethlehem, passing through the security barrier, which around the town of Jesus' birth is over 25 feet high. Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor said in his Thought for the Day, broadcast live from Bethlehem on 21 December, that he had been greatly moved to see Manger Square, normally bustling with pilgrims, now almost deserted. The economic consequences of the conflict and the erection of the wall around Bethlehem had led to more and more people moving away, with unemployment around 65%.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the barrier is a terrible thing as a symbol and consequence of the seemingly intractable enmity and political stalemate of the Holy Land," said the Cardinal.

"Speaking to a sister where we were staying, it soon became clear that ordinary people are not the problem in the Holy Land. She spoke of Christians, Jews and Muslims who want peace. It is those with power and influence in Palestine and Israel, and I fear perhaps the international community, that seem to lack the will to ensure that the hopes of ordinary people are realised."



*The Pilgrims in Bethlehem*

However, the pilgrims were not on a political mission. They are not in a position to provide political solutions. They went to bear witness and walk together in solidarity with the local people, particularly Christians and show that they have not been forgotten; that the rest of the Church is with them. The pilgrims went, and brought with them the hopes and prayers of all Christians back in this country, to express their desire for peace in a land of conflict.

# DIARY 2007

Prayer . . . . Information . . . . Reflection . . . . Action . . . .

## JANUARY

**28 Homelessness Sunday** – “No home, no justice”  
Resource pack available from: 020 7723 7273 &  
[www.homelessness-sunday.org.uk](http://www.homelessness-sunday.org.uk). See also  
[www.justhousing.org.uk](http://www.justhousing.org.uk).

**28 Memorial Lecture** with Alison Gelder & Peter  
Cunningham @ LACE, Liverpool  
Contact 0151 522 1080

## FEBRUARY

**10 Network for Peace AGM** “Guns and greenhouse  
gases: War, Peace and the Environment” Conway  
Hall, London [www.networkforpeace.org.uk](http://www.networkforpeace.org.uk)

**17 Portsmouth Justice & Peace Day** “The  
Environment and Fair Trade - Becoming Stewards of  
God’s Creation” with Mary Colwell. Contact 01329  
835583

**18 Poverty Action Sunday** – annual day for churches  
to reflect on the reality of poverty in the UK and to do  
something about it. Contact: 0161 236 9321, email:  
[info@church-poverty.org.uk](mailto:info@church-poverty.org.uk), web: [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk).

**26- 11 March – Fairtrade Fortnight** [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

## MARCH

**1 Fr Jim Keenan SJ** HIV Aids: The Continuing Ethical  
Challenges. Lecture Theatre 201 Imperial College,  
London 6.30pm. Free but book. Contact: Carol  
Lourdass 020 8240 4198

**2 Women’s World Day of Prayer**  
*United under God’s Tent*  
[www.wwdp-natcomm.org](http://www.wwdp-natcomm.org)

**2 CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day** – [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk).

**10 Annual Peace Education Network Conference**  
‘Human Rights and Peace’ Birmingham  
[info@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:info@paxchristi.org.uk)

**11 Romero Mass**, St Albert’s, Stockbridge Village,  
Liverpool. 0151 522 1080

**24 Anniversary of Oscar Romero’s assassination**  
[www.cafod.org.uk/worship](http://www.cafod.org.uk/worship)

**24 Why should Christian Care for the Planet?**  
Sarum College, Salisbury. Contact 01722 424838.

**25 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passing of the bill to  
abolish the slave trade in the British colonies.** A  
“Set all Free” resource pack is available for £10 +  
P&P. Order by ‘phone: 0870 444 1994 or from  
[www.setallfree.net](http://www.setallfree.net).

## MAY

**13-19 Christian Aid Week**  
020 7620 4444

**16 World Debt Day**  
[www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

**18- 20 Christianity and the Environment** with Mary  
Colwell & Fr Sean McDonagh  
Contact Emmaus House

## An Appeal for Support

If you already contribute financially to National Justice and Peace Network do not read this article!

In response to the changing context of its work NJPN has finally become an independent charity. Although that is excellent news, the challenge is that we have to look to our long-term funding. And the responsibility for this lies with us, the members and supporters of NJPN.

Currently, just over half of our money comes from a single grant - for which we are very grateful. But we know that it is best practice for charities to have a number of diverse income sources.

We need an annual income of £30,000 to maintain the network at its current level. With more funds we could offer better services covering topics such as the Environment - Nuclear Weapons - Asylum Seekers - Poverty - World Debt - the expanded EU. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to offer a J&P hotline on a full time basis? With us all contributing this is achievable.


Now we don't want to make this an onerous appeal, hoping that many hands will make light work. This newsletter goes to around 7,000 people interested in the goals of Justice and Peace.

**If 2,500 of us respond positively** by signing a standing order form today for just **£12 per year** it would be

absolutely fantastic, and we would be well on our way to meeting our long term goals.

So let's not delay filling in a Standing Order form, (and the Gift Aid Form also for those of us who pay Income Tax,) returning them asap to:

NJPN  
39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

 <b>National Justice and Peace Network</b> <small>Instructions to Bank or Building Society to pay by standing order Charity No: 1114947 Company No: 5036866</small>	
<b>PLEASE RETURN TO:</b> <b>National Justice and Peace Network, 39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX</b>	
Name and full postal address of your bank/building society Name ..... Address ..... ..... Post Code .....	Instructions to your Bank/Building Society Please pay National Justice and Peace Network Sort Code 16 31 15 Account No. 10006157 the sum of £ ..... Amount in words ..... Per calendar month / quarter / year <i>(delete as appropriate)</i> First payment date .....
Name(s) of account holder(s) Name ..... Address ..... ..... Post Code .....	I am a UK tax payer and by making this declaration I give permission for the named charity to reclaim tax on: 1. All donations I have made to NJPN since 31 July 2006 and all future donations, until further notice. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. All donations I make from the date of this declaration until further notice. <input type="checkbox"/> 3. The enclosed lump sum donation. £ <input type="text"/>
Bank/Building Society: Account Number ..... Sort Code .....	Signature(s) ..... Date .....