



ROUNDTABLE

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC DIOCESAN
SOCIAL ACTION DIRECTORS

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February 15, 2010

Dear Roundtable Members:

We hope 2010 is beginning well for you. Many of us have just returned from the Roundtable Symposium and Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington DC, where, despite the “snowmageddon” we were inspired by fantastic speakers who shared with us a framework for Right Relationship through covenant and engagement with our adversaries. We also had meaningful discussions in which we visioned about the future of the Roundtable and how it can better serve its members. In order to make these visions a reality, we need your support this year.

Despite the challenges that come with being an organization in transition, the Roundtable was able to continue serving its members and while making decisions that will allow the organization to thrive for years to come. Some highlights of the past year included:

- Selecting a new home for the Roundtable’s office, the Center of Concern in Washington DC and hiring coordinator Jennifer Svetlik.
- Securing a fiscal agent, Catholic Charities of Houma-Thibodaux, of which board member Rob Gorman is Director, while simultaneously moving forward with the processes that will allow us to become a legally recognized independent organization.
- Hosting a positively-received Summer Action Social Institute in Newark on Economics and the Common Good
- Continuing to share best practices through the Virtual Roundtable email group. Discussions included human trafficking awareness programs, training in PSM certification, collaboration with Latino/Hispanic ministry offices, and much more.
- Reformatting our Standards & Expectations Evaluations tool for easier use.

The upcoming year holds many important events for us as well, including:

- An upcoming conference call book discussion, with several contributing essayists of *Uncommon Faithfulness: The Black Catholic Experience*, to take place March 30, 2010
- A membership survey to be sent out this spring, an initiative the Roundtable undertakes every five years, which will provide important data about our work and the current undertakings of the church's social mission.
- Continued "round tabling" among our membership on topics of concern and interest.
- A new website at www.catholicroundtable.org, to be launched within the next two months, which will include a blog and extended resource-sharing opportunities.
- Quarterly issues of the Roundtable Report newsletter on relevant themes with resources helpful to your work. If you'd like to be a contributing author or if there's a topic you'd like to see covered in the Report, please let us know.
- Our Social Action Summer Institute which will take place August 1-4, 2010 at Santa Clara University in the Bay Area. Our advanced track theme is "Peacebuilding for the 21st Century" and we will have a variety of additional talks and workshops in such topics as Hispanic ministry, global solidarity, life and dignity, and much more. In addition, Roundtable Member Tricia Hoyt will be leading us in Scriptural Foundations in Social Justice and Dr. Kristin Heyer will lead an extended session on Catholic Social Teaching.
- Our voice is valued by the Bishops at the meetings of the USCCB's International and Domestic Policy Committees. The importance of your work is recognized that the Roundtable is invited to be an observer at these meetings.

In order for all of this great work to truly thrive, we need your active participation. We are so thankful for all of your previous support of the Roundtable. Your return of the enclosed dues notice will help us continue to build a vital organization to serve and be an advocate for diocesan social action directors around the country.

Remember to make dues checks payable to: *Catholic Charities of Houma-Thibodaux*, who is our fiscal agent at this time, but mail them: *C/O Jennifer Svetlik, 1225 Otis Street NE, Washington, DC 20017-2516*.

Blessings to you,



Barbara Budde, Chair