

# THE HARTFORD CATHOLIC WORKER



ST. MARTIN DE PORRES HOUSE  
ST. BRIGID HOUSE

*What does God require but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly... Micah 6:8*



Brian Kavanaugh

*She comes without instruction:  
Never read a manual  
Never took a lesson:  
How-to-wipe-the-brow  
of-a-man-condemned-to-crucifixion.  
She knows, holds a piece of gauzy linen  
-A veil is mentioned in the book-*

*She bends over him  
Lady of compassion, love-scented  
Lady of Grace.  
She is what happens  
When a woman removes herself  
from the reaches of fear  
Veers into a destiny wholly unexpected.*

LENT 2007

*-Catherine de Vinck*



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Hartford CT 06120; (860) 724-7066, doucot@sbcglobal.net and [www.hartfordcatholicworker.org](http://www.hartfordcatholicworker.org) We are: Brian Kavanagh, Morliana Evans, Sarah Karas, Angela Thomas, Jacqueline, Christopher, Micah and Ammon Allen-Doucot.

## CELEBRATE CHRIST WITH FAIR TRADE EASTER CHOCOLATE

*Angela Thomas*

Love your neighbor as yourself by buying fair trade chocolate this Easter. Cocoa is a big money maker grown around the world on plantations using children and slaves. Fortunately chocolate lovers can buy fair trade chocolate.

The International Cocoa Organization estimates fourteen million people around the world work on cocoa farms. The Institute of Tropical Agriculture found that a farm worker on a cocoa plantation is paid between 30 and 110 U.S. dollars per year. The harvest produced in the cocoa growing season of 1999 and 2000 around the world was 6.6 billions tons. In 2000 the U.S. bought 729,000 lbs of cocoa beans. Chocolate revenue that year was 13 billion dollars. The European Fair Trade Association claims farms average about 5% of the profits from chocolate while the multinational corporations receive about 70 % of the revenues.

Unfortunately children make up the majority of the work force on cocoa plantations. The Institute of Tropical Agriculture found that 60% of cocoa farm

workers are below the age of 14. The children work just to help their family survive. If they are working in the fields, they are not going to school. The children work with machettes to clear the fields and



apply toxic pesticides to the crops. The conditions are unsafe for anyone to work in especially children.

In some areas of Africa child trafficking occurs. In 1998 UNICEF documented child slaves working in Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, and Togo. The U.S. State Department 2000 Human Rights Report said 15,000 children between the ages of 9 and 12 were sold to cotton, coffee, and cocoa plantations. Some children are sold into slavery by their parents, who can't afford to

keep them.

There is hope though. Fair trade farms are popping up every where. Ghana, Cameroon, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Belize have all started fair trade cocoa production. On these farms there is no child or forced labor and union activities are allowed. The farms are monitored once a year by TransFair USA. For more information please go to [www.TransFairUSA.org](http://www.TransFairUSA.org). In the year 2000, more than 3 million lbs. of fair trade cocoa was bought to make chocolate. Ten Thousand Villages and most health food stores sell fair trade chocolate bars.

Chocolate Easter eggs can be bought online at [www.sweetearthchocolates.com](http://www.sweetearthchocolates.com), [www.agreatergift.org](http://www.agreatergift.org), and [www.sjaaks.com](http://www.sjaaks.com).

This Easter love cocoa plantation workers like yourself by purchasing Fair Trade chocolate. Profits created by workers' hands should end up in their hands, and children belong in school, not in the fields. Taste the goodness of chocolate without the guilt of unfair labor practices. Peace.Ω

# SILENCE IS ALSO TORTURE

On Ash Wednesday our community organized prayer services on the steps of the cathedral on Farmington Ave. and in the quadrangle of Yale Divinity School centering on torture. Directly below is the statement we handed out to worshipers entering the cathedral. Below the line is the service prayed at Yale.

