



California Council of Churches
4044 Pasadena Avenue
Sacramento CA 95821

The California Interfaith Coalition
invites you to attend the
Annual Legislative Issues Briefing

Working Harder, Working Poorer

CONTINUING A FAITHFUL SEARCH FOR
ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN CALIFORNIA

Tuesday, March 28, 2006
8:00 A.M. — 3:00 P.M.

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament
11th Street and the K Street Mall
Sacramento CA 95814

Keynote Speakers
Senator Richard Alarcon
Assembly Member Hector De La Torre

Plus

GLOBALIZATION AND WORLD HUNGER

Dinner and Speakers, March 27, 2006

Anuradha Mittal, Executive Director, Oakland Institute
Ana Rizo, National Farm Worker Ministry-California
Ricardo Moreno, Bread for the World-Latino Relations

Monday, March 27, 2006, 6:00-8:30 P.M.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Goethe Hall
1701 L Street (17th and L)
Sacramento CA 95814

Sponsored by
California Interfaith Coalition
California Catholic Conference; California Catholic Charities
California Council of Churches; California Church IMPACT
Friends Committee on Legislation
JERICHO

Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California
Lutheran Office of Public Policy
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry

WORKING HARDER, WORKING POORER

Americans believe that families should be able to take care of themselves. They should be able to own homes, feed and clothe themselves, educate their children, have a nest egg for unexpected needs, and set aside something for retirement. Since the early 1970s we have created public and private policies that place those goals nearly out of reach for too many households.

The median income for the bottom 90 percent of workers in 1973 was \$27,060; by 2000 it had fallen to \$27,035. That's not inflation-adjusted but actual dollars. Even as costs for all goods and services soared, individual workers lost 25 dollars over what they would have made 27 years earlier. Household income did increase as large numbers of women, working mothers, entered the labor force – creating the need for child care and other supports that often don't exist.

During this same period, economists began noting the rapid decline of middle-income jobs, creating what they called the 'hour glass economy' with some very high-paying jobs at the top and a swelling of low-wage jobs at the bottom. The traditional paths to self sufficiency in unionized, manufacturing, semi-professional and even professional jobs disappeared as plants closed, jobs were shipped overseas, wages declined in low-skill service sector employment, and the downward pressure on benefits made supports such as health care things of the past.

We will examine what globalization and the erosion of the middle class means to California and what we, as people of faith, need to know about what options exist for us as a society and how we can help those who no longer can lift themselves into the middle class – a class that itself may be in rapid decline.

Our dinner, keynote speakers, and workshops will explore how we are threatened by our own institutions – initiatives, bond acts, and other factors – into bankrupting the private and governmental structures that once provided our lifeline. We will explore what options exist to offer us hope and a means for regaining a functioning economic, political, and social structure that lets us participate in making decisions about our own lives and assist the well being of our families and neighbors.

You will then take these recommendations and concerns to your legislators and let your voice be heard on behalf of moral policies that support our families and our nation. Nothing less than our future is at stake.

WORKING HARDER, WORKING POORER

Agenda for the Day March 28, 2006

- 8-9 A.M. Registration and coffee –
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament
- 9:00 A.M. Welcome and Opening Worship
- 9:30-10:30 A.M. Keynote Address:
Senator Richard Alarcon
- 10:30-10:45 A.M. Break
- 10:45 A.M. Workshops on Current Legislation:
Minimum Wage vs. Living Wage –
Luther Jackson, CLUE
Death Penalty and Three Strikes – Jim
Lindburg and Dale Richter, Friends Commit-
tee on Legislation
Healthcare at the Crossroads – Deena
Lahn, Children NOW and Anthony Wright,
Health Access
Initiatives and Clean Money – Courage
Campaign; Trent Lang, Clean Money
Campaign
Immigration in California – Jeannette
Zanipatin, California Immigrant Welfare
Collaborative and Al Hernandez, California
Catholic Conference
Infrastructure Bonds-Impact on Budget –
Erin Riches, California Budget Project
- 11:45 P.M.-12:30 P.M. Lunch
Speaker Assembly Member
Hector De La Torre, plus guidance
on 'how to lobby'
- 12:30 P.M. Leave for Capitol (2 blocks)
- 1:00 P.M. First Legislative Visit
- 1:30 P.M. Second Legislative Visit
- 2:00 P.M. Return to the Cathedral
- 2:30-3:00 P.M. Debriefing, Faith reflections,
and closing prayer.

For those interested: The film *Rights on the Line* concerning the Minutemen vigilantes at the border and the humanitarian and faith response will follow until 4:00 P.M.

Working Harder, Working Poorer

CONTINUING A FAITHFUL SEARCH FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN CALIFORNIA

SPEAKERS

MARCH 28 – ISSUES BRIEFING

Keynote, Senator Richard Alarcon

Senator Alarcon, Majority Whip for the California State Senate, is architect of the state's **Master Plan to End Poverty**. Raised in a working class family he is committed to the moral value of helping the less fortunate to help themselves. As the Senator from the 20th District in the San Fernando Valley, he secured funds to credential more than 5000 new teachers, added 300 clinics for low-income patients, developed funds to expand home ownership, fought to secure labor rights and end sweatshops, and tackled the root causes of poverty.

