



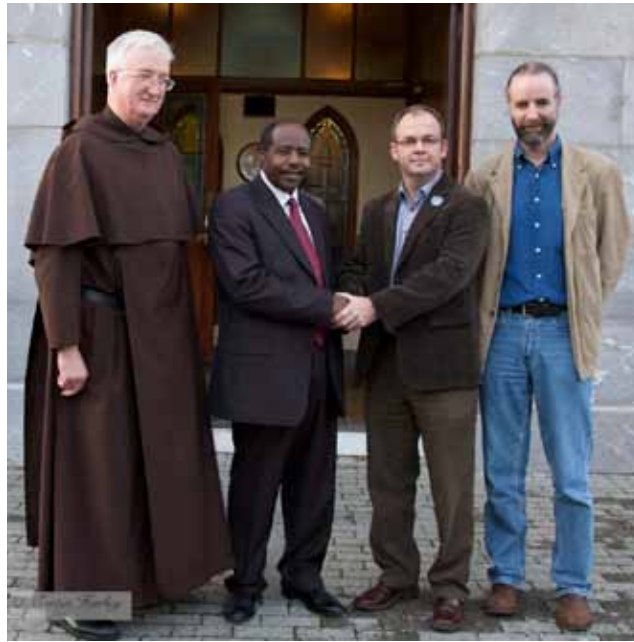
carmelngo

BULLETIN OF THE CARMELITE NGO

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"This is what the Lord requires of you: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



Paul Rusesabagina, (second from left) whose life was dramatized in the 2004 film *Hotel Rwanda*, with Kinsale Peace Project founders Pádraig Fitzgerald and Gerard Timmons. On far left is Miceal O'Neill, O. Carm., prior, at the Friars Center in Kinsale which hosts many Kinsale Peace Project events. *Photo courtesy of the Kinsale Peace Project*

The variety of ministries the Carmelite Family is involved with provides its members with a wide range of opportunities to become involved in social justice work. Carmelites also become partners with established efforts-- bringing with them resources for the benefit of the group: expertise, the Catholic perspective, worldwide membership, or meeting space.

The Kinsale Peace Project, founded in October 2007, is a voluntary non-profit committee which encourages human rights speakers to come to the town of Kinsale to speak about their ground breaking work in promoting peace and justice throughout the world. Kinsale locals Pádraig Fitzgerald and Gerard Timmons founded the organization.

The southern resort town of Kinsale, a popular resort for Irish and foreign tourist, is an

Carmelite Friary Joins with the Kinsale Peace Project to Promote Understanding of Social Issues

ideal venue for such events. Although now known for its many gourmet restaurants and recreational activities, the town which figured in several events of Irish history and was for many years a British garrison town, is also very much a center of social justice activities.

Today Kinsale is the country's second "Fair Trade Town" with over 25 outlets in Kinsale selling fair-trade products, ensuring that people in developing countries receive a fair price for what they produce. Kinsale is also the first "Transition Town" in Ireland. This is a community-based group that looks for sustainable solutions to the challenges of peak oil and climate change. The town holds public meetings and its efforts have spawned other Transition Towns worldwide.

In 2007, Kinsale won the "Best Fair-Trade Town in Ireland." From this award the Kinsale Peace Project was realized. Its mission is to promote peace and justice in Ireland and oversees by encouraging human rights speakers to come to Kinsale and speak about their peace-building work in conflict areas of the world.

continued on page 2



Speakers at the Kinsale Peace Project have been Paul Rusesbaagina, the real life Hotel Rwanda hero, the Israeli and Palestinian ambassadors, Richard Poole, author and aid worker based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dr. Abdullah el Tom, a spokesperson for “JEM” one of the rebel groups in Darfur, and blind peace activist Richard Moore from Derry who lost his eyesight at the age of 10 in Northern Ireland.

The Kinsale Peace Project is a very focused voluntary committee of individuals who believe in peace and reconciliation in the world. Members of the project act as facilitators for discussions on issues with the broader community.

The Carmelite contribution to the effort has been to host the events at their conference center in Kinsale. In 2007, the new Centre of Spirituality was opened in the completely renovated Carmelite residence. The reconstruction took place from 2004 until 2006. Besides providing a space for gatherings such as the Kinsale Peace Project, the Carmelites offer overnight hospitality in very comfortable en-suite rooms. Two of the rooms include small kitchens.

The Carmelite Friary is located just above the town of Kinsale—where they have been since the early 14th century. Today, besides the Centre of Spirituality, the friary church provides a place of worship, prayer, and peace to the people and visitors of Kinsale. The priory has served many purposes, most recently, beginning in 1917, as the novitiate for the Irish Province of Carmelites.

The Best Fair Trade project aims to raise the awareness of sustainable living and to build local ecological resilience in the near future. Communities are encouraged to seek out methods for reducing energy usage as well as reducing their reliance on long supply chains that are totally dependent on fossil fuels for essential items.