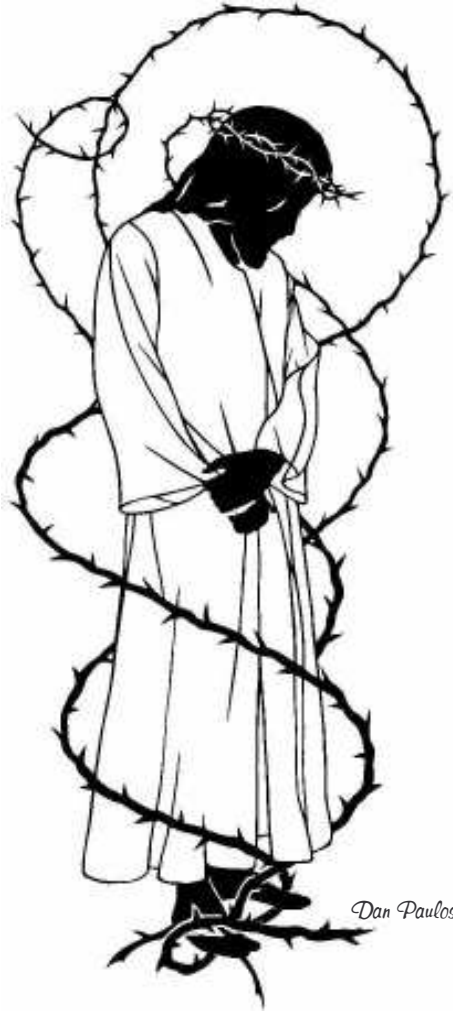
As Lent begins, these words of Pope John Paul II describe a special obligation shared by all members of the Roman Catholic community: "The thought of Jesus being stripped, beaten and derided until his final agony on the cross should always prompt Christians to protest against similar treatment of their fellow beings."

Yet recent polls have revealed that three out of four Catholics in the United States are prepared to justify torture under at least some circumstances, with a significant number seeing it as "often" permissible. Compared with all other Christian denominations, the people of our faith community show the greatest tolerance for these dehumanizing acts of cruelty. How has this come to be?

The threat of terrorism has been made into a license for moral indifference. Would Jesus of Nazareth have repeated over and over the assurance "**Fear not!**" if he did not recognize how fear unbalances our view of God's creation and the shared dignity of every human person?

The Church's Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes* decries acts of torture as

"criminal: they poison civilization; and they debase the perpetrators more than the victims and militate against the honor of the Creator." Pope Benedict XVI quoted from this same



document in his Message for the World Day of Peace last year when he affirmed that "not everything automatically becomes permissible between hostile parties once war has regrettably commenced".

We must together reject the notion that torture of other human beings is the necessary price for our security, or else we must acknowledge that we have abandoned Christ. As noted in an appeal to the Senate by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: "There can be no compromise on the moral imperative to protect the basic human rights of any individual incarcerated for any reason....In a time of terrorism and great fear, our individual and collective obligations to respect basic human dignity and human rights, even of our worst enemies, gains added importance."

Ursuline Sister Dianna Ortiz, herself a victim of torture in Guatemala, asks questions that the Church must answer: "Where is the outrage? Where is the demand that this government obey its own law?"

The Church must be daring - must be faithful - in its love for those "enemies" who our government defines for us with its culture of violence.

Christ cannot say of us that we do not know what we are doing. We know all too well. Now is the time for us to repent and do otherwise. If we are silent, we join the torturers in their work. **Ω**

## Ash Wednesday Prayer Service for Victims of War and Torture

(Chris Doucot) At a time when American bombing turned Vietnam into the *Land of Burning Children* the Jesuit priest Daniel Berrigan decided to burn draft cards instead of people. He wrote:

"Our apologies, dear friends, for the fracture of good order, the burning of paper instead of children, the angering of the orderlies in the front parlor of the charnel house....

We say: killing is disorder — life and

gentleness and community and unselfishness is the only order we recognize. For the sake of that order, we risk our liberty, our good name. The time is past when good men (sic) may be silent, when obedience can segregate men (sic) from public risk, when the poor can die without defense.

How many indeed must die before our voices are heard, how many must be tortured, dislocated, starved, maddened? How long must the world's resources be raped in the service of legalized murder? When at what point will you say no to this war? We have chosen to say, with

the gift of liberty, if necessary, our lives: The violence stops here, the death stops here, the oppression of the truth stops here, the war stops here."

