

## Haiti Happenings By E-Mail, continued

I asked for 160,000 doses. His response: "I have them in stock here in Port-au-Prince".

It's really good that Pestel is now a bit on UNICEF's radar screen. That might be very good news for the kids in Pestel!

When I was in Haiti Dr. Seneque (who we have worked with) mentioned the need for propane tanks in order to start up the immunization program. The next day I received an e-mail that money had been donated for this purpose. I was able to tell Dr. Seneque, and he was very happy about it. These are the sorts of messages that reinforce what I've been telling folks in Pestel: that God moves in people's hearts on their behalf.

Things to pray for:

- For all those who went to Haiti as we transition back to the US, and try to take in all the information.
- The upcoming **Anemia Campaign**. This is going to take a lot of attention to detail.
- **Housing in Pestel**. There is essentially no good housing in the town of Pestel. This was a great source of stress for all of us last week. We are praying about the possibility of building a guest house in town.

- **CharRocket stove**. A tremendous amount of effort was put into building the stove and doing the demonstrations. We are eager to see how the Haitians take it and innovate further on it. We are hopeful that we can attract donors through a nearby organization that does microfinance to help develop this further. The goal would be to produce these locally in Pestel.
- **Nutrition**. I received an email from Vitamin Angels that they are seriously considering adding micronutrients to the items they provide! This is EXACTLY where the Anemia campaign is going! They are considering starting in Haiti, so I gave them an update and asked them to keep me in mind.
- **Water**. Dr. John Lane provided me with some of the best news of the trip: there is water under them hills! He has a high degree of confidence that drilling for wells would be successful. The big challenge is in funding for the drilling and getting the rig out to Pestel. A number of strategically placed wells would be life-changers for the entire area!

**Save the Date**  
**October 15, 2011**  
**Piano/Choir Concert**  
**Benefit for**  
**Haiti Ministries**



# JPIC Focus News

The Newsletter of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Network

June, 2011

Vol. 15, No. 2

### JPIC Network

#### Members:

Sisters: Josephine Dybza, Carolyn Giera, Sharon Havelak, Geraldine Nowak, Joan Jurski, Mary Peter Kaminski, Patricia Simpson, Nancy Ann Surma

#### Associate:

Deborah Schwartz

### For Reflection:

One of the most significant marks of Saint Francis' spirituality is his acute sense of the presence of God in creation and in human history. Every being, everything is a gift from God. Everything speaks to us of God and sends us back to God. The universe in its unity and its diversity is a sacrament of God. For Francis, loving the works of God and loving God was the same thing.

This spirituality guides Franciscans today to work to see that creation is not reduced to the economic interests of humanity, to restore the dignity and intrinsic value of the created world and to support sustainable practices that will preserve the planet for future generations. (OFM, St. John the Baptist province, JPIC website.)

## Our Sylvania Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Ministry Sister Joan Jurski

*"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words."*  
-St. Francis of Assisi

As Sisters of St. Francis we have gathered together in Assemblies and other venues and determined that certain phrases and mantras describe who we are as Franciscan women. Over the years we have searched together to determine what best describes a Sylvania Franciscan. These statements have been rooted in the Gospel and our Franciscan charism. We have proclaimed that, "We are Franciscan women of peace and seekers of justice, open and responsive to the needs of the world."

In our Local Chapter Conferences we have prayed over and reflected on our core Franciscan values:

- **Conversion**, an ever turning to the Lord
- **Contemplation**, our personal connection to the Lord in prayer
- **Poverty**, our recognition of our dependence on God and the need to live simply
- **Minority**, our understanding that we are all brothers and sisters and in relationship to one another

These values direct our lives.

In our Mission Statement we are further reminded that we are women who go in "joyful servanthood" and act as "messengers of peace" and always work as women who "reverence human life and embrace the poor and marginalized."

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## Our Sylvania Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Ministry, continued

As we reflect on each of these rich and powerful statements the question needs to be asked "Where do they lead me *personally*; where do they lead us *as a community*? What drives us to be women of peace and seekers of justice?"

For some in our world, both locally and globally, life is not so good. How do we and can we make life better for others? As a community we have pledged to take a public stand on specific issues and support those in need with attention to the following issues. They are topics of "focus groups" supported by the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Network (JPIC) which allow Sisters and Associates to be more involved in issues they have a special concern about.