Food is a key area, and the expression is often used “food feet, not food miles!” Initiatives so far have included creating community gardens to grow food, business waste exchange, which seeks to match the waste of one industry with another industry that uses this waste; and even simply repairing old items rather than throwing them away.

Various methods are being used to achieve the goals of Best Fair Trade. Totnes, a Transitional Town in England, has introduced its own local currency, the Totnes pound, which is redeemable in local shops and businesses, helping to reduce “food miles” while also supporting local firms.

Central to the transition a life without oil could be far recognizing that the coming tunity rather than a threat, age to be thriving, resilient—today’s alienated consumer and the myth of perpetual a vision and designs a plan community away from fossil this context includes all the key players—local people, local institutions, local agencies, and the local council.



town movement is the idea that more enjoyable and fulfilling “by post-cheap oil era is an opportunity, and abundant rather than culture based on greed, war, growth. The community creates that proactively transitions the fuels. The term “community” in

An essential aspect of this transition is that the outer work of transition needs to be matched by inner transition. To live with decreasing energy effectively, we need to rebuild our relations with ourselves, with each other, and with the “natural” worlds.

Kinsale, now described in tourist brochures as an “intimate, picturesque village overlooking the estuary of the River Bandon,” is one of Ireland’s most historical sites, having been the site of some significant historical events. The Battle of Kinsale in 1601, between a combined Spanish, Irish and English armies, was a turning point in Irish history—with Irish nobles fleeing and situations being set up which have caused unrest to this day in the country. In 1915, the Lusitania was torpedoed off the coast of Kinsale, claiming over 1,100 lives and bringing the United States into the First World War. Kinsale’s very location gave it great importance for water transport and defense.

Another presentations of the Kinsale Peace Project that have taken place at the Carmelite Centre include a lecture by Eileen Carr, a nurse-psychoanalyst who works with young people in Palestine. That event took place on December 10, 2010 as part of the Day of Prayer and Reflection on Freedom of Belief, sponsored by the Carmelite NGO.

Website Links with a Carmelite Connection:

Kinsale Peace Project
Kinsale, Ireland
kinsalepeaceproject.orgwww.nrcat.org

São Martinho Community
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
www.saomartinho.org.br/

SRTV Foundation
The Netherlands
www.srtv.info/engels/srtv/index_uk.html

Global Network for Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.loyno.edu/twomey/bread-world-and-global-network-justice

RENATE
The Netherlands
www.srtv.info/engels/srtv/index_uk.html

RUN (Religious at the UN)
New York, New York
[www.](http://www.run.org)

World Health Organization
United Nations
www.WHO.int/en

Transition Network Website
www.transitionnetwork.org

For your convenience, these and other resources are linked on our website: carmelitengo.org



Twomey Center for Peace through Justice

Students at Loyola University Join the Work of the Carmelite NGO

Students attending Loyola University New Orleans play a role in the Carmelite NGO. Loyola University New Orleans is owned and operated by the Southern Province of the Jesuits. Since 1982 Sister Jane Remson, O. Carm., has served as the director of hunger and poverty issues at Loyola University's Twomey Center for Peace through Justice. The words of Father Louis Twomey, SJ (1906-1969) are at the heart of the Twomey Center: "To create a society in which the dignity of the human

person, in whomever found, shall be acknowledged, respected and protected." In 2009 Sister Remson introduced the Twomey Center to the work of the Carmelite NGO which led to the establishment of a partnership between the two. This partnership allows students to participate in the Carmelite NGO and receive college credit for their work. Students enrolled in the university's Service Learning Program are given the opportunity to select an agency or organization in metropolitan New Orleans to do their service learning. Each semester Sister Remson selects two students from those applying to the Carmelite NGO to do their service learning. Students working with the Carmelite NGO are majoring in law, education, sociology, philosophy, political science, literature and social work.

“ The program of the Carmelite NGO is geared towards educating the student in Catholic social teaching and issues of the Carmelite NGO ... ”

The program of the Carmelite NGO is simple and is geared toward educating the student in Catholic social teaching and the issues of the Carmelite NGO - education, freedom of belief, human rights, and sustainable development. The program contains these elements: 1) interview to help the student choose a topic, 2) independent research that includes the pros and cons of their chosen topic and Catholic social teaching, 3) meeting each week with the student, and 4) evaluation of the project.

The student chooses a topic to research, for example, human rights. Human rights is a very broad topic, however, the Carmelite NGO is working in human trafficking which is a human rights issue. Several students chose human trafficking to research and produce a product. Their products include: a compilation of all existing U.S. federal law and Louisiana law that deal with human trafficking, a flyer directing victims of human trafficking to appropriate services, an exposé on child soldiers, and military training in middle and secondary schools in Western countries. Other students chose to do their project on sustainable development that includes climate change also an issue of the Carmelite NGO. Topics students researched regarding climate change include: water and war, the use of water in religious services, global warming and its effects on the human community and the rights of mother earth.