Noon Speaker, Assembly Member Hector De La Torre

Asm.De La Torre represents the 50th Assembly District in the South Gate area. With a distinguished career in local politics, Asm.De La Torre serves on the Budget Committee and on several environmental-issues committees as well as the Select Committee on the Los Angeles Health Care Crisis. Asem.De La Torre has expressed a strong commitment to put his faith values into practice on behalf of social justice within the Legislature.

MARCH 27 — DINNER

Ms. Anuradha Mittal

Ms. Mittal, a native of India, is an internationally-renowned expert on trade, human rights, and the impact of globalization on Third World economies. As the founder and director of The Oakland Institute, she is author of numerous books and articles including *Essays on Globalization and Resistance; America Needs Human Rights; The Future in the Balance*. Her articles and opinion pieces have been published in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Bangkok Post*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, and *The Nation*.

Ms. Ana R. Rizo

Ms. Rizo is California Lead Organizer for the National Farm Worker Ministry, coordinating northern and southern California Farm Worker Action Networks and mobilizing public solidarity with farm workers. Working with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, NFWM achieved the first ever H2A guest worker union contract in North Carolina. In the past year, NFWM helped win an agreement with Taco Bell to pay 1¢ more per pound of tomatoes to the Immokalee Workers. NFWM also united with United Farm Workers to win a major victory against Gallo wines.

Mr. Ricard Moreno – Bread for the World

Born in Venezuela, Mr. Moreno has an M.Div (San Francisco Theological Seminary, 2002) and is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church. At Bread for the World, he is the Organizer for Latino Relations for the West Coast. He helps draft statements on domestic policy concerned with food security, nutrition and hunger issues, translating them for Spanish-speaking populations and grassroots organizations.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BRIEFING DAY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dinner: Monday, March 27, 2006
Time: 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
Location: St. John's Lutheran Church,
Goethe Hall, 17th and L Streets

Briefing: Tuesday, March 28, 2006
Time: 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Location: Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament,
11th and K Street Mall, Sacramento

Registration: Complete the registration form and return with your payment for the Issues Briefing, the Dinner and Conversation, or both to California Council of Churches, 4044 Pasadena Avenue, Sacramento CA 95821. You may FAX credit card information to (916) 488-7310. Early-bird registration must be postmarked by March 21 for the Briefing alone, and March 19 is the deadline for the Dinner reservation. For more information, please call (916) 488-7300. Everyone is welcome at both events.

Meetings with Legislators: All visits to legislators will be coordinated by the California Interfaith Coalition. The purpose of the legislative visits will be to advocate for tax equity and responsible spending. Meetings will be focused on contacts with the heads of key committees and legislative leadership. Appointments will be arranged and all visits assigned. All meetings will begin at either 1:00 or 1:30 P.M. Tuesday, March 28 and will end by 2:00 P.M. When you arrive at the Cathedral, you may sign up to see a legislator on a first-come basis. *If you desire to meet with your own legislator, please try to do so outside of the time set for the Legislative Issues Briefing meetings.*

Film: From 3:00 — 4:00 P.M. we will show the film, ***Rights on the Line*** concerning the Minutemen vigilantes at the border and the humanitarian and faith response. All are welcome to stay for this free showing.

Parking: There is no parking at the Cathedral. Public parking is available within 2 blocks on L Street between 10th and 11th or on 10th north of J Street and costs \$17 for the day. Car pools and the use of public transportation is encouraged. For the dinner on Tuesday, March 27 the area around 17th and L has numerous low-cost lots and free street parking available.

Invite a friend: Congregations and judicatories are encouraged to underwrite one or more delegates to the Legislative Issues Briefing Day.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me for the March 28 Legislative Issues Briefing Day and/or the March 27 Faith in Action Dinner and Discussion

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Congregation _____

Denomination/organization _____

Participation:

_____ I will join targeted legislator visits at 1:00 P.M. and 1:30 P.M. Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and all conference materials.

Please check all that apply:

_____ **\$35** early bird registration (postmarked by March 21, 2006) Please donate more if possible to a scholarship for those unable to afford this fee.

_____ **\$50** registration (postmarked after March 21, 2005)

_____ **\$20** student rate (New!)

_____ Need vegetarian lunch, please

_____ Child care needed

_____ **Dinner** Tuesday March 27, 2006, 6-7:00 P.M.
\$25 (price change)

_____ Attendance at talk (no charge) 7-8:30 P.M.
Please register by March 21, 2006!

_____ I need a vegetarian entrée, please.

If you are attending the talk alone, a free-will offering will be appreciated. No one will be turned away from the talk, regardless of ability to pay.

Please check form of payment:

_____ Check enclosed. Make check payable to California Council of Churches

_____ Credit card: ___ VISA ___ Master Card ___ Other

Card # _____

Name on Card _____ Exp. date ___/___

Signature _____

Mail form and payment to:
California Council of Churches
4044 Pasadena Avenue, Sacramento CA 95821
FAX (credit card only): (916) 448-7310