

EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE



NUMBER 12

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2008

Domestic Poverty Summit



Dianne Aid, John Hooper, Michael Maloney and Michael Kendall were part of the ENEJ team at the Presiding Bishops' Summit on Domestic Poverty.

Domestic Poverty. Nearly 100 representatives of groups engaged in public policy, advocacy and service ministries were invited to the conference.

“We are here not to redefine poverty but to think strategies,” said John Johnson, a consultant to the conference. Staff preparation for the conference included laying out a justice framework. The “Essentials of Justice” were declared to be affordable, quality food, employment, housing, education, affordable, quality child care, a healthy environment, equal protection under the law, economic opportunity, immigration policy, cultural affirmation and healthcare.

It is hard to summarize the conference. As we go to press, the group designated to frame the vision has not been convened. We believe the new Jubilee Officer, The Rev.

ENEJ President Dianne Aid, and John Hooper, Education Co-Chair, represented ENEJ at a historic gathering of Episcopalians in Scottsdale, Arizona, May 13-15.

Michael Kendall, Michael Maloney, Carmen Guerrero and Hisako Beasley were there representing other organizations. The event was the Presiding Bishop's Summit on

DOMESTIC Continued on page 3

Jubilee Ministry Workshop Training Held In Scottsdale


By Jack Hanstein, Diocesan Jubilee Officer, Diocese of Kentucky

Presentations and conversations among the sixty-five conferees gathered from May 15th through 18th were stirring at Franciscan Renewal Center on the desert floor in Scottsdale—abloom with Spring flowers and with Camelback Mountain as a back-drop. A bounty of conference and reference materials were overflowing in each conferees custom-designed Jubilee Ministry canvas bag provided to share pearls with colleagues upon return to their home dioceses.

Providing a rousing charge to launch Jubilee Ministry training and a moving conclusion to her Summit on Domestic Poverty, Presiding Bishop Katharine was celebrant and The Right Rev. Kirk Stevan Smith, Bishop of Arizona and our host, was preacher at Holy Eucharist celebrated in the Retreat Center chapel.

During his welcome, Bishop Smith discussed the involvement of the diocese in the plight of the undocumented workers and worshipers as well as border conflicts. A poolside reception had provided an opportunity for the personal interaction of conferees with the Presiding Bishop on the prevailing topics of the day for the week-long series of conferences. The reception provided a similar opportunity for conferees to become acquainted with The Rev. Christopher Johnson, newly appointed National Jubilee Officer and former Center Director in the Diocese of Colorado. In his facilitation of training for DJOs, *Promoting Jubilee*, Johnson commanded not only a feel for the centers, but Jubilee Ministry as a whole. He expressed his desire to work closely with DJOs and to visit Jubilee Centers throughout the dioceses. Once

JUBILEE Continued on page 4


Jubilee Ministry **Mission:**
**To make a dynamic link
between our theology
and our ethics or in
other words: The talk
and walk of our faith**

ENEJ Committees & Chairpersons

Executive Committee

Dianne Aid, TSSF, President
Telephone: 206.579.3011
email: sanmateo921@yahoo.com

Education Committee

John Hooper, Co-chair
Telephone: 313-864-9562
email: hoopington2@sbcglobal.net

Sue Lloyd, Co-chair
Telephone: 608.256.7250
email: aslloyd@mailbag.com

Advocacy Committee

Dianne Aid, TSSF
Telephone: 206.579.3011
email: sanmateo921@yahoo.com

Capacity Building

Art Lloyd, Co-chair
Telephone: 608.256.7250
email: aslloyd@mailbag.com

Lucinda Keils, Co-chair
Telephone: 313.964.7305
email: lucinda.keils@yahoo.com

Organizing and Empowerment

The Rev. Carl Rehling
Telephone: 410-867-2838
email: creling@angmd.org

Communications and Promotions

Lovie B. Spencer, Jr.,
Chair and Newsletter Editor
Telephone: 707.546.3695
email: lovie@sonic.net

**For additional information,
contact Michael Maloney at
meamon@aol.com phone:
513.531.8799
or check out the website
www.enej.org**

Letter from the President

Dianne Aid, TSSF

May 27, 2008



I spent 22 years of my “Episcopal” life in a small town in Eastern Washington. I remember conferences geared towards the survival of life in rural/small town America. In early 1998 I surprised myself by packing up my rural life, loading kids and cats into my car and moving to the Seattle area. About two years later I found myself at the Episcopal Urban Caucus (Minneapolis, 2000). I had nothing to do after the Caucus ended at noon on Saturday, but heard about an economic justice meeting and felt called to check it out. Thus I encountered ENEJ for the first time.

