

# Pax Christi USA

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC PEACE MOVEMENT

## The battle for control of Iraq's oil

**G**reetings of peace! I hope this mailing finds you well. It is shaping up to be a particularly important Fall as the Iraq war reaches a critical phase. The long anticipated report by General David Petraeus, delivered to Congress on September 10, while holding out the hope that some U.S. forces would be able to leave Iraq by mid-2008, admitted that the number of forces that would still remain in Iraq would be equal to the pre-surge level of roughly 130,000.

Already, the General Accounting Office's report (issued immediately prior to Petraeus's), which offered a dismal assessment of the situation in Iraq, is drawing criticism from war supporters in the Administration and elsewhere. The Report of the Independent Commission on the Security Forces in Iraq, released September 6, similarly paints a dire picture of the status of Iraq's national police force and raises serious questions about the direction of current efforts concluding that *"the ISF (Iraq Security Forces) will be unable to fulfill their essential security responsibilities independently over the next 12-18 months."*

What is glaringly absent from the current commentary is any mention of the other battle being waged in Iraq right now—the battle for control of Iraq's vast oil wealth. That battle revolves around the passage by the Iraqi Parliament of a series of laws that will restructure the oil industry and hand control of Iraqi oil to Western oil companies for the first time in 35 years. So little attention is being paid to this critical aspect of the war that we are devoting this issue of our membership newsletter to this critical topic.

What is important to keep in mind is that if the Iraq Hydrocarbon Law is passed by the Iraqi Parliament, it will have two very important implications for the future of the war. First, if passed, the current Iraqi regime will begin signing long-term contracts with U.S. and other Western oil companies. Those companies will then pressure the U.S. government to maintain a large U.S. military presence in Iraq for the next 30 years to secure their investment and activities in extracting Iraqi oil. The war will continue.

Secondly, should a future Iraqi government attempt to modify or change the very pro-corporation law in order to assert more control over this vital economic sector, the U.S. will have a ready-made legal justification for a new military intervention.

What follows in this issue is a collection of pieces to clarify what this Hydrocarbon Law will do, and what you can do to oppose it.

Additionally, in this issue are details on our annual event at the School of Americas mobilization in Columbus, Georgia, this November. Please consider joining Pax Christi USA at the Howard Johnson Hotel's Presidential Room from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, November 16, for our program, *The Human Costs of War in Iraq*, featuring members of Pax Christi USA who have lost family members in Iraq and have family members currently serving in Iraq, as well as Iraqis who will share their stories of pain and loss in this horrible war.

Also included in this mailing is a brochure for our Sustainer's Circle for Peace with Justice. I ask you to prayerfully consider joining this important program designed to provide Pax

*(Continued on pg. 8)*

*(Continued from pg. 1)*

Christi USA with the regular financial support that it needs. The Sustainers program provides you with a means of eliminating the paper renewal process for your membership -- saving paper, postage, and staff time. Your credit card will be charged each month at the level that you sign up for, and you can stop payments at any time.

Pax Christi USA relies on member support for its work. That work is so very important: providing resources, analysis and context to the signs of our times; organizing events and gatherings; linking members through local groups; sustaining a spirituality of nonviolence that provides strength and hope for the journey; and raising a collective voice to decision-makers on behalf of our movement. **Please consider sending an additional gift**, beyond your regular membership dues, by filling out the enclosed Fund for Peace slip and returning it with a check to Pax Christi USA. In this very real

way, you will be supporting our ongoing work to challenge war, pursue peace and build a more just and sustainable world. I thank you in advance for your ongoing and critically important support.

Finally, as the debate intensifies over future directions in Iraq, it becomes critical that your voice be raised. Please make a note that on October 27, Pax Christi USA will again participate in the large regional mobilizations organized by United for Peace and Justice, a national anti-war coalition in which PCUSA actively participates. Watch the PCUSA website, [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org), for updates, announcements, resources, and organizing information.

