



# 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

CLEVELAND — Families across the Cleveland Catholic Diocese are wondering if they will lose their parish schools in a broader restructuring plan.

Last year, Bishop Richard Lennon ordered regional groups of parishes to come up with plans to close or merge churches in response to suburban flight, financial hardship and a clergy shortage.

"Rather, parishes were advised to consider enrollment trends and the future of Catholic education when making their decisions," said Robert Tayek, the diocese's spokesman.

Tayek couldn't say exactly how many schools have already proposed to close or merge. Not all the regional groups, or clusters,

have submitted their proposals to the diocese.

The diocese has 112 elementary and 22 high schools. It covers Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina, Summit, Ashland, Wayne, Lake and Geauga counties.

Some proposals already have been made to the diocese, according to cluster representatives who agreed to talk

"If the parishes close, this will be the only way to have a presence," said Gregory Clifford, cluster representative. "We can't lose our outreach in the community."

For more please visit [http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2008/11/proposals\\_would\\_close\\_some\\_cat.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2008/11/proposals_would_close_some_cat.html)

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



Sister Diane Therese Pinchot

## National News

FORT BENNING, Georgia — An Ursuline College art professor says the spirit of her fallen sister murdered in El Salvador guided her footsteps as she walked onto the grounds of Fort Benning in Georgia Sunday.

Sister Diane Therese Pinchot [above picture], 63, was one of six people arrested on charges of trespassing in act of civil disobedience to protest a U.S. training facility for Latin American military.

After being released on bail for the misdemeanor, Pinchot said Monday she was "acting on conscience

alone" when she walked on the grounds of the Army base. But the spirit of Kazel and the other murdered missionaries was with her.

"Oh my gosh, yes, her spirit, the spirit of those who were killed," she said. "It was one of the most profound experiences of my life, standing there in nonviolence ... bringing her voice and her love of the people of El Salvador to the 21st century."

For more please visit [http://www.cleveland.com/religion/index.ssf/2008/11/cleveland\\_nun\\_arrested\\_in\\_prot.html](http://www.cleveland.com/religion/index.ssf/2008/11/cleveland_nun_arrested_in_prot.html)

## Student Advocates for Social Justice

### Contact the Leadership Team

unailisinovic@stmdphs.org  
santinomontanez@stmpdphs.org  
abigailmrozek@stmdphs.org

### 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

ODESSA, Ukraine— Across the former Soviet Union, Chabad's outreach network is facing an acute financial crisis that has slashed budgets across the board and left the region's largest network of Jewish schools scrambling to stay afloat.

Accounts of the depth of the financial crisis for Chabad in the former Soviet Union vary widely among rabbis and professionals working for the organization. But everyone agrees that the group's main benefactor, Lev Leviev, racked by the world financial crisis, has been forced to dramatically scale back funding for the Or Avner network of schools, which he founded.

The repercussions of the setback run deep in a community that has relied greatly on Leviev's largesse to proliferate its operations throughout the Soviet Union.

Leviev's main holding company, Africa Israel, has lost some 85 percent of its value this year. Israeli news reports suggest a steady sell-off of other assets in recent months.

Forbes estimated Leviev's wealth at the beginning of 2008 at \$4.5 billion. Though local Chabad officials are mum, most estimates put Leviev's yearly funding of the Chabad-run Federation of Jewish Communities and the Or Avner Foundation at \$60 million. It serves 13,000 people through its network of 75 day schools and 20 other programs.

For more visit [http://www.jewishtimes.com/index.php/jewishtimes/news/jt/international\\_news/budgets\\_slashed\\_at\\_jewish\\_schools\\_in\\_fsu/8979](http://www.jewishtimes.com/index.php/jewishtimes/news/jt/international_news/budgets_slashed_at_jewish_schools_in_fsu/8979)

## Beacon of Light

BESMAYA RANGE COMPLEX, Iraq — A group of Iraqi soldiers stepped up to help California residents victimized by recent wildfires raging throughout the state.

Iraqi army Col. Abbas Fadhil, Besmaya Range Complex commander, and his team of "Abbas' Eagles" raised \$500 for wildfire relief.

"We want to send a message to the American president and the American people," Abbas said. "We feel that we are a family — one body. When one part of the body suffers, the other parts suffer, too."

This is the fourth donation the sol-

diers of Besmaya have sent to the American people recently. In September, they raised \$1,500 for victims of hurricanes Gustav and Ike. The Eagles also donated \$500 to the National Sept. 11 Memorial.

For more visit <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=52028>

