

New York State Labor-Religion Coalition

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225 Brighton Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150
August 5, 2005

Sr. Barbara Jean Wajda, OSF, Principal
St. Mary of the Assumption School
1 St. Mary's Hill
Lancaster, New York 14086-2094

Dear S. Barbara Jean,

May I again thank you for your support of our efforts to bring sweatfree uniforms to local Catholic schools, for your excellent suggestions which I am now implementing and most especially, for your gracious agreement to distribute information about the possibility of St. Mary's parents purchasing blouses and/or shirts through the women's sewing co-op in Thailand.

I am submitting a letter with this mailing. I hope it both meets with your approval and covers the kind of information you want to share with your parents. Obviously, any changes you want would immediately be made. The letter is meant to compliment whatever thoughts you would include in your own letter to the parents.

If it would be helpful, I would be glad to meet with you and/or whatever group you designate to share additional information about what we are trying to accomplish. And of course, I would want to bring a sample blouse to your school so that you all could see first hand the excellent quality of the item.

I thank you for offering to send out the letter at this time and I am grateful that your parents will learn now about this wonderful and most effective opportunity. It might be useful to think of actually ordering such blouses in January - February for use in the following school year. I suggest this as I imagine in most cases, complete uniforms have already been purchased for your students. We have also learned that ordering as a group through the school is both convenient and cost effective if that would be agreeable with you.

Again, may I thank you for this opportunity and most especially, thank you for pursuing "sweatfree" uniforms for the boys and girls in your school. And may I add my thanks as well for all you do for the families there at St. Mary's.

With my very best wishes as you begin your school year,

Gratefully,


Joan Malone

Joan Malone

Western NY Regional Coordinator
pruejo@earthlink.net

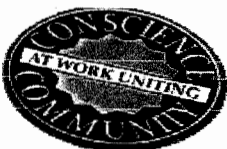
716/ 875-2641

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Crafting Justice ... one blouse at a time

Our children's parents now have the opportunity to ..

- ~ **help** our students learn about the difficulties faced by poor people around the globe.
- ~ **teach** our students that what they do matters in the struggle for social justice.
- ~ **purchase** a uniform blouse or shirt, accomplishing the above. Each girl's blouse or boy's shirt costs only \$12. Sizing is exactly as it is here in the US. It's already been verified that a size 6 blouse in Buffalo is the exact size 6 you'll receive from the sewing co-op described below.

The Diocese of Buffalo has adopted a "sweatfree uniform" policy. This means that all schools are encouraged to purchase only uniforms that can be proven not to have been made in a sweatshop. We at St. Mary's are already following this policy with our plaid uniforms from Flynn&OHara.

Now, we have another opportunity to purchase "sweatfree" and at the same time, support poor women in Thailand trying to care for their families. The Fair Trade School Uniform Project is coordinated by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The Sisters have developed a sewing co-op in Northern Thailand, offering employment to some 300 women.

These women are producing a very high quality uniform blouse, already used in Catholic schools in Buffalo, Syracuse, and Albany. The blouse/shirt is made of hand spun cotton, producing fabric that is incredibly durable and already preshrunk before sewing. Clothing care is exactly as for other similar clothing and parents testify to the value and durability of the garments they are now using.

Choosing to purchase this uniform blouse or shirt makes the difference in the lives of these Thai women and their children, while also making a dent in sweatshops around the world. At the same time, there is the recognition that buying this way means the blouse will take some three months to reach you.

If you want to support this sewing co-op that is literally keeping families alive, you can do so in the following ways:

~ For more information, contact Sister Maureen McGowan, Fair Trade School Uniform Project, at 718-969-1966 or learn more via www.handcraftingjustice.org. If you want more information locally, contact Joan Malone, New York State Labor-Religion Coalition, at 716-875-2641. A sample of the blouse/shirt is available for you to see.

~ A good way to order is as a group through the school. You name the size blouse or shirt you want, pay your \$12, and the items will arrive at the school some three months later.

The inconvenience of a three month wait, because of the necessity of shipping to this county in bulk, is balanced by the good you are doing. You are truly putting Faith into Action and helping women and children in one of the poorest parts of our world.

Thank you



*** Important Message ***

Hurricane Outreach

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ISPD Katrina Outreach

Let's Work Together to Help Others

Hundreds of people across the country have e-mailed or called ISPD wanting to know what they can do to help those in need. You have already given to special collections at your church, or to the Red Cross or to Catholic Charities, plus other key organizations. Many are now asking ISPD to identify churches, schools and people they can directly help. As posted here on our website the day after the storm, **we** have been working to set this up and now invite you **to** respond.



Listed below are the names of specific churches and schools that need We will be adding to this list on a regular basis. When sending contrib **please make all checks payable to the Catholic institution - and ISPD.** At this time, money is needed the most by these churches and regards to supplies, we invite you to send two types: First of all, pleas crucifixes, rosaries, prayer books, missal books, and songbooks. (We i you to have these blessed). Second, please send work gloves, handiw towels, Lysol, and garbage bags.

Catholic Institutions That Need Your Support:

1. Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School

Location: Slidell, Louisiana

Situation: The eye of Hurricane Katrina passed right over the p massive roof of the church was blown off, leaving onl and empty space where 800 parishioners once worsh families are now living in other parts of the country n able to return home for weeks.

Needs:

- Money for displaced families and for rebuilding and the school
- Supplies of all kinds

2. **St. Jean Vianney Church and School**

Location: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Situation: The school is preparing to take on hundreds of displaced students from Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes.

They have little room, but they are "Opening Wide the Door to Christ." Obviously, no tuition is being charged.

Needs:

- Money to address this massive expansion of students, especially hiring teacher aides.

Please send monetary donations ONLY to:

Institution of your Choice
c/o ISPD Hurricane Relief
PO Box 2076
Humble, TX 77346

Please gather supply donations for now.

We will post a distribution center address ASAP.

Please Note: All monetary contributions and donations of supplies will be acknowledged by Catholic institutions by way of a confirmation receipt with proper identification and non-# included.