In peace,



Dave Robinson  
Executive Director, Pax Christi USA

*This November at the annual School of the Americas Vigil and Action, join Pax Christi USA for a very special event...*

## The Human Costs of War in Iraq

*Friday, November 16, 2007 from 6:30 to 8:30pm  
The Presidential Room at the Howard Johnson Hotel  
1011 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, Georgia*

This gathering on the eve of the annual SOA vigil and action has become one of Pax Christi USA's most important and largest events, bringing together between 300-500 Pax Christi USA members, friends, and activists from around the nation. This year's program includes speakers, prayer, music, and time for connecting with new and old friends. Our speakers this year include:

- **Katy Zatsick Scott**, whose son Jason was injured in Iraq in October 2005 and spent 8 months recuperating at Walter Reed Hospital. Katy is a member of Pax Christi USA and Military Families Speak Out.
- **Joe Colgan**, whose son Ben was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in November 2003. Joe is a member of Pax Christi USA from the Pacific Northwest.

We have also invited Pax Christi USA members who have a family member currently serving in Iraq and Iraqi friends of Pax Christi USA who have seen first-hand the suffering of their people and the destruction of their country. This is typically a standing-room-only event, so come early for the best seating. For more information on other Pax Christi involvement at the SOA this year, visit the Pax Christi USA web site, [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org).

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Visit [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org) for more educational and spiritual resources for peace.

**PAX CHRISTI  
USA**



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### PEACEMAKING:

#### Day by Day

"We are saved today by freeing our spirit from resignation to the existing order. Spiritual life has always meant a capacity for sacrifice. In a society like ours, a spiritual life can only be a revolutionary life."

- Ignazio Silone

\* This quote and hundreds more are available in Pax Christi USA's "Peacemaking Day by Day." Visit our Web site, [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org), to order your copy today, or contact our sales department for more information at 814-453-4955, ext. 231 or [sales@paxchristiusa.org](mailto:sales@paxchristiusa.org).

**SIGN-ON STATEMENT ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

Over 1200 individuals, local groups, organizations and religious communities signed on to Pax Christi USA's statement on global climate change. As part of the campaign that cohered around the statement, PCUSA Policy Director Jean Stokan participated in a national press conference in Washington, D.C. on September 4. The press conference was for the "Climate Emergency Fast," which many PCUSA members participated in, and was aired on C-Span. The sign-on statement is to appear in the November issue of *Sojourners Magazine* and will be delivered to every Member of Congress during the Fall session.

**PAX CHRISTI AUSTIN (TX) HOSTS CONFERENCE**

In May, PC-Austin hosted the 2007 Pax Christi-Texas State Conference with Bishop Tom Gumbleton as keynote speaker. Over 100 Pax Christi members and friends attended. Father Vincent Peterson, OFM Conv, was honored as "Peacemaker of the Year."

In July and August, PC-Austin screened *The Narrow Path*, a new video featuring Father John Dear, S.J., and *Hiroshima: Repentance and Renewal*, produced by PC New Mexico (which we highly recommend). PC-Austin partnered with other peacemakers at a city-wide prayer service in commemoration of the bombing of Hiroshima in August.

**PCUSA PARTICIPATES IN PEACE MASS ON SEPT. 11**

On the 6th anniversary of 9/11 and on the second day of General Petraeus' Congressional testimony on the U.S.'s Iraq War policy, Catholic members of Congress joined with Catholics for an End to the War in Iraq, Pax Christi USA, NETWORK, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, the Jesuit Conference, the Social Concerns Department for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and others in offering a mass for peace and an end to war.

Held at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Washington, D.C., the church was filled with over 150 worshipers, including members of Congress and their staff. In his prayerful and clearly stated sermon, Monsignor Ray East, PCUSA Teacher of Peace in 2005 and director of the Archdiocese of Washington's Office of Black Catholics, reminded those in attendance that the U.S.'s response to 9/11 was not grounded in a Christian ethic. He stated that the sacrifice of Jesus was made so nations would avert war.

In a powerful sign of the prayerfulness of the mass, Monsignor East ended the service by inviting those present to lay hands on the members of Congress and their staff and offered a blessing that they might have the strength and wisdom in pursuing Christ's peace on earth.

**Camilo Mejía, first U.S. soldier to publically refuse to fight in Iraq, honored**

At this year's National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking in Seattle, Washington, Pax Christi USA honored Camilo Mejía, former Staff Sergeant of the Florida National Guard, conscientious objector and anti-war activist, as the first recipient of the Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award.

