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# IN/JUSTICE

FROM THE DESK OF TONY HAYNES, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, SASKATOON DIOCESE

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## Why?

At the Sunday Eucharist, our response to the sometimes large number of intercessory prayers is most likely to be "Hear our prayer." The list gets even longer when "What else would you like to pray for?" comes as end comment.

To whom are we praying? Is God listening? We do know that we cannot always expect instant cooperation from God. So what gives? Certainly we can address our pleas and requests by using other words such as Creator. This certainly helps to embrace those people who have different faith backgrounds, such as First Nations.

Some prefer to address their pleas to Jesus, second person of the Trinity. That God sent His only Son to live our life is an invitation to turn to Jesus who has lived through all the trials to the point of death. The reason for addressing Jesus goes something like this: Jesus will understand and our prayers will be answered.

One person in the Trinity is rarely on our list of helpers. It is the Holy Spirit. For the social activist, the Holy Spirit should be for the following reason.

Let us recall the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Yes, there are seven. What are they? What would happen if we directed our prayers to the third person in the Blessed Trinity? We would be inspired by the gifts. More than that we would find ourselves led to use those gifts.

Incidentally, everyone has learned that they move from the first to the last, Knowledge to fear of the Lord. But is it not possible to start with Fear of the Lord moving to Knowledge?

This is particularly useful in considering some of our prayer intentions. We who live in the developed world have the benefit of various educational gifts, more so than previous generations.

As an example, hearing children and adults pray as they have done for the

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## Renaissance

It helps to use language with precision, especially when the words have a foreign origin.

This perfectly apt word "renaissance" has two distinct parts, "re" meaning a repetition and "naissance" meaning birth.

It has its own special application as developed in the European Middle Ages. To explain would be to make its meaning more vivid in our world.

The great artistic and literary achievements of Greece and Rome were preserved in the Eastern Roman Empire following the collapse of the latter under attack from the surging mobs of Goths and Vandals.

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***Do not rob the poor  
because they are poor***

*Proverbs 22.22*

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Four hundred years or so later, Italy in particular witnessed a reconnection with these achievements. A great period of artistic, architectural and literary followed.

Note the three distinct parts of this phenomenon: greatness, followed by destruction or absence, and then revival.

If this is a laboured introduction it is because the word "renaissance" is favoured by the pro nuclear people in referring to what they see is happening now.

But thanks to the media there never has been a period of greatness for their work. Instead we have an easy to remember list of disasters and dangers.

Hiroshima atomic bomb, Nagasaki atomic bomb, Bikini Atoll experiments, Nevada Desert underground explosions. Chernobyl accident (see later), Three Mile Island accident, Windscale effluents escaping into Irish Sea.

Also there has been the collapse of security in nuclear weapon storage with the fall of the Communist Russian continued on page 3

## Why? continued

last fifty years for an end to abortion, without hearing God eliminate this scourge, does make some people pause. This is where the Why enters. As one example, using the gifts of the Holy Spirit could give pause to those who are vocal against abortion.

They might ponder the huge burden of poverty that is placed on some families, so obvious in the unequal distribution of wealth.

Then they might ponder how this distribution of wealth is enticing to the comfortable that to have even one child is an impediment to amassing more wealth and spending it without children getting in the way.

Yet another why would lead them to consider the breakdown of family structures on children and teenagers, who turn to their peers and more so to the sexual license of the media.

One more why is to consider a modern weapon of war, used mostly in Africa but also in Bosnia. Gang rape by invading soldiers is suggested by some as a legitimate reason for abortions.

When the problem is seen in this light, the silent but effective actions of Birthright carried beyond birth might then replace the loud gun shots killing abortion doctors, and even the noise of public demonstrations

Does the silence of God indicate that we should be turning to the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help solve the scourge?

The list of issues seeking justice and bringing peace does not end.

Poverty is often caused by unequal distribution of wealth. Social teachings of the church are a good source of illumination in that respect.

What about wars? There are still plenty of those to make us wonder what gifts we could use to prevent them?

