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## Call To Action State Conference 2008

Call to Action Michigan invites us to Detroit, **September 19 and 20, 2008**. Year after year CTA people seem to find new energy, renewed spirit and more determination to continue working for justice in the church, society, politics and the world. Reflect for a moment on some thoughts expressed by Dan and Sheila Daley, co-directors of Call to Action. "The Vatican II vision of the Church as people of God is shining through, more fundamental than hierarchy. Popes and bishops will not be able to extinguish it."



Tom Roberts, NCR

CTA Michigan extends an open invitation to members and guests to our September Conference. We urge all CTA members to become active participating members. CTA of Michigan cannot continue to grow unless all of the People of God take an active, responsible role in making it happen. What a great opportunity to continue our educational process and renew commitment to our CTA mission to be "A Prophetic Voice for Systemic Change Toward Freedom, Justice and Inclusivity within the Catholic Church". Tom Roberts, managing editor of National Catholic Reporter (NCR) will present "Catholic and American: An Examination of Conscience" on Saturday. Friday evening, Lena Woltering, former Board member of CTA National, will present "Creating a Church Jesus Would Recognize".

The stage is set. The Conference brochure you received in the mail contains the essential information. Given the speakers and programming planned this can be like a National Conference in miniature. Note that this year we are having a Friday evening session, beginning at 7:00. This year's Conference is located in the heart of Detroit's Cultural Center. For the first 50 who register, you will receive a free pass to the newly renovated Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). The Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit Science Center and the Charles Wright African Museum are all within a four block radius of our Conference headquarters. With out-of-site gas prices, why not take a mini-vacation right near home, visit several of Detroit's "jewels" on Friday, have dinner at the restaurant in the DIA and then walk down the street to the Conference Opening Session at 7:00 p.m. After Lena Woltering's talk, "Creating a Church Jesus Would Recognize", there will be refreshments and entertainment and time to reconnect with CTA friends.

Your presence at this conference is important. We are grateful for all those that have spent many long hours working to make this conference happen.

Speaking of the National Conference in Milwaukee, November 7 – 9, 2008, Bishop Remi De Roo, 84, the youngest bishop of Vatican II will preach that vision on Sunday morning in Milwaukee. Three cheers to Bishop Remi. If at his age he can still keep the Vatican II vision alive, then so can we. Plan to attend our Michigan Conference.



## From Saginaw ...

Even though we've suspended meetings for the summer, we're still very involved taking care of business.

Our big goal right now is our ninth annual Magdalen observance. We're calling it 'Mary of Magdala Celebration Honoring Women Witnesses for Peace and Justice'. This has become an event lots of people look forward to every year; not only women either.

Our VP, Fr. Joe Schabel has us working on a project giving small emergency loans to people who have unexpected bills come up. We're working on a fund raiser for this with a local musical group.

Some of our members faithfully meet to push peace and protest the war with Women in Black, and Tri-City Action for Peace (TCAP).

We're looking forward to the Annual Michigan Conference in September in Detroit! It's exciting that we have Tom Roberts of NCR and Lena Woltering from National CTA. Where would we go in our faith journey any more wonderful than Call to Action to nourish our weary spirits.

See you all in Detroit! -- *Rosemary Moon*

## From Lansing ...

On Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> our Lansing CTA Branch hosted an evening with John Chuchman. We were pleased that 35 people joined us for this presentation coming from as far as Battle Creek, Kalamazoo and Jackson. John's topic for the evening was "Spirituality Everywhere: Even Outside of Church".

In his presentation John visited such spiritual traditions as Jesus and Zen, Socrates on Spirituality, the Wisdom of Native Americans along with Creation Spirituality. John helped us to see that Guidance is all around us. We need only look, listen and be aware of the Divine within and without in a myriad of places and spaces...not just in institutional church.

John's presentation led to some lively discussion along with a good exchange of questions and answers with the group gathered. It was a good way to begin our summer solstice journey of respite...seeking the Divine Everywhere!