— Father Dan Berrigan, Meditation Written Before Burning Draft Files, 1968

Today there are disquieting parallels, children are again burning at our hands; this time in Iraq- the land of our forefather Abraham. At this start of Lent we have gathered to declare our complicity in this crime, offer our repentance to the victims,

**(PLEASE SEE: ASH WED. P4)**

## ASH WEDNESDAY CONT.

and beg their forgiveness. By marking ourselves with the ashes of our shame we declare before Christ and community that we have sinned.

As Christians and Americans we cherish both our freedoms as defined by the Bill of Rights and our responsibilities as defined by the Decalogue. Through our support of - or acquiescence to - secret prisons, indiscriminate bombings, domestic spying programs, renditions and torture we have forfeited much of our freedom and shirked our responsibilities to the poor and oppressed.

In a moment we will read aloud the Freedoms identified and codified in the Bill of Rights. After each Amendment is read the reader is invited to burn it. This may be an upsetting image to some of us. We should be upset- but not with the burning of these pages. These pages are relics of a time when our nation cherished freedom. We are no longer that nation.

Today we are a nation that accepts having our mail opened, our telephones tapped and our homes entered without warrant. In fact today we are a nation that justifies these invasions of privacy against those among us who dare to robustly practice the very rights guaranteed in the First Amendment. Those who speak, write, gather, and pray for the victims of American foreign policy are held suspect by a society covered by fear and complacent with comfort.

A nation which cherishes due process does not use rendition, nay kidnapping, to secretly detain sisters and brothers. A nation which declares the right to face one's accuser; a nation which declares the right to a speedy trial and forbids detention without charge cannot also be that nation which continues to imprison people in secret prisons for years on end without charge.

A nation which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment does not torture- anyone. We are not burning freedoms today for they have already been burnt in the cauldron of fear, vengeance, and complicity with evil that is

coming to define 21st century America.

*(Participants are invited to burn in an urn the Bill of Rights)*

(Chris Doucot) As Americans we are a people of Rights. As People of the Book we are called to be a people of Responsibilities. Here too we have failed.

*(Chris Doucot) The First Commandment: I am the LORD your God, you shall have no other gods before me.*

Our God is a God of mercy and justice, forgiveness and repentance. The Saviour we are called to imitate walked among strangers, dined with whores, drove money changers out of the Temple, and commanded Peter to put away his sword. We seek to be his disciples yet we condemn whores and fear strangers; we hold grudges and seek revenge; our material possessions are more precious to us than the least among us; and we refuse to put down our swords. Who is it that we imitate? For imitating the ways of the world rather than Your Way, we pray:

*All: Lord Jesus least among us; we beg your forgiveness.*

*[Chris burns page of First Commandment]*

*(Chris Doucot) The Second Commandment: You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.*

Naming a warship *Corpus Christi* says it all. Today in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere the *Corpus Christi* and similar idols cast in medal have again destroyed **"Temples of the Holy Spirit" (ICor 3:16)** and assaulted the Mystical Body of Christ. For seeking Your blessings in Temples of stone and mortar while cursing your existence in Temples of Flesh and Bone, we pray:

*All: Lord Jesus least among us; we beg your forgiveness.*

*Chris burns Second Commandment]*

*(Jessica Anschutz) The Third Commandment: Keep holy the Sabbath day*

In the midst of our busy consumer-driven society, the pressure to meet deadlines, the drive and determination to keep up with the



Brian Kavanagh

Joneses, we fail to honor the Sabbath. Time for the sacred and holy acts of prayer, worship, and rest is consumed by the unholy— sporting events, shopping sprees, as well as acts of violence and torture. We fail to realize that Sabbath provides the opportunity to turn away from the materialism and violence that pervade our world and into the wonderful creation of God. For our embrace of consumerism and neglect of the Sabbath, we pray:

*All: Lord Jesus least among us; we beg your forgiveness.*

*[Jessica burns Third Commandment]*

*(Brandon Johnson) The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and mother.*

Mother Mary proclaimed, "He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty." Our faith is one of liberation that honors the actions and words of not *only* our mothers and fathers but the voices that cry out from ages past. In action and word we have silenced the cries of pain and oppression from

mothers and fathers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in our own streets. We have filled the powerful with good things and sent the hungry away empty. For treating all peoples as expendable, we pray:

*All: Lord Jesus least among us; we beg your forgiveness.*

*[Brandon burns the fourth Commandment]*

*(Brandon Johnson) The Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill.*

"And Jesus wept." 655,000 Iraqis, 3133 U.S. soldiers in Iraq. The numbers speak for themselves, we are killing our neighbors and we are killing ourselves. In the midst of the rhetoric of freedom and international security, we are securing the deaths of thousands.

