

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the social teachings of the Church, Christ the King Social Justice Committee seeks to respond to the needs of our community, our country and our world. The Committee works to educate the parish with regard to these needs and to engage parishioners in the mission of responding – through advocacy, direct assistance and solidarity with the poor.

Just Us Parishioners

A Publication of Christ the King
Social Justice Committee

April 2008

This issue is dedicated to our Mother Earth

Be Praised, My Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs
(The Canticle of the Sun by St Francis of Assisi)

One of God's great gifts to us is the planet upon which we live: **MOTHER EARTH**. God created a perfect home for us so that we would want for nothing from the moment we were created. Everything on Earth was created to live in harmony. We seem to have forgotten that as we try to improve on perfection.

- It is time for us to give back to the Earth that has given us so much.
- It is time to live in harmony with all that was given to us.
- It is time to **STOP** trying to change what was perfect to start.

Come Celebrate Earth Day & Learn more about healing our Mother Earth

Saturday, April 19th at 7PM in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 6:45 PM, talk begins at 7PM.

Environmental Subcommittee of Social Justice invites you to spend an evening with **Doug Grandt**. Doug currently works for Calif Air Resources Board but started his career as a petroleum engineer. He studied with Al Gore and now speaks about Climate Change and our Environment.

His talk "**Climate Change - Local Impact**", a uniquely California perspective on the climate crisis, will focus on the good news of what is being done & what we can do.

Reduce Reuse Recycle

Gazing at all of the beautiful things in one of my favorite stores, David M Brian, I was pondering what to write about Earth Day. Three words came to mind: **Reduce Reuse Recycle**

- Reduce what we consume, what we throw away, what we "need"

- Reuse what we have already.
- Recycle Recycle Recycle Everything we possibly can

Most of us have "too much of everything" "I am the worst, and have spent the last year giving away allot of my excess everything. I am not just throwing it away; I'm getting it to someone who could use an extra sweater or a bike that hasn't been ridden for awhile, or a book that could be used. It feels good to begin to live lightly on this earth so that others may simply live. We don't want to make a cottage industry out of solving the global warming crisis. Let's simply use less and recycle more. It's a beginning.

A Call To All Wild Lovers

"WHEN I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I've been growing fonder and fonder of wild places and wild creatures." John Muir

170 years ago in the tiny village of Dunbar, Scotland, America's most influential naturalist and conservationist was born. His message was simple...

How we treat the earth is how we treat each other.

As a writer, he taught the people of his time and ours the importance of experiencing and protecting our natural heritage. April 19th marks the first year Christ the King Parish will join the City of Martinez and the John Muir National Historic Site in celebrating Earth Day. Go to the web site for details. It promises to be a great day!

www.JohnMuirEarthDay.com

PLANT RIGHT! –Help our native insects and animals live healthy lives. You will be glad you did!

Many of us love to garden & many of us just want a low maintenance landscape. Whichever you are, remember the plants we choose will have an effect on our environment. There is a statewide campaign called PlantRight to educate all of us gardeners about invasive species. Invasive species are the second leading threat to wildlife and biodiversity. Our garden may not be the threat but more than half the invasive plants in the environment arrived through gardens & landscaping.

I can name 2 plants we see in many gardens: periwinkle and scotch broom (this one has taken over much of our open spaces) Please don't forget the Eucalyptus tree!

The PlantRight campaign asks us to:

- Avoid planting invasives
- Plant beautiful non-invasive alternatives
- Find local retail partners and other resources at www.PlantRight.org

I would encourage you to ask the local garden centers not to carry invasives and ask them to provide native species. There are plenty & they are beautiful.

WHY SHOULD I BRING MY OWN BAGS WHEN I GO SHOPPING? HERE ARE SOME REASONS:

Have you heard of the Great Pacific Garbage patch? It is a 3.5 million ton floating island of debris that marine biologists estimate to be twice the size of Texas. Every time you throw out a plastic bag, it stands a chance of being dumped into the ocean and enlarging the Patch.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **30:** Weight, in pounds, of 2000 plastic bags
- **280:** Weight, in pounds, of 2000 paper bags
- **100,000:** Number of marine mammals killed annually from ingesting plastic bags
- **1 MILLION:** Number of seabirds killed annually from ingesting plastic bags
- **2 MILLION:** Number of barrels of oil used to produce plastics, including plastic bags
- **19 MILLION:** Number of plastic bags Californians use every year.

Source: Contra Costa Times Article 1/30/2008 pg A6

“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.”

CASH BACK FOR EACH BAG YOU BRING!

- 3 cents** Safeway
- 5 cents** Whole Foods, Lucky, Save Mart
- Trader Joe's raffle for free bag of groceries

The price of oil goes higher each day. Why waste it on plastic bags???

Go bag less when you have one item. Ladies I can't begin to tell you how many things I can stuff in my purse! I am not talking only groceries, don't forget the Mall & downtown Walnut Creek. Bring those bags with you. Keep them in your trunk or back seat. If you can't remember then put a permanent sticky note on you dash.

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DID YOU KNOW???

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS contain a tiny amount of mercury. **DON'T** throw them in the garbage. You can recycle them. Take them to COCO County Hazardous Waste collection on Imhoff in Martinez. And don't forget to take those dead batteries with you!

Check out: this website for more ideas
www.earth911.org.

Social Justice Up Coming Events

DIAPERS WILL DO IT! For its annual Mother's Day Collection the Social Justice Committee requests donations of **diapers** for the Monument Crisis Center. **Collection is at Masses the weekend of April 26th/27th.** Sizes 3-4-5 or Med-LG-XLG are preferable. "No Brand" is very acceptable. Presently, the Crisis Center provides only one dozen per baby per month. In addition, **toiletries** are needed, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. Thank you for your generosity. Any Q's call Pat at 439-2481.

Willows Theatre - John Muir Amphitheater

Located in the marina area of Martinez, this amphitheater has several performances this summer that you don't want to miss. The Social Justice Ministry is sponsoring a fundraiser for 2 of them: the family musical classic "**Annie Get Your Gun**" and the world premiere historical musical "**Sacagawea**." The performances start at 8 p.m. Plan a leisurely picnic on the grounds or dinner at one of the local eateries! Ticket price is \$25 per person for either Friday or Saturday shows.

Dates:

Annie Get Your Gun - 7/11, 7/12, ** 7/18, 7/19, ** 7/25, 7/26

Sacagawea - 8/1, 8/2, **, 8/8, 8/9

Check the bulletin for the exact weekends for making reservation at CTK through Social Justice- probably late May & early June.

Any questions: contact Pat Kramer, 925-439-2481

Catholic Lobby Day
Fair Trades Sales

April 22
April 26 & 27
May 24-25