- Care of Creation
- Women and children (including Bethany House and Women Blessing Women, both in Toledo)
- Support of Clare's Pence, our fund to help women in need
- Haiti
- Human Trafficking
- Peace initiatives, both personal and global
- Death penalty
- Immigration reform

If you are drawn to becoming involved in some capacity with any of the above issues or if you would like to join the JPIC, please contact Sister Sharon Havelak at 419-824-3749 or [shavelak@sistersosf.org](mailto:shavelak@sistersosf.org).

As Franciscan women we do have the power to make a brighter world for others. We can change those structures that keep people from living a good life. Let us together live what we have written and preached. We give thanks to our God for the many blessings we have received both personally and congregationally.



Pace e Bene!

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## Issue: Death Penalty / Prison Ministry

### Ministering on Death Row *Sister Carolyn Giera*

The experience of ministering to an Ohio man who was executed in February only served to strengthen two Toledo diocesan priests in their opposition to the death penalty. Both Father Michael Zacharias and Father Tony Borgia reflected on their ministry to Frank Spisak whom they knew as "Frances" during his years on death row at Mansfield Correctional Institution and as ministers of record in the hours leading to his death February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville. "Frances was not the same person he was 28 years ago when he was convicted of killing three people on the campus of Cleveland State University in 1982", said Father Borgia. According to Father Zacharias, Mr. Spisak changed a great deal after he was correctly diagnosed and treated for mental illness in prison. He



A woman who lives near the home of Sister Fidelis and Sister Josephine stands near the gate that leads to the Sisters' home. Whenever a person needs some kind of assistance from the Sisters they come to this gate and knock. Sister Fidelis or Sister Josephine come to find out what they need and figure out how they might help. The gate is symbolic of the Sylvania Franciscan ministry in Haiti. "...whatever you did for these least brother (or sisters) of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)



Sister Fidelis, center with straw hat, meets with a group of local women in one of the outdoor chapels that are located in the villages.



When the earthquake struck, Bill Nathan, director of the St. Joseph's Home for Boys, was up in the bell tower calling the residents in for prayer and dinner. He was thrown from the building and injured, but was saved from being crushed by a large tree that stopped the walls from falling on him. In honor of his life being spared, the tree is being carved into a statue of St. Michael the Archangel suppressing the devil and

## Haiti Happenings By E-mail

*Dr. Ben Fredrick, M.D.*

Happy Easter, Everyone! Or as my kids have been saying, "Resurrection Day"....which I prefer. Today is a day for Rising Again...for great hope and new ways of doing things.

We have decided to move forward with the non-profit and make it explicitly a faith-motivated organization (as opposed to keeping it 'secular' or stripped of language relating to Christianity). The name of our new venture is **Thriving Villages** and the website is:

<http://www.thrivingvillages.com/>  
(also on the Justice and Peace/Haiti page of the Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, Ohio website.)

We would like to thank many people for their insights and suggestions as we've developed this:

*Thriving Villages is a Christian organization called to demonstrate God's goodness and compassion. We will work collaboratively and holistically with individuals and organizations, utilizing our gifts and skills to address issues of health, poverty, and development in rural Peste, Haiti and beyond.*

Other news:

I've been emailing with the head of UNICEF's nutrition program for Haiti. I JUST got an email from him today that he is able to provide me with iron tablets and micronutrients for the upcoming anemia campaign in June!!!

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# Haiti Happenings

## Summer, 2011

### Sylvania Franciscan Leadership Visits Ministry in Haiti

*Dale Thomas, Director of Communications & Marketing Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, OH*

Sister Diana Lynn Eckel, Congregational Minister of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, and Sister Patricia Gardner, Councilor and Congregational Treasurer, spent two weeks in February visiting and supporting the work of Sister Fidelis Rubbo and Sister Josephine Dybza, who are stationed in the mountains above Pestel, 90 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the capital of the island country. They wanted to experience firsthand what their two Sisters live with on a daily basis as they minister to the people of a country that is known as the poorest nation in the western hemisphere; a place where 80% of the population lives in poverty and 50% of the children die before the age of five.

Haiti is a country of contrasts. Poverty was prevalent everywhere Sister Diana Lynn and Sister Pat went, yet the people were always joyful and seemed appreciative of what little they had. Whether in Port-au-Prince, where the destruction of the earthquake was still evident, or out in the country where the residents lived on what meager existence they can eke out of

the land, the Haitians were always happy.

