



EYE ON JUSTICE

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SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES
ST. JOSEPH OF LYON/ WINSLOW

“FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD”

SOME 2011 POSITIVE JUSTICE MOVEMENTS

- **The Occupy Movement:** broke through the media silence about the extent of income inequality in our country., The 1% versus the 99% framing is here to stay.
- **The Ohio Referendum:** labor’s huge wins is reversing the state’s rollback of collective bargaining rights for public employees sent a strong message in a state that is more Republican than is commonly perceived.
- **Delaying the Keystone XL Pipeline:** the winner of the November presidential election could quickly green light this project, but the delay on an environmental calamity that was nonetheless see as a “done deal” was the environmentalists biggest win of the year.
- **Greed and Tax Breaks for the Wealthy Not Good:** Income inequality was worse that ever, but 2011 began with the media still glorifying hedge fund managers, bankers, and the “greed is good” mantra. It took the Occupy movement to expose the widespread cultural shift against such values, which has even given backbone to highlight opposition to tax breaks for the rich.
- **The Revival of Student Activism:** 2011 was a great year for student activism as young people put their bodies on the line against tuition hikes, administration salary hikes, and growing inequality. They have proven an inspiration for all activists.

JUSTICE AND PEACE TEAM : Robert & Nancy Hurd, David Champion,
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CAPITALISM VS. THE CLIMATE

Responding to climate change requires that we break every rule in the free-market playbook and that we do so with great urgency. We will need to rebuild the public sphere, reverse privatizations, relocalize large parts of economics, scale down over-consumption, bring back long-term planning, heavily regulate and tax corporations, maybe even nationalize some of them, cut military spending and recognize our debts to the global south. Of course, none of this has a hope of happening unless it is accompanied by a massive, broad-based effort to radically reduce the influence that corporations have over the political process.

In our ever-connected world, we pray for discernment to see where injustice and oppression are lurking, for boldness to call them out, and for perseverance to stand against them. In particular, God, we ask for just reform of the financial system, which affects many lives, especially those living in poverty. May we bring your good news to the poor.

A NUCLEAR WINTER LOOMS

As bitter winds blow around the cesium and other radioactive particles spewed from nearby Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant reactors, Naoto Matsumura lights a cigarette, which he considers relatively good for his health. "I would get sick if I stopped smoking; I have a lot to worry about". He reckons he is the only person still living within a 20-km radius of the world's worst atomic disaster since Chernobyl. According to reports published from Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency published in August following the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, and subsequent explosions at three reactors, the plant has released 168 times more radiation than the atomic bombs that razed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.