The first U.S. soldier to publicly refuse to fight in Iraq, Mejía was convicted of desertion in May 2004, and served his sentence at the Ft. Sill, Oklahoma military prison until February 2005. He is the author of *Road from ar Ramadi: The Private Rebellion of Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía* and was a presenter at the conference. Mejía's courage inspired countless others to speak out against the war in Iraq, including both soldiers and civilians, and his witness called an entire nation to examine its conscience. Pax Christi USA is proud to recognize Camilo Mejía as the recipient of the inaugural Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award.

The Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award is a new recognition instituted by Pax Christi USA, the national Catholic peace and justice movement, to be given periodically to honor a group or individual who has made a strong and extraordinary prophetic witness for peace in a time or situation of devastating violence or injustice. This award is named for Eileen Egan, one of the co-founders of Pax Christi USA, a long-time executive with Catholic Relief Services, and friend to both Dorothy Day and Mother Teresa. The recipient of the Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award exhibits the same spirit which we associate with Eileen: steady courage to speak the truth of nonviolence in a world addicted to war-making, deep compassion for the victims of violence and poverty, and unshakeable perseverance to change the world for the better.



**Daily prayer, weekly actions for peace planned for this Advent season**

Last year during the first week of Advent, Pax Christi USA Bishop-President Gabino Zavala, in a homily given at the Catholic University of America, said: "I would offer that our presence in Iraq has long passed a capacity to contribute anything positive. Our 140,000 troops in Iraq are unable to stop the deepening spiral of violence. Last week we witnessed the bloodiest attacks since the U.S. invasion almost 4 years ago. It is time to bring our occupation of Iraq to an end."

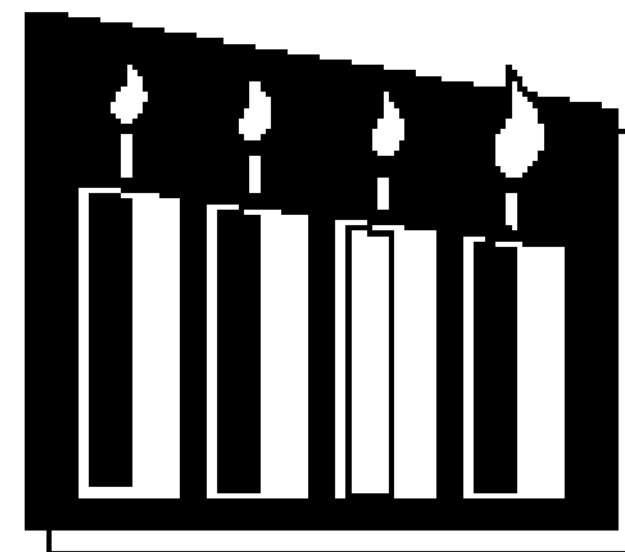
Sadly, we are here again, on the cusp of another Advent, still waiting for peace to be born into our world, especially in Iraq. But we are a people of hope, and our witness is steadfast. This Advent offers us the time and space to pray, study, and act for peace and to connect our witness with the natural cycle of our church year. Advent signifies a time of new beginnings. Let us make this Advent truly a new beginning -- the dawning of peace in Iraq and throughout the world.

Pax Christi USA will provide resources for prayer, study and action throughout the Advent season. Our publications department is already accepting and receiving hundreds of orders for this year's Advent reflection booklet, *The Advent of the God of Peace*, by Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace Fr. John Dear, S.J. Below are two pieces of our Advent program for 2007 which we hope you'll consider. Please look for more Advent program information on the Rapid Response Network and a special link to Advent resources on our web site.

**A Daily Prayer for Peace this Advent** - Each day, at the same time, we are asking Pax Christi USA members, friends and all people of faith, to take five minutes to join in prayer with others around the world for peace. We are asking people to pray for five minutes, one minute for each year of the war in Iraq, and pray that this year will be the last. The time we are asking people to pray is at 12:00pm EST (11am CST; 10am MST; 9am PST). Any prayer for peace will do, but we will be choosing a different prayer for peace each week of Advent, posting it on the Pax Christi USA web site, and making it available as a prayer card for individuals and groups. The prayers which will be featured are: *Prayer for Unity in a Time of War*, by Kathy Kelly; the *Muslim, Jewish, Christian Prayer for Peace*; *Prayer for World Peace*, by Joan Chittister, O.S.B.; the *Litany of Mary of Nazareth*; and the Pax Christi icon prayer.