The evaluation of the program by the students is very encouraging. The most common comment from the students is an appreciation of Catholic social teaching. Most said they were unaware of what the Catholic Church teaches on these issues until it was included as part of their research. Other comments include a new awareness of the issue or not knowing anything about the issue until now. All expressed an appreciation of the vast amount of work the United Nations is doing to serve and protect humanity and the environment.

We welcome Jack Jameson, a member of the Third Order at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish, who volunteers at the New York office of the Carmelite NGO. Jack was the author of the main article in the last *carmeNGO* and will author monthly summaries of the work of the Carmelite NGO at the headquarters of the UN in New York.



Jack Jameson, T.O.C., with Helen Ojario, O. Carm., at the New York office of the Carmelite NGO.

CarmeNGO is published four times each year and is distributed to those interested in the mission of the NGO. For more information or to add your name and address to our mailing list, please visit our website (carmelitengo.org) or write to us by email (jremson@carmelitengo.org) or by regular post at 1725 General Taylor Street; New Orleans, LA 70115; USA)



Does Planet Earth Have Rights?

Writings of the students of the Service Learning Program at Loyola University New Orleans are regularly posted on the Global Network for Justice website.

Currently the GNJ website hosts a study of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth. Weaving together the concepts of several recent fora giving voice to the Indigenous people, Amelie Daigle challenges the reader to explore the impact of our actions not only on other humans but on the earth as a whole.

www.loyno.edu/twomey/bread-world-and-global-network-justice



The Pillars of Food Security

Food security is a complex sustainable development issue, linked to health through malnutrition, but also to sustainable economic development, environment, and trade. Food security is built on three pillars:

Food availability: sufficient quantities on a consistent basis.

Food access: having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.

Food use: knowledge of basic nutrition and care.

www.WHO.it/en



Trafficking in Persons Report - 2010

The 10th annual Trafficking in Persons Report, prepared by the United States Department of State, outlines the continuing challenges across the globe, including in the United States. The report shows that human rights abuse is universal, and no one should claim immunity from its reach or from the responsibility to confront it, according to remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State Clinton when the report was made public.

The full report is available online at: www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/

Carmelite Secondary School Throws the Switch to Transform the Sun's Rays into Electricity



Salpointe Catholic High School, a Carmelite school located in the Sonoran desert of Arizona, dedicated its recently installed solar photovoltaic panels to provide the school with electricity. This installation is the largest system on any Tucson high school, according to Tucson Electric Power, Co. The panels were donated to the school by Solar Ventures, LLC and installed by Industrial Solar, LLC. Tucson averages 350 days of sunshine each year.

Students, parents, faculty, and member of the school's Board of Education gathered for the celebration. Students from the school's engineering class activated the solar photovoltaic system, bringing Salpointe one step closer to its goal of becoming a LEED school. Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-

party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies intended to improve performance in metrics such as energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Solar Ventures, LLC/Industrial Solar, LLC owner, Dr. Philip Lacovara, spoke to the importance of solar technology in schools, as this technology lends itself organically to teaching future generations the importance of environmental stewardship.

"We want our kids to reduce their footprint, and by that I don't mean just their carbon footprint. It's more than that. We want them to be good stewards and aware of their contribution to the community and the environment," said Dr. Lacovara, who is also the president of the Salpointe board of directors. "Photovoltaic is a gift that keeps on giving to the school, since it will reduce operating expenses through the power generated, and hopefully the system and its instrumentation will inspire students, faculty, and staff to think about energy consumption and conservation on campus."

Salpointe's solar photovoltaic facility is a 23.5 kW system that sits on the roof of a campus building. The electricity generated, 40,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh), will be available for use by the entire school. The 150-panel system will produce 2.1% of the school's electric needs. While this is a small fraction of the school's overall consumption, it is a major step forward toward a more energy-efficient campus.

The environmental offset is equivalent to curtailing the release of 52,000 pounds of carbon dioxide each year.

The solar photovoltaic system, valued at \$118,344, utilizes cutting-edge solar technology, with a unique design using cylindrical photovoltaic elements that allow wind to blow through the panel, instead of against it, dramatically reducing the wind forces and increasing electrical output. The system will save Salpointe approximately \$170,000 over the next 30 years. Additionally, at only nine inches above the roof's surface, the panels do not compromise the esthetics of the school's 1950's architecture.

Salpointe has a number of other environmental initiatives, including recycling of paper, cans, and is working towards the eradication of plastic water bottles. In cooperation with the residents that surround the campus, the school is working to reclaim rain water for the desert plants on the campus.



(Top) Dr. Philip Lacovara, with a local television station recording the event, throws the switch to begin using the electricity converted from the sun's rays. (Below) The array of solar photovoltaic panels, located on top of a campus building, which collect the sun's energy. (Photos courtesy of Merri Siler, Salpointe Advancement Office.)

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