Sadly, while destroying the lives of Iraqis and U.S. Soldiers we also turn a blind eye to our neighbors who spend nights without shelter in our own country, facing the bitter cold hoping to make it to tomorrow. Our complacency through our military, economic, and foreign policies kill. For our silence in the face of murder, we pray:

*All: Lord Jesus least among us; we beg your forgiveness.*

*[Brandon burns the fifth Commandment]*

*(Chris Doucot) The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.*

In his letter to the Ephesians Paul likens the Church to be the Bride of Christ. By climbing into bed with the Powers and Principalities of this world the Church - both as the people of God and as an institution - continues to commit adultery. A faithful bride to Christ would love Him in the form of neighbor, stranger and enemy in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. For our ongoing affairs with power, privilege and violence we pray:

*All: Lord Jesus least among us; we beg your forgiveness.*

*[Chris burns the sixth Commandment]*

*(Tamara Shantz) The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.*

As a child I understood stealing as sneaking a chocolate bar from the corner store, now I see that even nations are capable of thievery. This nation, and most

nations of the Western world, continue to plunder the resources of the so-called developing world, we continue to wage war in order to take what is not ours, but worst of all, we destroy any hope of a future for later generations of Iraqis, Afghans, Colombians, and through our negligent destruction of this planet we steal from our own children the inheritance of a home that is healthy, safe, and whole. For our communal greed, and selfish interest we pray:

*All: Lord Jesus least among us; we beg your forgiveness.*

*[Tamara burns the seventh Commandment]*

*(Jessica Anschutz) The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness.*

Jesus commanded us to love our enemies and we pledge ourselves to be "one Nation under God," but the invasion of Iraq in 2003 was based on false pretenses and deliberately inflated intelligence. This destructive, cruel, revengeful invasion, a result of the Bush administration's formulation of the "War on Terror" as a campaign against Weapons of Mass Destruction, has resulted in the loss of innocent lives, continued violence and destruction. For our shortcomings as a nation, we pray:

*All: Lord Jesus least among us; we beg*



*Bob Dahm* BOB DAHM ILLUSTRATION

*your forgiveness.*

*[Jessica burns the eighth Commandment]*

*(Brandon Johnson) The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife/husband.*

War crimes abound! Rape, murder, and torture comprise the trinity of war. Our language and actions have created the space for crimes of unspeakable nature to go without prosecution. Sinfully our nation covets human lives and control, while faithful people too often remain silent. For the victims and perpetrators of all violence, we pray

*All: Lord Jesus least among us; we beg your forgiveness.*

*[Brandon burns the ninth Commandment]*

*(Tamara Shantz) The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.*

Coveting is only seen by looking within. If we look past this nation's rhetoric of the beauty of freedom and democracy, we see a covetous heart. Economic policies that seek to protect our own and take what is not our own. We not only covet our neighbour's goods, but we seek to take what only belongs to God. The Bible tells us that the 'earth is the Lord's' yet we routinely covet God's creation and bicker over who has the right to desecrate this creation first. For our covetous spirits, both individual and communal, we pray:

*All: Lord Jesus least among us; we beg your forgiveness.*

*[Tamara burns the tenth Commandment]*

[After a moment of silence. Chris will take the bowl of ashes and mark the forehead of the person to his right while saying:

*O Jesus, you place on our foreheads the sign of our sins:*

*"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return*

This person will then take the bowl and repeat the marking and prayer, and so on until everyone is marked.]

