

JUST a bit

Your friends in the Parish and Social Justice Ministries Department at Catholic Charities would like to share ***JUST a bit*** of information with you regarding justice and advocacy issues, opportunities and/or events that might be of interest. Please feel free to send any feedback to the attention of Colleen Smith, Communications Associate of Parish and Social Justice Ministries, Catholic Charities Inc. at csmith@archatl.com. Thank you.

TAKE ACTION NOW – Rising Food Prices, Ongoing Conflicts Taking their Toll: Urge Congress to help the hungry, the displaced and to foster peace by [Contacting your Members of Congress](#) today. Ask them to provide additional funding for urgently needed food aid, Iraqi refugees, and humanitarian efforts in Darfur, Sudan and other African countries when they consider the FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriations bill. The Senate and House will soon consider this critical bill. [Click here for more information and to take action now.](#)

Catholic Relief Services: Emergency Relief Effort for thousands affected by cyclone in Myanmar – Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is supporting the emergency relief and response efforts of the Caritas Internationalis network in the most affected areas of Myanmar. The latest reports of 22,000 dead, 41,000 missing and 100,000 homeless demonstrate dire conditions in which basic food, shelter and water are urgently needed.

HOW TO HELP, Send a donation via check to: Catholic Relief Services
P.O. Box 17090

Baltimore, MD 21203-7090

Memo line: Southeast Asia Natural Disaster

Call 1-877-HELP-CRS or make a secure donation online at www.crs.org.

Iraqi Refugees in Syria: *A Report of the ICMC-USCCB Mission to Assess the Protection Needs of Iraqi Refugees in Syria* – In February 2008, representatives from the USCCB and ICMC traveled to Syria to determine the needs of the more than 1.2 million Iraqis who have fled Iraq and sought refuge in Syria as a result of the U.S. invasion. The final report provides an in depth evaluation and analysis of the protection needs of vulnerable Iraqi individuals and families residing in Syria, assesses the existing system of response to these needs, and makes recommendations of the best approaches to address their protection needs. You can access the report in PDF format here http://www.usccb.org/mrs/iraqi_report_jordan_2008.pdf.

Domestic Violence: *A Community Response* – May 20, 2008 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, 1350 Hearst Drive, Atlanta 30319. The CDC reports that 30 percent of Georgia women aged 14-44 report being physically assaulted by someone familiar to them. Learn the facts, and find out what resources your church community can use to help address this situation, from Marne Mercer, a detective attached to the DeKalb County Domestic Violence unit. **Please RSVP** to Linda Javadi by May 16, ljavadi@olachurch.org.

Spring Hill Summer Institute of Christian Spirituality: Colloquium – *Reading the Bible as Sacred Scripture* with Sr. Sanda Schneiders, IHM, internationally-known author and lecturer on June 29, 30 and July 1 from 7-9 p.m. at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Classes are June 22-27 in “Environmental Ethics”, “Jesus and Mary in the Holy Qu’ran” and “Spiritual Exercises,” also June 28-July 3 in “Christian Social Responsibility,” “Creation Imagery in the Bible” and “Spiritual Exercises.” Times vary, classes meet at Ignatius Center Retreat House. **For further details and registration** go to www.shc.edu/sics and click on SICS Atlanta.

SAVE THE DATE: The National Social Action Summer Institute: *Equipping Leaders for Catholic Action* is coming to Atlanta July 20 – 25, 2008!!! The National Social Action Summer Institute is hosted this year by the Archdiocese of Atlanta through Parish and Social Justice Ministries (PSJM) of Catholic Charities. This National Institute for Catholic Social Ministries will equip social justice leaders who want to learn more about Catholic social teaching, apply it to the "signs of times", and learn skills to be more effective in the parish and public arena, all within the context of prayer, liturgy, and a Catholic spirituality of social justice. A limited number of Local Parish Scholarships are available through PSJM. Detailed information can be found at <http://www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org/events/sasi.htm>.

For comprehensive federal legislative updates and action alerts, please visit the legislative action sites of Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services listed below.

CC USA – <http://capwiz.com/catholiccharitiesusa/home/> and

CRS – http://actioncenter.crs.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ac_homepage for advocacy for issues in support of our brothers and sisters worldwide.