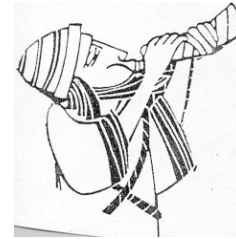


# Human Concerns Herald



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## In My Own Words – Kay Furlani

Pope Benedict XVI's newest encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth) is a very long and somewhat complex teaching in which he offers reflections on: (1) the vocation of human development; and (2) the moral principles on which a global economy must be based. The pope challenges all of us - businesses, governments, labor, financiers, investors, consumers – “to reexamine our economic responsibilities in the light of charity governed by truth.” Pope Benedict invites us “to avoid the pursuit of narrow, short-term economic interests, and instead to practice *charity in truth*, i.e., genuine love founded on truth, which begins with the search for justice and pursues the common good in our economic choices.”

“The core of the encyclical is the essential connection between the duty to live out an expansive and demanding definition of charity and to anchor this love in the truth about the human person and the ethical requirements of economic life.” Without a doubt *Caritas in Veritate* is a challenge and an invitation to Catholics and all people of goodwill. Pope Benedict challenges us to take the Church's social teaching seriously, especially the parts that do not fit our convictions. The encyclical is also an invitation for us to examine our consciences, including our usually unexamined assumptions. We need to be courageous and ask ourselves: Do our political and economic values sometimes, in fact, take priority over the gospel and Church teaching?

Please visit the USCCB website below for more individual and group reflection guide:  
<http://usccb.org/jphd/caritasinveritate>

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## UPCOMING 2010 EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Offering of Letters 2010 Workshop - March 6, 2010 at the Archdiocesan Center from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Bread for the World's 2010 Offering of Letters will push for changes in the U.S. tax code that will benefit low-income families and help them lift themselves and their children out of hunger and poverty. Expanding existing tax credits to low-income working people will help to make work pay and enable parents to educate and feed their children, and to build financial stability.  
Plan to attend!

### Engaging Spirituality Training Workshop - April 17, 2010 JustFaith's newest program, Engaging Spirituality is

a spiritual deepening process for adult Christians who are seeking to bring the power of the Holy Spirit to bear upon the needs of the world. A facilitators training will be held on **Saturday, April 17, 2010** at Annunciation Church in Paramus. Further details will be sent. For more information, call Kay Furlani at 973-497-4341 or email her at [Furlanca@rcan.org](mailto:Furlanca@rcan.org)

If you would like your name removed from our email mailing list, please contact [furlanca@rcan.org](mailto:furlanca@rcan.org).

## **Around the Archdiocese:**

### **CRS Global Work in Peacebuilding:**

Come and hear Peter Kimeu of Kenya speak on **Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Church in Ho-Ho-Kus.

Mr. Kimeu will speak about Catholic Relief Services work helping people to resolve conflicts peacefully and to build healthy, sustainable communities. His inspiring message of hope models how faith is about getting engaged in our world and building bridges of solidarity that unite our one human family. Please respond to this invitation by calling the Human Concerns Office at 973-497-4341 or emailing [Furlanca@rcan.org](mailto:Furlanca@rcan.org)  
See [flyer](#) for more details.

**Lumen Center – October Programs  
Caldwell Dominican Mother House  
1 Ryerson Avenue  
Caldwell, NJ**

**Website:** <http://www.caldwellop.org/>

**Email:** [lumencenter@caldwellop.org](mailto:lumencenter@caldwellop.org)

### **10/24 The Rosary Today**

9:30am to 2:00pm. How does the Rosary relate to us today? We will reflect on the Mysteries with periods of quiet prayer. Honora Werner, OP will lead this day which includes breakfast and lunch.

Fee: \$25. Please call 973-403-3331 x25 for more information.

### **10/27 Mandalas and C. G. Jung's Red Book**

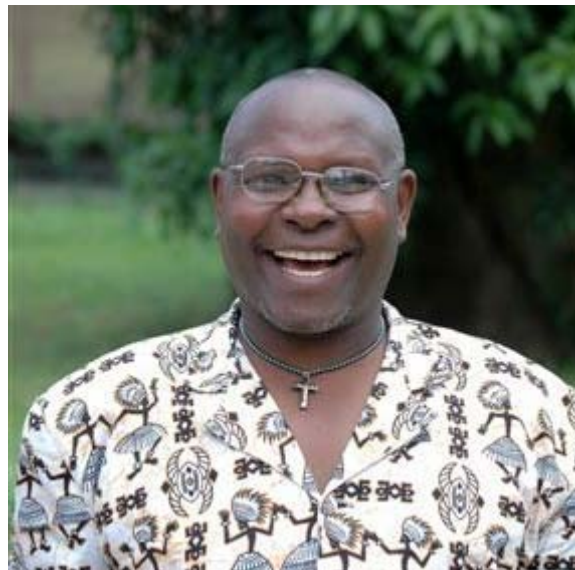
5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Light supper and discussion on Jung's use of the mandalas as a tool for spiritual and psychological growth. Led by Jane Selinske, Ed.D. Free Will Offering. Please call 973-403-3331 x25 for more information.