Sister Pat said she was grateful for the experience because it opened her eyes to what true needs really are. "We have so much in the United States, yet we never seem to be satisfied and always want more," she said. "The people of Haiti have so little, but don't seem to be hungering for things that aren't needed." Sister Diana Lynn echoed her sentiments. "Nothing is easy for the Haitians," she said. "That is the way they live every day. They accept it and do whatever it takes and almost always with a smile on their face and a song on their lips." Sister Pat kept a journal while on their trip. If you would like to read about her experience, copy this link <http://www.sistersosf.org/News.aspx> to the "News" page on the Sylvania Franciscan website.



Above, Sister Diana Lynn (left), Sister Pat and Sister Fidelis, lead the students in a rendition of "itsy bitsy spider" at the elementary school attached to St. Rose de Lima Chapel. The Sisters said the students were well behaved and always paid attention, grateful for the education they were receiving.

described Mr. Spisak, a lifelong Catholic, as a "gentle soul" who loved his Catholic faith and the Eucharist. Both priests celebrated Mass for him the morning of his execution: "his last meal was the Body and Blood of Christ." During the petitions he sincerely prayed for anyone that he ever hurt. Neither of them witnessed Mr. Spisak's execution, but they observed that the table in the death chamber—with its two wings supporting the outstretched arms of the person being executed—takes the form of a cross. "You know, we crucified our Lord again today," said Father Zacharias. "And not just that these people that are employed by the state of Ohio did it—but that we did it. It's our taxpayer dollars."

### Ohio House Bill 160

In February, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio issued a statement calling on Governor John Kasich and legislative leaders to end the death penalty in Ohio. They agreed with recent comments made by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Paul Pfeifer and retired Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Director Terry Collins, who called on Ohio's elected legislative leaders to "debate and ultimately abolish the death penalty." On Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Criminal Justice committee heard the first hearing on House Bill 160. It does much more than abolish the death penalty in Ohio. If a person pleads guilty to aggravated murder, that person now has three sentencing option under H.B. 160: life imprison-

ment with the option of parole after 20 years; life imprisonment with a parole option after 30 years; or life imprisonment without parole. There are many other components of this bill which will be thoroughly researched during Committee hearings. Please contact your state representative to make them aware of this important issue.



### Ministering to Imprisoned Women: An Interview with Barbara Breen, Associate, Minneapolis-St. Paul MN

Barbara Breen, Associate, a member of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN was asked by the president of the Council to be on the board for Prison Ministry after Archbishop Flynn brought the need for such ministry to ACCW. That was nine years ago. Today, Barbara continues her service to the women incarcerated in the Volunteers of America Correctional Center and its Recovery area, a 90-day program for women involved in drugs, alcohol and prostitution. "I feel inspired to use my gifts on their behalf and to give them a sense of their

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## Ministering to Imprisoned Women: An Interview with Barbara Breen, continued

dignity—I call them Ladies,” she says. She teaches Bible Study one day a week, provides clothes for the women who enter the jail, pairs of socks for St. Nick’s Day and backpacks with personal items for Christmas. She also adds a touch of angel soap from our own “All Good Things” gift shop! Barbara recommended that the women in recovery receive quilts and fancy pillows for good behavior, a project in which the deaneries from southern Minnesota also participate. A greater awareness of community concerns surfaced when she invited the Director of the Recovery Center to be a program speaker for the Minneapolis Deanery.

When you look into Barbara’s eyes and hear her excitement as she talks about her ministry, you cannot help but catch her love and compassion for her “ladies”.

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## Upcoming Executions

In their Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty, announced March 2006, the Bishops asked us to pray for the victims of crime and their families, those who have been wrongly convicted and those awaiting execution.

The following prisoners are on death row, awaiting execution soon. Please keep them in prayer, as well as their families, their victims and the victims’

families. Also, please continue to pray for healing in our country that the spirit of peace and reconciliation, rather than violence and revenge, may prevail.

### June

1 Gayland Bradford TX  
14 Carey Dean Moore NE  
**14 Shawn Hawkins OH**  
15 John Balentine TX  
16 Lee Andrew Taylor TX  
16 Eddie Duval Powell, III AL  
21 Milton Mathis TX  
22 Frank Williams, Jr. AR

### July

7 Humberto Leal TX  
12 Marcel Williams AR  
**19 Kenneth Smith OH**  
20 Mark Stroman TX

### August

10 Martin Robles  
**16 Brett Hartman OH**  
30 Ivan Cantu TX

Executions in 2011: 15  
Executions since the ban was lifted in 1976: 1249

Sources for information: Death Penalty Information Center ([www.deathpenaltyinfo.org](http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org)) and Amnesty International USA ([www.amnestyusa.org/deathpenalty](http://www.amnestyusa.org/deathpenalty))

Numbers are accurate as of May 16, 2011.