Let us close our prayers by joining hands and reciting the Lord's prayer.  $\Omega$

# "GROW UP TO SERVE COMMUNITIES"

## **Richard Sitcha**

(ed. Note: Mr. Sitcha is in his 43 month of detention without charge in a Massachusetts prison. For details see: [www.traprockpeace.org/richard\\_sitcha.html](http://www.traprockpeace.org/richard_sitcha.html))

Dear Chris,

I was so glad to know that my little contribution reached you. I really hope that I have opened the way for people in prison and everywhere to help you continue the fight to make this world a better place to live. People may not know or understand your struggle. I come from a third-world country where I lived all my life. I know what is poverty, I know what is corruption, war, injustice, dictatorship, arbitrary arrests, no respect of human rights, lack of freedom and democracy. You can't even put in place an organization to fight all these without being arrested most of the time. When I see people like you and your organization willing to denounce injustice and other wrongdoings I think it's something to encourage. The motto of my Catholic high school was "Grow up to serve communities". We were taught that together people can achieve any goal they want to. One hand does not wrap a package. By joining efforts together the burden will not weigh on one person's shoulder.

When you help resolve problems you're preparing a divine solution for your own problem in the future. This is true for everyone and I am experiencing that with my case today. God has blessed me throughout this problem. He has sent on my way some wonderful people full of love and compassion, who are filling up the emptiness of my family. Apart my freedom and now because I am sick, I can't say that I am an abandoned person in a foreign country. I receive visits twice a week,

books, financial help etc, from people I have never seen before. Isn't it a miracle?

We must put in our minds that the earth and all within belong to God, we are here for some time and must cede our place for others. Everyone has the duty to help make the world a better place to live. Failing to do so will be a sin in God's sight. We are not great because of our riches or



our strength, we are great because of the "virtues we make part of our lives and that will become our eternal treasure."

Concerning my case: I am just confused after 40 months in jail. Immigration continues to ask for more time to file its motion. In fact what is true is that they do not have anything legal against me. They just want to waste time so that I will be tired in jail and give up. My case was

mishandled by some people seeking for their own interest who do not want to see me out of jail. The Immigration system is a huge machine of corruption, but immigrants are so abandoned in America because they do not have the voting right, that let [indcipherable]... to many personnels and even some immigration lawyers to prey on immigrants to get money from them. They are so secret with that, that the public doesn't know and to prevent everything they send immigrants to jail most of the time without a real/legal wrongdoing knowing that [the immigrant] will look for [a] lawyer who really does not do anything at all but charges you sometimes up to \$10,000 to make it look like there was a big legal matter. If the immigrant is clever and starts asking questions, then they say he lost his case and make everything to deport him and the case is closed, or they make him stay in jail for a long time so he will be tired and give up and get deported. I worked inside a corrupt judiciary system for ten years and I know how it works. I was asked by my colleagues to become a priest because I was criticizing them every time. What is difficult in America is that people [here] do not believe that such things exist

here. I couldn't believe too until I am experiencing that by myself. I gathered many cases beside mine to show how there are abuses on immigrants, legal and illegal, and no respect for their rights nor for due process.

I would like to speak for people fighting for immigrants rights and/or those fighting against corruption in America. I will prove

**(PLEASE SEE SITCHA P9)**

# GALEB: THE LEAST OF MY BROTHERS

*Jacqueline Allen-Doucot*

On January 11<sup>th</sup> 2002 the first “enemy combatants” or “detainees” were brought to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba by American forces. On January 11, 2007 I was honored to be part of a group from Witness Against Torture that traveled to Washington, D.C. to partake in direct action demonstrations on behalf of over 500 people still being held without charge.

For the duration of this witness each of us assumed the name of one of the prisoners so that they could be heard, symbolically at least, in our action at the federal courthouse. It was prayerfully decided that those of us risking arrest would leave our I.D.s home and to be in solidarity with those not afforded a day in court we gave the name of our “prisoner” to the arresting officer. We knew we would likely be held in jail overnight and brought into court the next morning. We told the arresting officers that like the Guantanamo prisoners, we would have no voice until we received our day in court. The identity I assumed was Galeb Hassan Al Bhahani. I wrote his name on my arm so that when the papers I carried with me were removed at arrest I would still have his name to speak in court.

