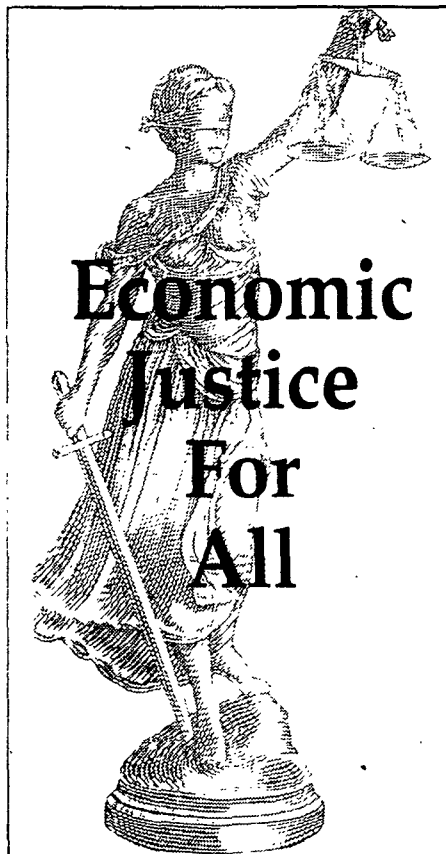


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Economic Justice For All

Marketplace

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the meaning of work still resonate with her, she commented. She pointed out, for example, that the unemployment created by corporate downsizing presents spiritual as well as financial challenges to those seeking work because the unemployed often feel they are no longer full citizens.

"What happens to people when they can't participate (in the economy), when they don't work?" she asked rhetorically. "What happens to people who work hard, go out looking for a job, and can't find one?"

In light of such questions about the U.S. economy — and, for that matter, the world economy — the *Catholic Courier* is launching an occasional series of articles to run through November that will examine the impact of the bishops' letter over the last decade.

Previous articles with an economic slant in the *Courier* have generally focused on the how church spent its own money. This series, however, will look at how Catholics in the wider marketplace spend, earn and invest their own money. In short, how do Catholics attempt to live up to the following economic principles put forth in the pastoral letter:

- The economy exists to serve the human person, not the other way around.
- Economic life should be shaped by moral principles and ethical norms.
- Economic choices be measured by whether they enhance or threaten hu-

Resources outline Catholic views

The United States Catholic Conference has published the following list of resources for parishes, organizations or individuals interested in the 10th anniversary of the U.S. bishops' economic pastoral. To order these resources or to obtain a catalog of other USCC titles, call toll-free 1-800-235-8722.

- "Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy" — 1986; English: No. 101-6, 208 pp.; Spanish: No. 146-6, 208 pp.

- "Political Responsibility: Proclaiming the Gospel of Life, Protecting the Least Among Us, and Pursuing the Common Good" — 1995; English: No. 5-043, 32 pp.; Spanish: No. 5-044, 36 pp.

- "Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish" — 1993; English: No. 701-4, 24 pp.; Spanish: No. 724-3, 24 pp.

- "Parish Resource Manual: Communities of Salt and Light" — 1993; No. 702-2, 52 pp.

- "Salt and Light" — a video companion to "Communities of Salt and

- Light" — 1993; No. 703-0, 14 minutes.

- "Putting Children and Families First: A Challenge for Our Church, Nation, and World" — 1992; No. 469-4, 24 pp.

- "Moral Principles and Policy Priorities on Welfare Reform" — 1995; No. 5-011, 12 pp.

- "A Framework for Comprehensive Health Care Reform" — 1993; No. 678-6, eight pp.

- "The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace" — 1993; English: No. 705-7, 28 pp.; Spanish: No. 706-5, 28 pp.

- "Renewing the Earth: An Invitation to Reflection and Action on Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching" — 1992; No. 468-6, 20 pp.

- "Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All Creation" — Parish Resource on the Environment; 1995 No. 032-X, 53 pp.