**Weekly Actions for Peace this Advent** - Each week of Advent, Pax Christi USA will be encouraging its members, friends and all people of conscience and good will to undertake one action for peace. Each week on the Pax Christi USA web site and through the Rapid Response Network, Pax Christi USA will provide a different coordinated action and the necessary resources for that action so that individuals and groups may participate. Planned actions include public prayer and witness on key days throughout Advent, a letter-to-the-editor campaign, local lobby days to make appointments with your representatives, and more.

Pax Christi USA will also be providing pieces for study and reflection regularly throughout Advent on the web site, so please check out the site, [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org), often. And take a look at the catalog included in this membership mailing for more resources available from Pax Christi USA.



**ADVENT 2007**

## Search the web with GoodSearch and help Pax Christi USA raise money

Search engines have become as ubiquitous as the old-fashioned telephone book. Everyone uses them -- whether to find a good restaurant, information for a research paper, the latest news, local movie times, and more. But next time you search, why not do something extra good at the same time? So instead of "Googling" something, try "GoodSearching" next time!

GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50 percent of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. It's a simple and compelling concept. **You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine and designate Pax Christi USA as your charity of choice.** With every click, you are helping us to generate more revenue for our programs and services, more revenue that goes toward building a world which is more peaceful, more just, and more sustainable. And because GoodSearch is powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results.

The more people who use GoodSearch and designate Pax Christi USA as their charity of choice, the more money Pax Christi USA receives. You can bookmark GoodSearch to be your search engine of choice, or select GoodSearch as your new homepage! You can also add GoodSearch to your toolbar on Internet Explorer, Firefox and more! Help us by spreading the word about GoodSearch to your friends and family (and don't forget to ask them to designate Pax Christi USA as the organization that they "GoodSearch for".)

Currently, the amount that is donated per search is approximately one cent. If every Pax Christi USA member searched through GoodSearch twice every day we could raise over \$100,000 each year! This is another unique way to support the work of peace and justice that we do!

### How to use GoodSearch:

- 1) Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com).
- 2) Under "WHO DO YOU GOODSEARCH FOR?", type in "Pax Christi USA" and click on "verify".
- 3) Now you can begin searching, knowing that with every search you undertake, you will be supporting an organization you believe in, and helping Pax Christi USA to raise funds for peace and justice.



For more information on how you can financially support the work of Pax Christi USA, feel free to contact our development office. Nilufar Choudhury, Director of Development, can be reached at 202-635-2741 or [nilufar@paxchristiusa.org](mailto:nilufar@paxchristiusa.org); Tessa Ryker, Assistant to the Director of Development, can be reached at 814-453-4955, ext. 238 or [tessa@paxchristiusa.org](mailto:tessa@paxchristiusa.org). Additionally, new, informative brochures on how to become a member of the Sustainers' Circle for Peace with Justice are now available from the national office. If you would like to receive a copy of this brochure or have questions about becoming a Sustainer, please contact Tessa Ryker at the phone number and email listed above. Pax Christi USA thanks you for your kindness and generosity.

## Rausch, advocate for marginalized and workers, called "the Catholic voice" on environmental justice

Washington, D.C.—Pax Christi USA, the national Catholic peace movement, has recognized the life and witness of Fr. John S. Rausch, Glmy, by naming him the 2007 recipient of the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award. Pax Christi USA first gave the award to Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, in 1978 and has since recognized some of the most significant U.S. Catholic activists for peace and justice of the past 30 years, including actor Martin Sheen; poet and priest Daniel Berrigan, S.J.; and *Dead Man Walking* author Sr. Helen Prejean, C.S.J. Fr. Rausch's work has included advocating for the people and the land of Appalachia, working to end and repair the environmental damage caused in that region, and seeking social justice for Appalachia's workers and citizens.

"Fr. John is a man who is truly concerned for the welfare and justice of others, especially the people of Appalachia," wrote Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, in his nomination of Fr. Rausch. "His love and desire to spread the word about the goodness of the people and the seriousness of their needs are very admirable."