Starvation? Child abuse? Drug addictions? Inequality of women? Homelessness?

To use SEE JUDGE And ACT is a start to our search for solutions. All these are part of the simple question WHY?



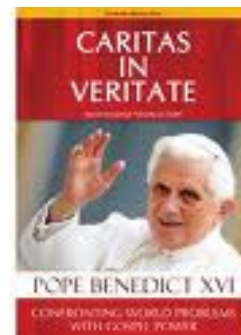
## Caritas in Veritate (in Charity and truth)

This is the title of Pope Benedict's 2009 letter of Social Teaching. This document, 50 pages long, has been a subject of inquiry and discussion. It assesses the present state of world society, morally and fiscally.

Bert Pitzel, the social justice coordinator for the Regina Archdiocese has spent much time exploring some of the Pope's main thoughts. He has done this through private study but also in public presentations.

He recently visited this diocese to speak at one of the Saturday morning information sessions promoted by the office for Justice and Peace. Out of the gathering has emerged a consensus of thought to prepare and promote a series of discussions within the three Saskatchewan dioceses.

Members of the three dioceses, Grant Hopley of Prince Albert, Sean O'Connor and Tony Haynes of Saskatoon together with Bert Pitzel agreed to meet over the summer to prepare materials. Others are welcome to join intense discussions probably in Davidson. Contact this office for details.



## Return to the Spirit.—Making the Impossible Possible

Having just completed the first stage of a two week training program, I would highly recommend this experience in relationship to the reconciliation of the Indian residential School issues. It is not limited to clergy although many bishops, priests have, because of their calling and their available time, have responded. In fact, news is that thirty three people have enrolled in the Prince George program occurring soon.

The program does indeed require a commitment by participants to two separate weeks. Brochures are available at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, while information is also available on the website [returningspirit.org](http://returningspirit.org). Toll free Winnipeg office number is 1-877-772-1991.

## Renaissance continued from page 1

empire, failing of Big Five treaties to prevent other countries such as Israel and Iran to develop nuclear weapons and finally the use of cancer-causing depleted uranium ammunition.

Thus it is both incorrect and deceiving for many of the pro nuclear groups to adopt the word "RENAISSANCE" into their vocabulary.

This is especially so when the president of AREVA, French born, French spoken and French educated Jerry Grandey includes the word in his promotion of the nuclear industry.



# Chernobyl Catastrophe

A new book from the New York Academy of Sciences was published on April 26, 2010, the 24th anniversary of the melt-down at the Soviet facility.

The book, "Chernobyl: Consequences of the Catastrophe for People and the Environment," was compiled by authors Alexey Yablokov of the Center for Russian Environmental Policy in Moscow, and Vassily Nesterenko and Alexey Nesterenko of the Institute of Radiation Safety, in Minsk, Belarus. The authors examined more than 5,000 published articles and studies, most written in Slavic languages and never before available in English.

The authors said, "For the past 23 years, it has been clear that there is a danger greater than nuclear weapons concealed within nuclear power. Emissions from this one reactor exceeded a hundred-fold the radioactive contamination of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki."



"No citizen of any country can be assured that he or she can be protected from radioactive contamination. One nuclear reactor can pollute half the globe," they said. "Chernobyl fallout covers the entire Northern Hemisphere."

***About 550 million Europeans, and 150 to 230 million others in the Northern Hemisphere received notable contamination. Fallout reached the United States and Canada nine days after the disaster.***

Drawing upon extensive data, the authors estimate the number of deaths worldwide due to Chernobyl fallout from 1986 through 2004 was 985,000, a number that has since increased.

Yablokov and his co-authors find that radioactive emissions from the stricken reactor, once believed to be 50 million curies, may have been as great as 10 billion curies, or 200 times greater than the initial estimate, and hundreds of times larger than the fallout from the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Numerous reports reviewed for this book document elevated disease rates in the Chernobyl area. These include increased fetal and infant deaths, birth defects, and diseases of the respiratory, digestive, musculoskeletal, nervous, endocrine, reproductive, hematological, urological, cardiovascular, genetic, immune, and other systems, as well as cancers and non-cancerous tumors.