# Africa Rising: Hope Amidst Struggle!

Come Hear About CRS' Global Work in Peacebuilding

**Peter Kimeu**

**Catholic Relief Services – East Africa Region**



Peter Kimeu of Kenya has worked with Catholic Relief Services for over 25 years, helping the people to resolve conflicts peacefully and build healthy, sustainable communities. He brings an inspiring message of hope to Catholic parishes in the United States, a message that faith is about getting engaged in our world and building bridges of solidarity that unite our one Human family. Refreshments will be served.

**Wednesday, October 21st**

**7:30 p.m.**

**St. Luke's Church**

**340 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus**

**(in the Parish Center)**

**To RSVP or for more information, please contact:**

**Kay Furlani, Human Concerns Office, 973-497-4341 or [furlanca@rcan.org](mailto:furlanca@rcan.org)**

## Fighting Hunger: Operation Rice Bowl 2010

Operation Rice Bowl encourages American Catholic families to eat simple meals and reflect on the world's poor as part of their Lenten tradition. Every Lent, millions of Catholics participate in Catholic Relief Services' annual Lenten program, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Families, parishes and schools from more than 13,000 communities use symbolic cardboard "rice bowls" as the focal point of their prayer, fasting and learning—and to help people in poverty around the world.

Last year, participants raised more than \$7 million for Operation Rice Bowl, 75 percent of which is used to fund projects in 40 countries. The remaining 25 percent stays in U.S. dioceses to support food pantries and soup kitchens.

**ORDER** your free **2010 Operation Rice Bowl** Lenten materials **TODAY**. Call **1-800-222-0025** or by visiting the web site <http://orb.crs.org>. Your order will be shipped in early-January 2010, six weeks before Lent.

### Description of Operation Rice Bowl Materials

- A **Community and Parish Guide** will automatically be shipped to each participating faith community. The Community and Parish Guide includes suggestions and resources to integrate Operation Rice Bowl into your community gatherings and services.
- The **Home Calendar Guide** provides simple, daily opportunities for families and individuals to learn about people and issues in our global community. Recommended Order: one per participating family/student/individual.
- The **Educator's Guide** is designed to help Catholic school teachers, catechists, and youth ministers integrate issues of justice and poverty into their Lenten curriculum. Lesson plans and resources are written for grade levels 1-12.
- 
- An inspiring **Poster** can be displayed on parish or school bulletin boards to invite communities to participate in Operation Rice Bowl. (16" x 20")
- The **CD ROM** contains the following resources: the new Activity Resource Guide, 3 Virtual Tours, 2 Video Tours, the Stations of the Cross, the Operation Rice Bowl Interactive Map and 2 video PSAs. Contains all interactive resources, except the Interactive Map and PSAs, in English and Spanish.
- The **Video** explores how Operation Rice Bowl enables Catholics in the United States to contribute to the global work of Catholic Relief Services. Designed for a target audience of children in grades 4-8, the video is suitable for all ages.

**Catholic Coalition on Climate Change** provides resources to help people of faith take responsibility for our contribution to climate change and to do what we do best: be advocates for those who will be left out of the public policy debate on climate change.

See <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

Take the **St. Francis Pledge** <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/the-st-francis-pledge/>

### **TAKE ACTION NOW - CALL YOUR SENATORS**

Frank R. Lautenberg  
- (202) 224-3224 or (973) 639-8700

Robert 'Bob' Menendez  
- (202) 224-4744 or (973) 645-3030

**MESSAGE:** Urge them to protect people living in poverty around the world from the effects of climate change by making sure that \$3.5 billion of funds generated by climate change legislation are allocated to international adaptation programs by 2012, and rapidly increase that amount to \$7 billion annually by 2020.

To take action go to [http://actioncenter.crs.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ac\\_homepage](http://actioncenter.crs.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ac_homepage)

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### **Climate Change**

The Catholic Bishops and other Church leaders from developed and developing countries are calling on world leaders to show political and moral leadership by focusing on poor people in climate change talks.