Outdoor music concerts abound this time of year and our Lansing Branch is going to gather on Wednesday, August 13, to enjoy the music of 3 Men and a Tenor at Ranney Park ...and do a little catching up with the variety of activities and causes our members are involved with.

In September we will again begin meeting the Third Thursday of the month at the Coffee Jam. For more information about our gatherings please contact:

Karen Schrauben 517-627-5534 [Kroses@comcast.net](mailto:Kroses@comcast.net)  
Janet Glisson 517-484-0443 [j.behappy@comcast.net](mailto:j.behappy@comcast.net)

## IN THE SPIRIT AWARD

Almost ten years ago CTA-MI began presenting the IN THE SPIRIT award at its annual conference. As usual, you can participate in the selection process by nominating someone according to the criteria below. Describe the reasons for your nomination. Your nomination must be received by August 15, 2008. (Don't file this away in a "TO DO" cranny.) The board will select from your submissions. Be sure to include the full name, address, and phone (and cell) number and email address of your nominee in your letter. We need also your name, address, phones and email information.

**CRITERIA:** Catholic CTA-MI member who:

- Loves and follows the teachings of Jesus.
- Is active in efforts to reform the Roman Catholic Church.
- Is familiar with and promotes the ideals of the Second Vatican Council as
- Proclaimed in the Ash Wednesday, 1990 signature ad in the The New York Times.
- Is knowledgeable of and supports the Michigan Call to Action Vision Statement.
- Perseveres under injustice by the official Church.
- Is an inspiration to friends and the wider community around her/him.



Send to: Julia Ann Archer, 22259 Morley, Dearborn, MI 48124. Thank you for your participation.



## Officer Election

It's time for our biennial event, electing President and Secretary. Please check over the profiles and think of a CTA member you know who would fit the description. Send your nominations (with your and their contact information) to Julia Archer, 22259 Morley, Dearborn, MI 48124 ([juliaaarcher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:juliaaarcher@sbcglobal.net)).

### CTA-MI President, job profile:

Provide focus and direction for Michigan chapter; chair board meetings; chair general meetings; interface with local units around the State; represent Michigan at the regional meetings in Chicago; review and provide input to newsletter; assist in budget preparation; assist in preparation of yearly non-profit and other legal documents; responsible for media contact and serve of Board of Directors.

### CTA-MI Secretary, job profile:

Take minutes at meetings and make copies for distribution; form a newsletter committee to prepare and distribute newsletter; interface with newsletter editor; assure that newsletter is distributed; distribute notification of Board meetings; other duties as requested by Board of Directors; serve as a member of Board of Directors; prepare correspondence.

## PROPHETS



Prophets are defined in Webster's Collegiate Dictionary as: one gifted with more than ordinary spiritual and moral insight, or, an effective spokesperson for a cause, or group.

I like these definitions because they have come to mean for me, "a person who can look around and perceive what's right and what's wrong based on diligent study and a knowledge of the issues that need to be changed and is not afraid to speak out with confidence aimed at bringing about such change. (How frequently the expression, "What's wrong with this picture?")

Have we CTA'ers of MI become that smaller community within the larger church community prepared and called to speak out as prophets. I, for one, am beginning to think so. While editing this Summer 08 Newsletter, I began recalling some of the themes and articles of past newsletters since beginning this work in 2002. Over the past six years I can remember writing about a different Conference theme each year.

Examples? Remember Bob McClory and his brilliant presentation on "Faithful Dissenters"? In that book he tells the stories of men and women who loved and changed the church, all dissenters, and how dissent saved the church. Remember Angela Bonavoglia and "Good Catholic Girls? Paul Lakeland and "The Liberation of the Laity"? Bernard Cooke and Eucharist? Philip Kaufman and "Why You Can Disagree and Remain a Faithful Catholic"? How can we forget the visits of Michael Morwood? Or the wonderful presentation by Michael Dowd on 'new cosmology'? The list goes on of presenters at Michigan Conferences, saying nothing about authors and speakers, renowned nationally and internationally, at National CTA Conferences.