"I have known John since becoming the Bishop of the Richmond (Virginia) Diocese which then included Appalachia," stated Bishop Walter Sullivan, former bishop-president of Pax Christi USA. "Appalachia is beginning to look like a war zone and John Rausch has been a strong voice in organizing opposition to this type of destruction (mountaintop removal)."

Fr. Rausch currently coordinates the Commission for Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Lexington, directs the Catholic Committee of Appalachia, conducts five study tours of Appalachia annually, and writes a syndicated column on faith and economics that appears in over 20 Catholic newspapers, reaching over a half-million homes each month. Fr. Rausch has taught locally and internationally on sustainability, social development, workers' rights and Catholic social teaching.

"John is very selfless and lives a very simple lifestyle—a model of compassion and dedication," wrote Sr. Iris Ann Ledden, S.S.N.D. "He has been an advocate for the poor throughout his priestly life and, in my opinion, is a modern-day prophet. He lives out the Gospel message he preaches."

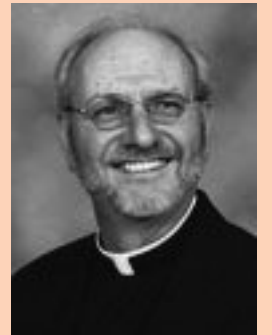
**"This award offers a platform that encourages struggling for the care of creation, striving for a simpler lifestyle and staying relational with family and neighbors," stated Fr. Rausch.**

Most well-known for his commitment to the people and land of Appalachia, Fr. Rausch is also involved in other areas of concern within the Catholic peace and justice movement. He has picketed with strikers, educated within parishes, established worker-owned businesses, ministered to death row inmates, and been at the forefront of the Catholic environmental justice movement.

"When I present the social teachings of the Church, I rail against the 'self-made' person and rugged individualism. . . We live and grow because of community," Fr. Rausch stated when named this year's recipient of the Teacher of Peace Award. "This award means that my friends and colleagues have stood together with me to speak some truth, to build some justice framework, and to do some acts of charity and service."

Fr. Rausch received the award on September 12, 2007 at Trinity University in Washington, D.C. The event was hosted by Pax Christi USA and co-sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministry at Trinity University. E.J. Dionne, columnist for *The Washington Post*, served as the program's keynote speaker.

"This award offers a platform that encourages struggling for the care of creation, striving for a simpler lifestyle and staying relational with family and neighbors," stated Fr. Rausch.



**Fr. John Rausch  
Teacher of Peace, 2007**

Iraq has 115 billion barrels of known oil reserves - 10 percent of the world total. There are 80 discovered oilfields, of which only 17 have been developed. Oil accounts for more than 70 percent of Iraq's GDP and 95 percent of government revenue.

The proposed Iraq hydrocarbon law would take the majority of Iraq's oil out of the exclusive hands of the Iraqi government and open it to international oil companies for a generation or more. The law is a dramatic break from the past. Foreign oil companies will have a stake in Iraq's vast oil wealth for the first time since 1972, when Iraq nationalized the oil industry.

BearingPoint, a Virginia-based contractor, is being paid \$240 million for its work in Iraq, winning an initial contract from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAid) within weeks of the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. A BearingPoint employee, based in the U.S. embassy in Baghdad, was hired to advise the Iraqi Ministry of Oil on drawing up a new hydrocarbon law. BearingPoint employees gave \$117,000 to the 2000 and 2004 Bush election campaigns, more than any other Iraq contractor.

The process of drafting the oil law has been particularly troubling. The timeline of which entities have seen the draft and when suggests that Iraqi interests are not being considered first and foremost.

#### TIMELINE

- July 2006:** Draft shown to U.S. government and major oil companies
- September 2006:** Draft shown to the International Monetary Fund
- February 2007:** Draft shown to the Iraqi Parliament

The Iraq National Oil Company would have exclusive control of just 17 of Iraq's 80 known oil fields, leaving two-thirds of known reserves—and all of its as-yet-undiscovered reserves—open to foreign control.

The law sets no minimum standard for the extent to which foreign companies would have to invest their earnings in the Iraqi economy, partner with Iraqi companies, hire Iraqi workers or share new technologies.