For the next three days I thought and prayed often for Galeb. When I looked out the windows of the courthouse and saw more than one-hundred and fifty people dressed in orange jumpsuits, like those worn by the prisoners at Guantanamo, marching in a procession I wished Galeb could see them and feel some encouragement. When I filled out a petition of Habeas Corpus (a legal document that demands a day in court) for my “prisoner” I felt sad that this might be the only time his name would be read in a legitimate court of law. When my arresting officer escorted me through the winding staircases

below the court house I spoke to him of the man held for 5 years in denial of his basic human rights. I also thought of Galeb’s arrest. There was likely no courteous gentle officer. Galeb was very likely hooded and beaten. No officer came to explain his charges to him. Later when another officer took me to a small booth to process my court violation notice I



identified myself as Galeb Hassan Al Bhahani. Because there were over one hundred of us arrested, the court decided to photograph and release us.

For a few days after the action back home in Hartford I continued to rewrite Galeb’s name upon my arm. I prayed for him daily. It brought me back to my grammar school days during the Vietnam war. My brother Jimmy was in the Navy on a sub during the war. My thirdgrade class sent him cards and we prayed for the soldiers daily. I bought a POW bracelet which I proudly wore while I earnestly prayed for the man whose name it bore. In the same way I prayed daily for Galeb. After five days of re-writing Galeb’s name

upon my arm I felt so connected to him through my prayers that I thought about getting it permanently tattooed. It was amazing to me how he had gone from an anonymous entity to someone who had become quite human, real, and even dear to me. I decided to look him up on a prisoner website. To my horror I discovered that my “prisoner” was actually an alleged Al Quaida member. It was as if a switch had been flipped in my heart. I no longer felt compelled to tattoo his name on my arm. It was as if his humanity had fled from him. I soon realized that I had stopped praying for him every day. Why was that? I also realized that a part of me had come to hate Osama Bin Laden and his “network”. It is not just the loss of three thousand lives on September 11, 2001 that grieved me; I am also haunted by the millions of civilians killed in wars during my lifetime alone- including hundreds of thousands, maybe millions, by my government. Six years after the attacks of September 11 it is obvious that Al Qaeda opened the door for war seemingly without end. We would be resisting this war forever. I resent that.

I needed to spend some more time thinking about Galeb. The true Galeb, not the romanticized version I had created in my head. I also began to look with earnest upon the scriptural mandate to “love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you”. For this seems to be at the core of not only my struggle with Galeb, but our failure as Christians to apply Christ’s teachings to our own lives. Why do we say we believe in Jesus, but refuse to follow his commands or example. Is it because we believe in him, but do not really believe him? I have to be honest with myself too and face my own prejudice. Although intellectually I knew that many of the over

**(PLEASE SEE GALEB, P8)**

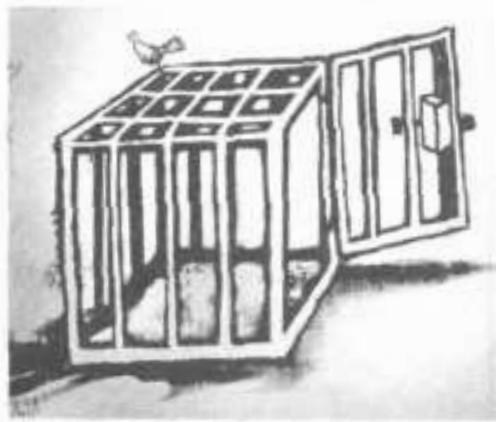
## GALEB CONT.

five hundred people being held at "Gitmo" could have been guilty of crimes, in my heart I had been acting on behalf of the innocent ones. Discovering that "my" prisoner may have been one of the guilty ones has been quite a spiritual journey itself.

I began by following the mandate to pray for enemies and those who persecute us. In my prayers I tried to find Galeb's humanity once again. I made myself see that he was a man accused, but never given the right to defend himself, face charges, be given a lawyer to present evidence on his own behalf. He was and should be considered a man innocent until proven guilty. I thought of how often the innocent are accused and imprisoned even when they are given due process. I reminded myself of the story upon story we had read during our pilgrimage to Guantanamo. I thought of the young men who had been turned over for torture by someone desperate for the small reward that represented a year's income to them. I thought of him as if I could be his mother or sister. I began to imagine his struggles living in a poverty stricken country. Perhaps joining Al Quida was for him, a choice similar to that of many of the men in my neighborhood who choose a life in the military as a means to escape their own

impoverished lives. Perhaps at a young age Galeb did not find spiritual mentors like I was blessed to find. Instead of Dan and Phil Berrigan and Liz McAlister perhaps Galeb's mentors were revolutionaries who embraced violence out of their desperation. Those mentors might have been able to use Galeb's thirst for justice and change to further a deadly agenda. How is that different from the generals who sent the fighter pilot to bomb our friends Um Hyder and Mustafa way back in 1999?