## Tips For Reducing Your Impact, continued

- Heat & cool efficiently! Have your heating and cooling systems serviced every year to ensure peak operational efficiency and safety.
- Advocate for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change policies. Write to your lawmakers and elected officials and urge them to act with urgency and put care for Creation, the poor, and the common good ahead of short-term special interests.
- Use power strips. Plug in electronics and computers to power strips and save energy by turning off computers when not in use. Shutting down just one computer and monitor system can save up to \$100 annually.
- Wash clothes with less energy. Wash laundry with cold water whenever possible. Wash and dry full loads to maximize efficiency. Don’t overload your dryer. Better yet, use a solar dryer -- a clothesline!
- Save gas, Save energy. Keep your tires properly inflated. Every pound underinflation uses 6% more gas. And tune up your car. A poorly tuned car can use 25% more gas.
- Get in the BYO bag habit! BYO Bag: Bring Your Own Bag wherever you go. Keep enough reusable bags in your car for all your grocery shopping. Then remember to put them back in your car when you put away the groceries.
- ASSESS: Do an Energy Audit. Fulfill the ASSESS part of the St. Francis Pledge: Save more energy this year by contacting an energy audit supplier to have your home and/ or office audited.



## Issue: Care for the Earth

Sister Sharon Havelak

The Care for the Earth focus group has taken part in Earth Week activities, adding their pledges to the One Thousand Acts of Green Campaign sponsored by the Environmental Awareness Committee of the Sylvania Franciscan Village. The Thousand Acts of Green was a huge success, with 3744 pledges received!

The Care for the Earth members will be reflecting on an article by Alexandra Kovats, cspj, *Re-Visioning the Vows Holistically*. In her article, Sister Alexandra explains the principle of interdependence and connects it with the understandings of the new cosmology, emphasizing the three principles of differentiation, autopoiesis and communion; she then relates each of the vows to the one of the cosmic principles, offering insights on how we can live with new awareness in today's world. The article can be found on the Care for the Earth page of our website ([www.sistersosf.org](http://www.sistersosf.org)).



### Pledge to:

- **PRAY** and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
- **LEARN** about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.
- **ASSESS** how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations-contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.
- **ACT** to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.
- **ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they

### Tips For Reducing Your Impact

- Consider the footprint of products before you buy them: from resource extraction, to production, distribution, consumption, and disposal.
- Give up buying water bottles. Reduce waste and save money: buy a reusable water bottle and fill it up with tap water.

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## The Cost of War

Estimated Cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to date:

Iraq:	\$779,635,015, 888
Afghanistan:	\$386,810,248,922
Total:	\$1,166,445,264,810

Since fiscal year 2001, the money spent on the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars will cost:

Ohio:	\$44.2 billion or 8.0 million student Pell Grants of \$5,550 for 1 year
Toledo, OH:	\$970.4 million or 174,855 student Pell Grants of \$5,550 for 1 year
Michigan:	\$33.5 billion or 4.7 million Head Start openings for children for 1 year
Detroit, MI:	\$2.1 billion or 298,416 Head Start openings for children for 1 year
Minnesota:	\$30.3 billion or 3.9 million military vets' VA medical care for 1 year
Minneapolis, MN:	\$1.9 billion or 246,983 military vets' VA medical care for 1 year
Texas:	\$103.1 billion or 27.3 million people receiving low-income health-care for 1 year
Bryan, TX:	\$257.5 million or 68,104 people receiving low-income healthcare for 1 year
United States:	\$1.3 trillion or 646.0 million children receiving low-income health care for 1 year

US Military Deaths:	6,025 (Iraq: 4,452 / Afghanistan: 1,573)
Iraqi civilians killed:	100,880 - 110,183

Sources for information: The National Priorities Project ([www.nationalpriorities.org/costofwar\\_home](http://www.nationalpriorities.org/costofwar_home)), the Iraq Coalition Causality Count (<http://icausalities.org/oif>) and Iraq Body Count ([www.iraqbodycount.org](http://www.iraqbodycount.org)).