- "Relieving Third World Debt: A Call for Co-Responsibility, Justice, and Solidarity" — 1989; No. 311-6, 52 pp.

- "Food Policy in a Hungry World: The Links That Bind Us Together" — 1989; No. 320-5, 36 pp.

man life, human dignity and human rights.

- Support for the family and the well-being of children is a fundamental economic concern.

- The moral measure of any economy is how the weakest are faring.

Do Catholics actually believe in any of the principles the bishops put forth in their letter? Do Catholics consider these principles when making their own economic decisions? Or are they merely fancy phrases and idealistic musings that make for nice conversation but have no bearing in the real world?

In addition to exploring these questions, the *Courier* will seek to provide its readers with resources to help them make economic decisions that reflect the church's teachings.

The U.S. bishops plan to commemorate their pastoral letter later this month at a national social ministry conference in Washington, D.C.

Titled "Justice for All: Religious Convictions and Political Responsibility," the conference is sponsored by the U.S. Catholic Conference's Department of Social Development & World Peace.

From Feb. 25 to 28, conferees will discuss numerous social ministry issues. A plenary session Feb. 27 will feature a discussion of the bishops' pastoral letter, and workshops on such issues as wages, work and economic dislocation; the changing face of rural communities

along with its impact on the church and community; and housing and economic development.

The conference has invited a slew of speakers whose views represent a wide range of economic thought, from the activist unionism of John Sweeney, recently elected president of the AFL-CIO, to the tax-cutting pro-business outlook of Jack Kemp, former secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In addition to Dubel, the Diocese of Rochester plans to send at least two other representatives to the conference — Consistent Life Ethic Coordinator Suzanne Schnittman, and Judy Taylor, communications manager for the Office of the Director of Catholic Charities.

Diocesan Catholics should revisit the bishops' pastoral letter, Dubel noted, pointing out that the U.S. economy is linked with the world economy, and that no one can escape the implications of that interdependence.

"The global economy comes home to roost in our local economy when businesses move offshore," she said.

EDITORS' NOTE: Diocesan Catholics who would like to share stories of how they have lived out the church's economic teachings should contact Rob Cullivan at 716/328-4340, or write him at: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624-1899.

Employees

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ductive, enthusiastic and creative employees, she explained.

During Osterman's Friday presentation, she noted that she belongs to a group of 40 senior managers at Frontier who have been formally discussing integrating their moral values into their work. The discussions began in September and will end in April.

The managers have concluded that they share a number of values, among them a desire to treat each other with "uncompromising truth"; to give credit where credit is due; to put the interests of others before one's own; and to not touch "dishonest dollars."

Through such discussions, the managers hope to better relate to one another and the various groups they work with in the company, she noted.

"It's changing the way the 40 of us relate to each other," she said in a follow-up interview.

She pointed out, for example, that in the past the managers spent more time performing tasks and less time on developing relationships with one another. Hence, conflict was often ignored or buried for the sake of getting a job done, she said.

Now, the managers are more likely to confront one another when they are having a problem, and to not assume that their co-workers have underlying motives that prompt behavior their fellow employees dislike.

On a more positive note, she added that the managers spend more time discussing what are the talents they each bring to the company, and how to coordinate them so that they perform as a team. This creates a more fulfilling work atmosphere than one in which employees regularly perform tasks for which they have no great love or ability, she commented.

"We try to understand for ourselves what unique abilities we have," she said.

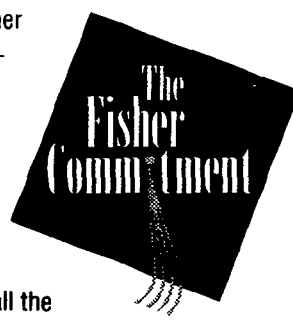
As a follow-up to the conference, the divinity school will offer four short courses on financial stewardship beginning Feb. 29. For more information, call Dr. Pamela York Klainer at 716/256-2327, or the Office of Continuing Education at 271-1320, ext. 257.

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