The more I prayed for Galeb the more real and human he became to me once again. Being human we contain both shadow and light; we have the potential to do good or evil. Seeing Galeb as fully human has allowed me to look at my own sins and not just his. Perhaps this is why Christ asked us to pray for our enemies. God knows that our sins tie us to each other and that



STEVE ANGLU

praying for the sins of another just might give us the grace to grapple with our own. If you find deep common ground with some one so "other" than yourself, you find truth in the teaching that we are all one. After all who needs our prayers more, the innocent or the guilty? We are all innocent and guilty. And are we called not to judge, particularly because we do not know the heart and soul of those we have deemed our enemy?

I do not pretend to know who Galeb is because he is a hidden prisoner with no rights. I will never be allowed to visit him. I do visit him in my prayers. I ask that our merciful God forgive Galeb for his sins with the same mercy we need to beg to be forgiven for the torture that goes on in our names. I feel the guilt and pain of Galeb's suffering as if I had tortured him myself. That is why I will return to Washington D.C. on April 18<sup>th</sup> to carry his name and demand for his legal rights in federal court. Please pray for the "detainees". You can find an individual to pray for on the Witness Torture website which can be found at our website: [www.hartfordcatholicworker.org](http://www.hartfordcatholicworker.org)

I leave with the words of our founder Dorothy Day: "I believe that we must reach our brother, never toning down our fundamental oppositions, but meeting him when he asks to be met, with a reason for the faith that is in us, as well as with a loving sympathy for them as brothers." Ω

## St. Martin's Calendar

- ◆ Please join us on **Tuesday, April 3, May 1, and June 5 at 7:30 PM** for the celebration of Mass at St. Brigid House, 18 Clark St., Hartford. Refreshments and conversation follow Mass.
- † Please join us on **Good Friday, April 6 at 10 AM** to pray the Stations of the Cross at the Sub Base. We will gather in the parking lot of Pleasant Valley Elementary School on Pleasant Valley Rd, Groton and process to the Sub Base. For more information call us at 724-7066 or Stephen Kobasa at (203) 777-3849.
- 🌍 Please join us on **Saturday, April 28 at 9:00 AM** for our annual Earth Day activities. We will clean the neighborhood, plant a tree, have a cookout and play basketball and maybe go for a nature walk in Keney Park. If you are a youth group leader this would be a great opportunity for your kids to do some service and have fun while building bridges with kids from this neighborhood.



## NOTES CONT.

Mical's doing great in Spanish and I'm in an eighth grade reading class (I'm in seventh grade just in case you don't know). I was in Spanish for the first semester and I only remember the most critical words: pollo (chicken), tocino (bacon), queso (cheese) and helado (ice-cream). So if I'm starving in Mexico and I find someone I can ask for the basic necessities.

Reilly, as in O'Reilly not life of Riley, has taken to sleeping in my room. He's a boxer dog and a bed hog. So I sleep more during the day now. The community has decided that when St. Patrick's Day rolls around we are going to dye all the white parts of Reilly green. We decided on this when he decided to chew up a green (non-toxic) marker and turn his paws green. He didn't seem to mind, so a bit of food coloring won't do any damage, will it? If you know it will please email us a warning.

I went on a 3.8 mile walk with my godfather Brian today and we were both surprised at what we found: bluebirds and robins, who should not have been up north by now. I have two theories why they're here. Either the fumes and gases from the city have messed up their brains or global warming has really gotten bad. Apart from global warming we talked about class and environmental issues in Ireland. My goal is for my eighteenth birthday to go to Ireland for my first pint of Guinness. I love the rain and if global warming takes it away there is gonna be hell to pay.