See Climate Justice Statement issued by CIDSE and Caritas Internationalis at

<http://www.caritas.org/includes/pdf/climatejusticestatement09.pdf>

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### **Impact on Island Nations**

There is increasing awareness that climate change is significantly threatening poor people, especially those living in island nations. Unless quick and decisive action is taken by world leaders these nations are in danger of disappearing beneath the rising sea by the end of this century.

For more information see <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/?ref=1,6,1978>

# November 19<sup>th</sup> – National Day of Action to Stop Wage Theft

## Sponsored by Interfaith Worker Justice

See <http://www.iwj.org/index.cfm/a-call-to-action-to-stop-wage-theft>

### ***What is Wage Theft?***

Wage Theft is the illegal underpayment or non-payment of workers' wages. It affects millions of workers each year, often forcing them to choose between paying the rent or putting food on the table. Wage Theft is all around us. It robs from the government's tax coffers, resulting in cutbacks of vital services. Wage Theft puts ethical employers at a competitive disadvantage.

Wage theft is rampant across the U.S. A recent study found that low-wage workers in New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles had an average of \$51 stolen from their weekly earnings. The illegal underpayment or non-payment of workers' wages affects millions of workers each year, forcing many to choose between paying their rent and feeding their families.

### ***What are some examples of Wage Theft in the workplace?***

Wage Theft includes violations of minimum wage laws; not paying time and a half overtime pay; forcing workers to work off the clock; workers not receiving their final paychecks; misclassifying employees as independent contractors to avoid paying minimum wage and overtime (as well as employers' share of FICA tax); and not paying workers at all.

### ***What is the Stop Wage Theft Bill?***

- Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) and its workers' centers network have spearheaded an effort to get a bill passed that would include the five elements that we feel must be part of a legislated solution.
- Allies in Congress are working with IWJ to get the Stop Wage Theft Bill introduced this year.
- The Wage Theft Prevention Act (HR3303), introduced by Congressman George Miller (D-IL) in July 2009, amends the Fair Labor Standards Act so that the Department of Labor (DOL) can offer stronger protections for workers. The bill will do away with a statute of limitations that limited the DOL to two years to resolve a wage complaint. This important first step also allows workers to file private lawsuits while the DOL is still investigating a complaint.

### ***What can I do?***

1. Organize a delegation of religious leaders and workers to meet with your representative and senators. Ask them to co-sponsor the Stop Wage Theft Bill.
2. Hold an educational forum for your congregation or student group on Wage Theft. Invite workers, worker center leaders, and IWJ leaders to speak.
3. Make sure that all workers you hire are paid all of their earned wages, and all businesses you patronize pay their workers fairly and legally.
4. Have members of your church complete IWJ online survey to find out if they have been affected by Wage Theft. Submit the completed surveys to [Cara Gold](mailto:Cara Gold), IWJ, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60660 (cgold@iwj.org).
5. To obtain more resources on Wage Theft and to keep yourself updated on the Wage Theft campaign, check out our website: [www.iwj.org](http://www.iwj.org) or go to <http://www.wagetheft.org/>

For copies of online survey:

in English, see <http://www.iwj.org/doc/wage-theft-survey-english.pdf>

in Spanish, see <http://www.iwj.org/doc/wage-theft-survey-spanish.pdf>

Study Guide for Small Groups <http://www.iwj.org/doc/WTIA-StudyGuide1.pdf>

## TAKE ACTION on Health Care Reform

Congress is continuing to work on health care reform. They are working on three main health care reform bills—one in the House, two in the Senate. It looks like the House and Senate are preparing to bring legislation for floor votes soon. Please contact your Representative and Senators today!

Advocates for health care reform need to continue urging their members of Congress to:

1. Support long overdue health care reform that covers all people and protects the life, dignity, and health of all. Health care reform that meets this standard is an important national priority and moral imperative. Reform should make quality health care affordable and accessible to everyone.
2. Support a fair and just health care reform bill that excludes mandated coverage for abortion, and upholds longstanding laws that restrict abortion funding and protect conscience rights. No one should be required to pay for or participate in abortion. It is essential to clearly include longstanding and widely supported federal restrictions on abortion funding/mandates and protections for rights of conscience.
3. Support effective measures to safeguard the health of immigrants, their children and all of society. Maintain an adequate safety net for those who remain uncovered. Eliminate the five-year waiting period banning immigrants lawfully residing in the United States from enrolling in Medicaid. Do not impose barriers (e.g., waiting period to obtain subsidies) on immigrants seeking to obtain private health care coverage.

Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call the local offices of your Representative and Senators. Full contact info can be found on Members' web sites at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

For more information see

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/2009-09-30-healthcare-letter-senate.pdf>