Numbers are accurate as of May 16, 2011.



## Issue: Women and Children

### Women Blessing Women

*Sister Carolyn Giera*

Women Blessing Women (WBW) held its Spring Blessings Tea and Fashion Show on Sunday afternoon, May 1, 2011. It was not only an enjoyable afternoon but also a successful fundraiser in support of the WBW ministry. Almost \$7,000 was raised for the event. Hors d'oeuvres were served as guests milled around the Silent Auction tables. WBW waitresses offered tea and sweets at bright spring-decorated tables while the choir of Harvest Christian Center provided the music. We heard of the challenges and successes of several of the participants in pursuing their educational dreams as they modeled the fashions provided by TJ Max. Ms Wilma Brown, our Ohio State Representative gave an inspiring speech as she highlighted the hurdles she experienced in reaching her personal goals. The WBW Board, staff and participants are deeply grateful to our sponsors, donors, supporters, participants, attendees and all those who contributed to the items in the Silent Auction!

Thank you for believing in the mission and supporting the core values of WBW.



### Sylvania Community Group Forming to Tackle Domestic Violence Issues

*Debbie Schwartz*

Often people do not realize that domestic violence is a problem in the Sylvania community, yet police and victim advocates know it affects many lives. In fact, in 2010, the Sylvania City Police Department reported 81 Domestic Violence calls, resulting in 56 Domestic Violence Arrests, and the Sylvania Township Police Department reported 158 Domestic Violence calls, resulting in 67 Domestic Violence Arrests.

To raise awareness of this issue, the Sexual Abuse Prevention Awareness Treatment Healing Coalition of Northwest Ohio, in partnership with Sylvania Area Family Services, held a Roundtable Discussion with community leaders and organizers in October, 2010. At the Roundtable, representatives from the Mayor of Sylvania's Office, City of Sylvania and Township Police Departments, Sylvania Municipal Court, Lourdes College, St. Joseph School, the Lucas County Sheriff's Office, the YWCA HOPE Center, County offices, and local churches

identified three main needs of the Sylvania community concerning domestic violence: safe housing, changes in policies and procedures for dealing with perpetrators, and awareness of resources for families affected by DV.

A group of Sylvania community and local agency representatives met at Sylvania Area Family Services in January to follow up on the Roundtable Discussion. This group developed a list of actions needed to form a Sylvania community group to tackle the issues of education, prevention, and safe houses.

The community group now needs additional members to plan and coordinate strategies for improving education, prevention, and housing for families affected by DV in Sylvania. We will be meeting again at 9:30 am on Friday May 20, 2011 at Sylvania Family Services, 5440 Marshall Road, Sylvania, OH 43560, and welcome your interest and participation. If you have questions about the grass roots community organization, please contact Jason Robertson or Karen C. Smith at Sylvania Area Family Services at (419) 882-8415 or [dirsafs@ambi.net](mailto:dirsafs@ambi.net) or [ksmith9496@accesstoledo.com](mailto:ksmith9496@accesstoledo.com).

### Bethany House

A volunteer is needed to help in the office at Bethany House for four hours every week or every other week. Would require familiarity, but not

expertise, with the computer. Contact Sister Nancy Surma at 419-882-8373 or [nsurma@fscsylvania.org](mailto:nsurma@fscsylvania.org)

Bethany House welcomes the prayers and support of our Sisters and Associates. Because it is a residence and the staff is busy, we ask you do not stop in on your own. If you are interested in seeing the house or if you want to offer to help in any way, please contact Sister Nancy Surma at 419-882-8373 or [nsurma@fscsylvania.org](mailto:nsurma@fscsylvania.org) at Bethany House.

### Clare's Pence

*Sister Sharon Havelak*

One Clare's Pence request came in during April. A student was in desperate need of money to finish her program requirements and to help with car repairs. We were able to give \$400 to help her end the semester with fewer burdens. Your generosity has touched one more life, lifted one more heart, offered a bit of hope.

We accept donations to Clare's Pence at any time, in any amount. All gifts are welcome. Please remember that you can offer a Clare's Pence grant for a woman you know – in your parish or neighborhood, at your office – or anywhere you hear of a need. Contact Sister Sharon Havelak (419-824-3749, [shavelak@sisteresof.org](mailto:shavelak@sisteresof.org)) or look for the forms on the Sisters Only/ Associates Only/Community logon pages of our website ([www.sisteresof.org](http://www.sisteresof.org)).