



October-November 2012
Volume 6, Issue 10

Care for God's Creation

News from the Stockton Diocese Environmental Justice Project

Governor signs environmental justice bills

After years of work by a coalition of public health, environmental, and faith organizations, Governor Jerry Brown signed three environmental justice bills into law. SB 535 (DeLeon) and AB 1532 (J. Perez) mandate that 25% of revenue generated from AB 32, California's Global Warming Reduction Act of 2006, must benefit underserved communities that suffer the most from pollution. Ten percent of that money must be spent directly in those communities.

Governor Brown also signed AB 685 (Eng) into law. AB 685 states that access to safe and clean drinking water is a basic right of all Californians. The bill requires State agencies to take this policy into account when making decisions related to drinking water.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton worked steadfastly to pass these bills, including highlighting them at annual Catholic Lobby Days over the years. We carried the message from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to our California legislators that "Our Creator has given us the gift of creation: the air we breathe, the water that sustains life, the fruits of the land that nourish us, and the entire web without which human life cannot flourish... We believe our response to global climate change should be a sign of our respect for God's creation."

Transform your neighborhood

San Joaquin Council of Governments (COG) wants and needs our input to create its "Sustainable Communities Strategy" (SCS) to tackle the transportation, housing and environmental challenges that no single city can handle on its own. Catholic Charities is organizing parish and community groups to make sure that all our diverse communities have a voice.

Please join us. The first meetings of the SCS Public Advisory Group take place at the COG office, 555 E. Weber in Stockton.

- Tuesday, November 13, 2012 from 2pm to 4pm
- Monday, December 10, 2012 from 2pm to 4pm

For more information, check the COG website at www.sjcog.org or contact Betsy Reifsnider, the Environmental Justice Director at Catholic Charities, at: betsyr@ccstockton.org or call 209-444-5925.

*And the stars down so close,
and sadness and pleasure so
close together, really the
same thing. ... The stars are
close and dear and I have
joined the brotherhood of
the worlds. And everything's
holy — everything, even me.*

**- John Steinbeck,
The Grapes of Wrath**

In this issue:

- Governor signs environmental justice bills
- Healthier, more livable neighborhoods
- PUENTES honors John Morearty
- Advent activities for parishes



**Environmental Justice
Project**

1106 N. El Dorado Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Phone:
209/444-5925

Fax:
209/444-5929

E-Mail:
betsyr@ccstockton.org
jmarin@ccstockton.org

Website:
www.ccstockton.org

“Seeds and Spirits” honors John Morearty

You are cordially invited to attend the Seeds and Spirits fundraiser for PUENTES, a project that helps underserved families by teaching them how to grow and sell their own food. The fundraiser takes place on the **Boggs Tract Community Farm (south of the Port of Stockton) on Sunday, November 4th, from 10 am to 1 pm.** The event will celebrate the life of founding PUENTES board member and community hero, John Morearty, who passed away on Oct. 16th. According to fellow PUENTES board member Susan Mora Loyko, “John was and continues to be the heart and soul of the Boggs Tract Community Farm.”

Festivities will take place on the farm amidst the growing produce. PUENTES families will show guests the terrific progress they have made on the farm in the last year and share exciting plans for the future.

Brunch is courtesy Bon Appetite catering with local wines from Woodbridge and Michael David vineyards. Guests will also sample an assortment of beers from High Water beers. Members of the Brubeck Institute will provide the music.

Since this is a fundraising event, donations of \$30 per person are greatly appreciated. To RSVP, please contact Susan Mora Loyko at smloyko@puentesca.org or call 209-943-1575.

Advent opportunities for your parish

Are you looking for ways your parish can practice caring for Creation?

Screen “Sun Come Up,” an Academy Award-nominated documentary film that tells the story of the Carteret Islanders seeking a new home as the rising levels of the South Pacific Ocean start to inundate the Carteret Atoll, only five feet above sea level.

Show “Over Troubled Waters,” a finalist in California’s 2013 Wild and Scenic River Festival. It is the story of how the people of the San Joaquin Delta are fighting to protect the region they love and to encourage sustainable water policies for all the people of California.

Participate in “Tune In, Tune Up” at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds on Saturday, December 1st from 9 am to 3 pm. Have your car smog checked for free. The first 525 people whose cars don’t pass the smog test will receive \$500 repair vouchers.

Bring electronic waste to the Catholic Charities’ Environmental Justice Project e-waste collection drive at the Dec. 1st Tune In, Tune Up event.

To learn about these opportunities or to borrow one of the DVD documentaries, contact Betsy at betsyr@ccstockton.org or Jose at jmarin@ccstockton.org or call the EJ office at: 209-444-5925.

Websites to Care for Creation:

**Catholic Charities, Stockton
Diocese:** www.ccstockton.org

**National Catholic Rural Life
Conference:** www.ncrlc.com

Catholic Climate Covenant:
www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
