



Office of the Vicar General

July 2011

Dear Father,

I would like to invite your parish to participate in our 13th annual *Labor in the Pulpit* program on Labor Day Weekend, September 3-4. This program joins the faith and labor communities, and is sponsored by the Interfaith Council on Economics and Justice.

This year, *Labor in the Pulpit* emphasizes *food justice* – calling on people of faith to strive for justice for all people involved in the production, selling, and consumption of our food: the farm workers who plant seeds and harvest food, the workers who transport and sell groceries, the people of all incomes, faiths and races who seek food near their homes, and the children who face an obesity epidemic of epic proportions. From seed to marketplace to table, food intertwines all our bodies with those of workers in fields and stores.

People of faith will be invited to commit to act by signing up to receive information on all aspects of “Food Justice” and details on the inaugural Santa Clara Valley Just Food Summit. Sign-ups will take place outside the church.

The Diocese of San Jose has supported *Labor in the Pulpit* for many years. Some priests and deacons make this message part of their own homilies or announcements, while others invite guests from the labor movement or the broader interfaith community to speak at their weekend liturgies. This can be done after the homily or during the announcements at the end of Mass. I remind you that a priest or deacon must give the homily.

In 2010, more than 50,000 people in 100 worship services focused on the topic of “moral budgeting.” We received 6,000 pledges to the “Commitment to a Moral Budget” from participants. This witness speaks clearly to the current economic crisis in our region, state and nation.

To participate this year, please return the attached sign-up form. You may also contact Elisa Koff-Ginsborg, Interim Director of the Interfaith Council at elisa@wpusa.org or 408-269-7872, to answer your questions or if you would like to learn more about this program.

Thank you for giving your consideration to participating in *Labor in the Pulpit* this Labor Day weekend.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. Francis V. Cilia
Vicar General