Okay, that's enough ranting from me for one newsletter. Remember, cut me slack this is my first House Article. If you like it please tell me. Signed: Ammon Edward O'Reilly Allen John Doucot

(ed. Note: First- he gave himself three of those names, Secondly- though he doesn't mention them above, Angela, Sarah and Mo are all well and

working real hard, especially with the children from the neighborhood.)Ω



Jacqueline Allen - Doucot

## SITCHA CONT.

[to] them how things are wrong with some immigration lawyers. I will give them some cases of legal immigrants who have been deported [without] any wrongdoing. I will give them some cases and they could go through the file and see how they make their plot just to get money from immigrants. It's hard to believe, but I swear it is true and they know that I discovered their plot; that's [why] they do not want to see me free. I will be grateful to God if He can make my case find solution for this situation so that they will stop doing [this] to others.

Can you imagine that Immigration [sets] bail for immigrants up to \$500,000? Immigration is a civil matter and you read in my immigration law book that immigra-



tion bail as civil matter does not exceed \$10,000. I know one immigrant who never committed any crime to whom they set bail at \$250,000, another \$100,000. [My bail is] \$40,000 and all these are part of their plot because by doing so immigrants will not be able to pay. It's really sad that these things exist in

America.

I can write you a book for all [that] I saw and experienced which [is] totally wrong, but for now I will stop here. I am holding also this opportunity to send you, your staff, your family and loved ones my wishes the best of love, peace, success, joy, happiness and good health during the year 2007. God Bless You.

Sitcha Richard.Ω

## ENGLISH TUTOR NEEDED

Our friends Louise Cox and David Vania are looking for a tutor for a couple from Sudan. If you are interested please drop them a note at: 12 Roffs Way, Windsor Locks 06096 or give them a call at 386-6699.

# Notes from De Porres House

## *Ammon Allen - Doucot*

It's been kind of hectic at the house lately. Dad is going to Yale and mom has been sick as a dog. Most of us non-sick, non-college people are working hard to pick up the slack (almost everyone- not me). So I decided to pitch in and write the house article. This is my first time writing a house article so cut me some slack if this isn't up to par. Everyone else is eating dinner and I don't feel so good so I am writing now.

There has been a "competition" between the Hartford and Worcester Catholic Workers about who can get their newsletter out first. Well... we're going to stop. We have discovered that in our haste to get our newsletter out we made some small errors. Now, I love my dad, but he's a perfectionist and he's paranoid that everyone notices these small typos and he assumes that people immediately think that we were just sloppy and careless. I hope that you are compassionate human beings and know that as fellow human beings we make mistakes. I'm not saying that he assumes that you all are not compassionate, but like I said before, he's paranoid (and he's typing this!).

Also during dinner we talked about taking the neighborhood kids to see the movie "The Pursuit of Happyness" with



*Brian Kavanagh*

Will Smith to encourage them to try to get out of the ghetto. Someone used the term "pull themselves up by the bootstraps", my dad then pointed out that some people don't have bootstraps to pull. This is a sad, sad fact, some people are condemned to poverty by society. Others have talent to escape poverty, whether it's by amazing art skills, or

"game" on the basketball court, and maybe even good academics. We all hope that the talented and untalented find some way to escape this ghetto. (ed. Note: actually we would rather transform the ghetto into a vibrant neighborhood where children can flourish. We all have some prison to escape from: fear, wealth, loneliness, prejudice; maybe we can liberate each other?)

We would like to thank the Trinity (College) "kids" who helped us with some painting. I am particularly grateful because they painted my room, which was a hideous (no offense mom) "snot rocket" green. It is now a beautiful dark Irish green- I wanted black or dark blue, but I'm o.k. with this color. I bonded with a couple of the college kids over a rather disturbing and extremely annoying cartoon called Charlie the Unicorn; for those of you with internet access go to Google video and type in Charlie the Unicorn. (ed. Note: don't do it! It is beyond inane.)

For the three school boys, me, dad and Micah, a new semester has begun. The Old Man and Micah both got extremely good grades. Dad got straight A's, Micah got all A's and B's, my grades were... let's leave it at this: less than desirable. I have made it my goal to hit honor roll. Dad is writing a book,

(SEE NOTES P.9)

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