



EYE ON JUSTICE

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**SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES
ST. JOSEPH OF LYON/ WINSLOW**

JUST INCOMES-JUST TAXES

The only way the United States can reduce the long-term budget deficit, maintain vital services, protect Social Security and Medicare, invest more in education and infrastructure, and not raise taxes on the working class is by raising taxes on the super rich. Even if we got rid of corporate welfare subsidies for big oil, big agriculture, and big Pharma, even if we cut back on our bloated defense budget, it wouldn't be nearly enough.

The vast majority of Americans can't afford to pay more. Despite the economy that's twice as large as it was thirty years ago, the bottom 90% are still stuck in the mud. If they're employed they're earning on average only about \$280 more a year than thirty years ago, adjusted to inflation. That's less than a 1% gain over more than thirty years.

Yet even as their share of the nation's total income has withered, their tax burden has grown. Today's working taxpayers are shelling out a bigger chunk of income payroll, sales and property taxes than thirty years ago! It's just the opposite for the super rich! The top 1% share of national income has doubled over the past three decades. The richest one-tenth of one percent's share has tripled.

If the rich were taxed at the same rates they were half a century ago, they'd be paying in over \$350 billion more this year alone, which translate into trillions over the next decade. That's enough to accomplish everything the nation needs while also reducing future deficits.

**JUSTICE AND PEACE TEAM : Robert & Nancy Hurd, David Champion,
Patricia Hackett, Claire Lepage, csj**

POWER SHIFT vs. THE POWERS THAT BE

More than 10,000 people converged in Washington, DC, this past week to discuss, organize, mobilize and protest around the issue of climate change. While tax day Tea Party gatherings of a few hundred scattered around the country made the news, this massive gathering, **Power Shift 2011**, was largely ignored by the media. They met the week before Earth Day, around the anniversary of the BP oil rig explosion and the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, while the Fukushima nuclear plant still spews radioactivity into the environment. Against such a calamitous backdrop, this renewed movement's power and passion ensure that it won't be ignored for long. Amy Goodman, *Truthdig*

...every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it....Be joyful though you have considered all the facts...
Wendell Berry

MAINERS' VOTING RECORDS

Network, our Catholic agency analyzing the work of Congress, published the voting records of our elected officials. Both our Senators, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe, received a 50% rating while our two Representatives received a 100% rating. Our Senators voted in favor of Continuing Extension, Financial Overhaul, Unemployment Extension Act, Education & Medical Assistance, Taxes, New Start, and against Patient Protection, TANF Emergency Fund, Healthcare Reconciliation, Disclose Act, Paycheck Fairness and DREAM. Our Representatives, Chellie Pingree and Michael Michaud voted in favor of Patient Protection, Small Business & Jobs, Healthcare and Reconciliation, Continuing Extension, DISCLOSE Act, Unemployment Extension Act, Education & Medical Assistance, Energy Efficiency programs, Hunger-Free Kids, Taxes and Dream.