The international oil companies could also be offered some of the most corporate-friendly contracts in the

world, including what are called "production sharing agreements." These agreements are the oil industry's preferred model, but are roundly rejected by all the top oil-producing countries in the Middle East because they grant long-term contracts (20 to 30 years in the case of Iraq's draft law) and greater control, ownership and profits to the companies than other models. In fact, they are used for only approximately 12 percent of the world's oil.

Iraq's neighbors—Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia—maintain nationalized oil systems and have outlawed foreign control over oil development. They all hire international oil companies as contractors to provide specific services as needed, for a limited duration, and without giving the foreign company any direct interest in the oil produced. Iraqis may very well choose to use the expertise

and experience of international oil companies. But they are most likely to do so in a manner that best serves their own needs IF they are freed from the tremendous external pressure being exercised by the Bush administration, international oil corporations—and the presence of 140,000 members of the United States military.

*This information came from Oil Change U.S., at [www.priceofoil.org](http://www.priceofoil.org).*

***The Iraq National Oil Company would have exclusive control of just 17 of Iraq's 80 known oil fields, leaving two-thirds of known reserves—and all of its as-yet-undiscovered reserves—open to foreign control.***

### ***Nobel Peace Prize Laureates' statement in opposition to the Iraq Oil Law***

In support of the people of Iraq, we the undersigned Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, state our opposition to the Iraq Oil Law.

We also oppose the decision of the United States government to require that the Iraq government pass the Oil Law as a condition of continued reconstruction aid in legislation passed on May 24, 2007.

A law with the potential to so radically transform the basic economic security of the people of Iraq should not be forced on Iraq while it is under occupation and in such a weak negotiating position vis-à-vis both the U.S. government and foreign oil corporations.

The Iraq Oil Law could benefit foreign oil companies at the expense of the Iraqi people, deny the Iraqi people economic security, create greater instability, and move the country further away from peace.

The U.S. government should leave the matter of how Iraq will address the future of its oil system to the Iraqi people to be dealt with at a time when they are free from occupation and more able to engage in truly democratic decision-making.

It is immoral and illegal to use war and invasion as mechanisms for robbing a people of their vital natural resources.

Signed by:

**Betty Williams - Ireland**  
Nobel Peace Prize Recipient 1976

**Mairead Corrigan Maguire - Ireland**  
Nobel Peace Prize Recipient 1976

**Rigoberta Menchu Tum - Guatemala**  
Nobel Peace Prize Recipient 1992

**Prof. Jody Williams - USA**  
Nobel Peace Prize Recipient 1997

**Dr. Shirin Ebadi - Iran**  
Nobel Peace Prize Recipient 2003

**Prof. Wangari Maathai - Kenya**  
Nobel Peace Prize Recipient 2004

Also signed by:  
**Yanar Mohammed - Iraq**  
Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq

**Antonia Juhasz - USA**  
Oil Change International

## Web resources on the Iraq Oil Law

[www.iraqoilaw.com](http://www.iraqoilaw.com)

Good source of current and archived info on the Iraq Oil Law and U.S. policy

[www.priceofoil.org](http://www.priceofoil.org)

Excellent information and analysis on "peak oil" and the implications for policy as well as increased conflict related to the continued reliance on fossil fuel. Also details on the Iraq Oil Law.

[www.handsoffiraqoil.org](http://www.handsoffiraqoil.org)

Follows the ongoing efforts by U.S. corporations to write and enact a restructuring of the Iraqi oil industry with good current analysis and archived resources on the Oil Law.

[www.basraoilunion.org](http://www.basraoilunion.org)

The website of the Iraq Oil Workers Union, opposed to the restructuring and privatization of the Iraqi oil industry and opposed to the Oil Law.

## Take ACTION Today!

### PRAY

Use Kathy's Kelly's prayer, "A Prayer for Unity in a Time of War," available from Pax Christi USA, in your individual and communal prayer life.

### EDUCATE

Organize information booths at local events and rallies. Put out information at your church and libraries. Use information sheets provided on the web sites listed to the left.

### ACT

Write to your representative and ask for an inquiry into the interference by the U.S. government, International Monetary Fund and international oil companies in the drafting of the oil law. Assert that the law should be scrapped entirely and rewritten when Iraq is free from occupation. Write also to your local newspapers and call talk radio programs sharing information about the Iraq Oil Law and urging them to report on what is happening to Iraqi oil.