So, after 100's of liturgical and prayerful gatherings, 40 plus newsletters, books, CD's, Videos, literally 100's when combined, over the past 10 years that I/we have been an active in CTA, I think it is safe to say we are informed. We have done our homework. We have prayed. We have worked diligently. We have tried our best to speak out.

Perhaps we haven't ranted and raved, foretold disaster, brought fire and brimstone upon the earth like some prophets of old have been identified. That's only one definition of prophet anyway, a kind of mythical being out of the past. But we have gained more than ordinary spiritual and moral insight. And so as we prepare for yet another conference we say as 21<sup>st</sup> century prophets, (not dissenters) "Step aside; we're coming through; we're continuing to move forward". See you at the conference. (Arnie Messing)



## CTA-MI Steps Up to the “Color Line”

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, September 27 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish in Detroit, Call to Action-MI will partner with the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance’s (DCPA) Anti-Racism team to sponsor an event that will address an issue that continues to impact our communities and our Church. That issue is what W.E.B DuBois called the defining issue of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – “the color line”.

Dr. Eddie Moore Jr is coming to Detroit. Dr. Moore is a nationally known diversity consultant and public speaker. He has created talk circles and college/community forums to examine and discuss important issues including racism in the judicial system, interracial dating, religion, race and gender. His presentations are interactive, fun, challenging and motivating. He also conducts workshops on white privilege all over the country.

CTA-MI is proud to partner with the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance in co-sponsoring Dr. Moore’s speaking engagement. CTA Metro North member, Sr. Mary Ann Dixon, OP gave a powerful talk on white privilege at a CTA meeting several months ago. Fr. Moore will continue our education and CTA Metro Detroit and Detroit North will work with the DCPA’s Anti-Racism team on future endeavors.

“While the legal, material, and even superficial requirements to eradicate racism are well known, its psychological and more deeply spiritual requirements have been persistently neglected-namely, the oneness of the human family. It is this principle of oneness that needs to be the driving force behind the struggle of uniting the races.   
--Sara Harrington

*"A female referee was prevented from officiating at a boys' high school basketball game because officials at St.Mary's Academy, a private religious school, said putting a woman in a position of authority over boys conflicted with the school's beliefs". (Topeka, Kansas) Jean Stromsoe read this in Denver's 'Rocky Mountain News. Her comment: "These boys must not have had mothers".*

## Editor needed ...

Bring your creativity by gathering materials for the CTA MI seasonal newsletter. You would only need to put together all the copy ... someone else puts it then into newsletter format and sends it to the printer. And now meetings ... its all done by email!

Arnie Messing has been our editor for seven years. However, a term could be just a year and renewable only if you like the job. Here is what Arnie says about it: *“I have enjoyed this work over these past 7 years and gained so much in the process. I just think the time has come for someone else to take over. I think a new approach, new insight, new leadership that some one else can bring, writing and compiling articles for the 4 newsletters annually, can be good for the organization. I have suggested to the Board that after completing the Fall 08 MI newsletter my time as ended. I will gladly work with a new person or newsletter committee in helping make this transition, if requested.”*

Interested? Contact Arnie at [arniemessing@comcast.net](mailto:arniemessing@comcast.net)



## From Kalamazoo

Greeting to all W. Michigan CTA’s

Things have been very quiet here for several months. Jim and I have been very busy with Board responsibilities for CTA-MI and we will focus our efforts to interest you in attending the Fall Conference (see related article in this and last newsletter).

Look for a phone call from us beginning the end of August to get some feedback on your interests for revitalizing a W. Michigan group.

The Spirit is moving among us and we have hope that we can get together soon to assess those promptings and how they might impact our area.

Wishing you all a relaxing and rejuvenating summer. -- Peace, Kim



**On a poster** bannered throughout the city of Rome honoring International Women's Day, written by a 16-year old girl: "I'm happy to be a woman Because... Being a woman is so difficult that only women are capable of it

*Call To Action of Michigan*  
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*Unlike some organizations,  
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appreciate your support  
when you send dues and  
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prices, professional staff and extraordinary customer service.*



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