## Station 20 West.



Like an albatross this project has been hanging around those who are firmly committed to effecting change in the lives of many less fortunate and less empowered living a sparse life in parts of the West side of Saskatoon.

Recent media coverage includes the Saskatoon diocesan newsletter as published by the Catholic Pastoral Centre. THIS ISSUE AND ALL THE ONES CONCERNING THE POWERLESS ARE BEYOND POLITICS. The nature of the work coming within the activities of the office arises from the social teachings of the Church, a series of ten documents in the last hundred years. It is of necessity how people treat all occupants of God's planet as well as the planet itself. It is as basic as knowing and caring for a neighbour.

# CLIMATE CHANGE

Especially in the United States, a group of prominent climate change skeptics – perhaps no more than several dozen – have wielded far more influence than their numbers might indicate.

Their voices have been backed up in many cases by the immense money and influence of the oil, coal and auto industries. Their support has enabled them to exert much sway on the US Congress, the media and by extension, the global fight against climate change.

Although a few skeptics are active in climate research, many aren't. Some of the most vocal are scientists with backgrounds in subjects like solid-state physics or mathematics, some with impressive resumes in their field but little if any experience working directly in climate change science.

Other dissenters are trained in atmospheric science but have had published few peer-reviewed papers on climate change.

Like their peers, most skeptics active in scientific research are employed by universities or government laboratories. Most rely on public funding but a number of conservative think tanks and lobby groups will cite their findings widely and use them in an attempt to convince legislators.

THE ROUGH GUIDE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, ROBERT HENSON See pages 225 on "A heated Debate"

# Kairos



This Canadian ecumenical social justice organization has been promoting a vigorous campaign following the unexpected cut in federal government financial backing for its four year overseas projects. When contacting various government representatives, elected and employed, people have found a lack of coherent response. At first, Jason Kenny was quoted, since denied, as saying it was connected to a stand taken by Kairos in respect to human rights violations vis a vis the people in Palestine. More recently this particular issue resurrected in a cut to a Moslem group researching human rights of women of Palestinian women in Israel.

Taking action. Handwritten letters to Prime Minister Harper, House of Commons Ottawa K1A 1A6 (no stamp necessary). Letters can be short, but all writers are encouraged to substitute wording underlined. Here are some possible letters. Choose one but ask your friends to choose others.

# BURNING ISSUE



Healthy rainforests absorb up 10% of man's carbon each year.

The Amazon forest releases 20 billion tonnes of moisture every day, helping to water crops thousands of miles away.

Deforestation releases more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than all the cars, planes and ship put together.

Over half of the world's plant and animal species are found in the rain forests.

Farmers in Brazil can make \$3000 per hectare by clearing forest and growing soy beans for export.

Over half of deforestation in Africa is carried out by poor farmers practising subsistence agriculture.

43 of the best selling products in supermarkets contain palm oil linked to rainforest clearance in South East Asia.

Rainforests will practically disappear in 50 years if no action is taken on how to value rainforest.

What you buy in stores could help determine the future of rainforests.

Rain Forests: The Burning Issue, The Prince's Rainforests Project, London, UK [www.rainforestSOS.org](http://www.rainforestSOS.org)

Letter 1: I wish to let you know that I object most strongly to the actions of your government in cutting completely the four year funding to Kairos. Minister Oda's recent explanation coming five months after the announcement is not acceptable in a democratic country.

OR Letter 2: I am very upset by your undemocratic leadership in cutting the Kairos grant. Many Third World countries will suffer and think badly of our country.

OR Letter 3: Please note that your decision to cut the funding to Kairos is definitely undemocratic. It works against the image of our country as being peace loving.

Send a copy of your letter to Michael Ignatieff, leader of the opposition, Jack Layton, leader of the NDP, as well as Bob Rae, Foreign Affairs critic, Liberal Party. They will then be able to put pressure on Stephen Harper during Question Period. These letters may be photo copies.