



# Our Global Obligation

Presented By: Student Advocates for Social Justice

**“We are workers, not master builders: ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.”**

Archbishop Oscar Romero

## Local News

- **S.A.S.J. meets every Wednesday at 4:00 in the chapel. Please come and join us.**



Son Jake watches as Jeanie Martin helps her husband, Norman, get ready before they head out, reluctantly, to a fundraiser that family and friends threw for them back in April.

CLEVELAND — The money problems started the minute the accident happened. "Just take me off the schedule," Jeanie Martin told her boss when she called from the hospital waiting room, where she sat in a daze, not knowing if doctors could reattach her husband's arms or even if they could save his life.

"Don't put me back on. I don't know what's going to happen."

If Norman Martin pulled through this, there was no way his wife was leaving his side. There wasn't anything she wouldn't do -- money or no money -- to get him back on his feet.

She and Norm had unused vacation time, so paychecks kept coming for a few weeks.

After that, Jeanie's income dropped to zero. She lost her health insurance, too. Workers' compensation covered Norm's medical expenses, but it only paid two-

thirds of his salary.

Their income was a third of what it had been before.

So on the advice of family, Jeanie called a lawyer. If they sued and won, they might have enough money to dig themselves out of this hole.

From the beginning, their attorney made one thing clear: The case could take years.

"There aren't any guarantees," he said.

And, as Jeanie says, "Christmas ain't happening this year."

For more please visit [http://www.cleveland.com/mrfixit/index.ssf/2008/12/fixing\\_mr\\_fixit\\_mounting\\_bills.html](http://www.cleveland.com/mrfixit/index.ssf/2008/12/fixing_mr_fixit_mounting_bills.html)

## National News

United States of America — Like it or not, we need Tom Friedman.

The peripatetic columnist has made himself a major interpreter of the confusing world we inhabit. He travels to the farthest reaches, interviews everyone from peasants to chief executives and expresses big ideas in clear and memorable prose. While pettifogging academics (a select few of whom he favors) complain that his catchy phrases and anecdotes sometimes obscure deeper analysis, by and large Friedman gets the big issues right.

Almost a decade ago, in *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, he celebrated the arrival of "globalization." Three years ago, in *The World is Flat*, he warned that borders, oceans and distance

no longer protect us from the information revolution that is leveling the global economic playing field and relocating our jobs. Now he updates and expands this diagnosis by showing how population growth, climate change and the expansion of the world's middle class are producing a planet that is "hot, flat, and crowded." Unchecked, these trends will produce dangerous instability; but Friedman remains guardedly optimistic that we can stave off this nightmare, particularly if the United States changes its wasteful energy habits. In this important book, Friedman says we can survive, even prosper, by going green.

For more please visit <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/04/AR2008090402639.html?referrer=emailarticle>

Saint Martin de Porres High School

## Student Advocates for Social Justice

### Contact the Leadership Team

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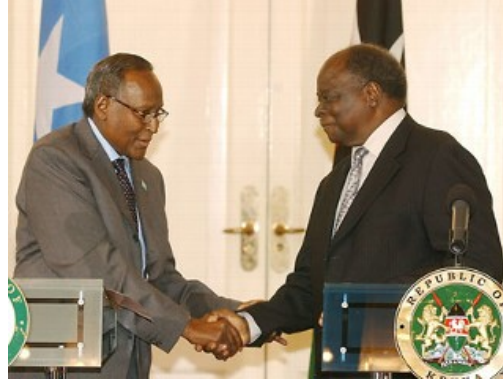
### A Note from the Leadership Team,

*The leadership team of S.A.S.J. is excited to publish Our Global Obligation, an ongoing weekly bulletin that will inform and educate the St. Martin's community about social justice issues. So, be on the lookout for upcoming issues, and feel free to email the leadership team with any questions or comments.*

*God Bless!*

## International News

BAIDOA, Somalia (Reuters) - Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf named a new prime minister on Tuesday, snubbing a vote by parliament to reinstate sacked premier Nur Hassan Hussein and further deepening rifts in the fractured government.



Somali president Abdullahi Yusuf, left, seen with Kenyan president Mwai Kibaki, right.

The split at the top of the Western-backed government is blamed for stalling a U.N.-hosted peace process and threatens to tear the weak administration apart at a time Islamist insurgents are camped on the outskirts of the capital Mogadishu.

Washington said it was concerned by Yusuf's efforts to oust Hussein, Kenya said the president he could face sanctions for exacerbating the country's problems and an African Union delegation met the leaders during a flying visit to Baidoa.

Chronic instability in Somalia has uprooted about 1 million people, a third of the population rely on emergency food aid and the chaos has helped fuel kidnappings and piracy off the coast.

Analysts said the political standoff was only likely to deteriorate as there was a risk the feuding political camps could revive militias and take their battle back to the streets.

For more visit <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=6469725>

## Beacon of Light

### National Day of Human Trafficking

Awareness - January 11, 2009

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery.

Victims of human trafficking are young children, teens, men and women.

Approximately 600,000 to 800,000 victims annually are trafficked across international borders world wide, and between 14,500 and 17,500 of those victims are trafficked into the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of State.

Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.

After drug dealing, trafficking of humans is the second largest criminal industry in the world, and is the fastest growing.

### What can you do?

- 1) Hold a candlelight vigil in your church, school, workplace or home.
- 2) Set aside time to read and learn.
- 3) Gather friends and neighbors to read together and share information.



**If you'd like materials to use in observing this national awareness day, please email [collaborative\\_initiative@yahoo.com](mailto:collaborative_initiative@yahoo.com) or phone 440-356-2254.**