I listened to Dick Gillett, John Hooper, the Lloyds (Art and Sue) and others. They were talking about the critical and prophetic work of worker justice, community investment and loan funds. They were talking about the work which addresses systemic oppression of the working poor and advocating for social change which frees that log jam of oppression. Through these past seven years I have come to know Geoff Curtiss, Mike Kendall, Mike Maloney, Urla Abrigo and so many others who are my heroes of justice.

ENEJ is a great resource for me in my own work with grass roots communities. The people who make up ENEJ are kindred souls.

This kind of work is hard work. We have to work for justice with the back drop being globalization, corporate wealth and war and the ever present shadow of racism.

So, where are we going in ENEJ? We are at a crossroads. The “Michigan Plan” (Gen. Convention 1988) which has served us well is being updated and we are currently working on economic justice strategies which address current issues of globalization, environmental issues which are linked with economic justice and immigration.

Is the work a dream charted out in a plan, resolution or document which sits on a shelf gathering dust, or can it be done? Yes it can. In 2005 Carmen Guerrero (the former Jubilee officer for the Episcopal Church) took a huge risk and moved a major conference out of a hotel where there was a worker boycott. It meant sacrificing large deposits and fees for breaking a contract. Later some of the financial losses were regained, that was not known at the time. Carmen and Jubilee Ministries stood on the side of justice.

So, yes we can – be the prophetic voice, live out our Gospel mandates of bringing about radical change to create an environment of justice and celebration for all God’s people.

Dianne Aid, TSSF

Episcopal Credit Union: *14 years of changing lives'*

Urla Abrigo spends her days “seeing to it that the poor don’t get shut out of the business of money.”

As manager and chief executive officer of the Episcopal Community Federal Credit Union (ECFCU), an economic justice ministry of the Diocese of Los Angeles, Abrigo’s business is money – and teaching community groups “financial literacy,” creating jobs by extending small business loans, and even helping to extricate those trapped in payday lending schemes.

“Many of the loans we make are small loans. We don’t make any money on them, that’s why a lot of banks don’t make those kinds of loans,” Abrigo says. “But we do, because we know how they can change a person’s life.”

“We’ve been around 14 years and we’re still going strong,” she says of the agency created through an Episcopal Relief and Development grant in the aftermath of the Los Angeles riots. With about \$4.9 million in assets and about 479 loans –



“By helping create Mama’s, (the credit union) has helped to revitalize the whole neighborhood and to bring it back to the way it used to be.”

— Sandi Romero

mostly auto – she regards the agency as “small” but is most troubled by the size of its membership.

Although there are approximately 70,000 Episcopalians in the six-county diocesan area, “only 2,400 belong to

the credit union,” she observes.

“We’re set up to help the Episcopal community when in need. This credit union is for the Episcopal Church and anyone attached to the diocese, any organization can become a part of us.”

“We are here and our members know we are here for them”



Urla Abrigo

A \$1,000 loan from ECFCU nine years ago helped propel Rocio Ramirez from selling craft items in MacArthur Park to operating her own catering business and training other culinary workers.

“The credit union gave me a loan for the crafts. From the profit I repaid the loan on time and used the rest to invest in tamales,” she recalled. “Ever since then, it’s been growing.”

“Without the Episcopal credit union it would have been nearly impossible for me to get a loan,” Ramirez, 48, said recently through an interpreter.

She began making her specialty – Acapulco-style tamales – and in 2001 she and a group of other street food vendors, aided by the credit union, the

Institute for Urban Research and Development (www.iurd.org) and Los Angeles city departments, organized Mama’s Hot Tamales, an apprentice-operated business and job training restaurant.

“The credit union provided small business loans, checking

accounts, and provided technical assistance regarding taxes and permits and other necessary documentation,” said Joe Colletti, who served as IURD executive director and is now executive director of Episcopal

Economic Development.

“Rocio is a success story; she came to the program at the very beginning,” recalled Sandi Romero, who is “Mama” of Mama’s Hot Tamales, located at 2122 West Seventh Street in Los Angeles. “At the very beginning, the credit union was instrumental in getting money together for the initial start-up, business licenses, insurance, permits that were needed.”

Over time, Ramirez “became an American citizen, bought a home, and started a catering business. She still continues to be one of the most popular tamale makers of our program. She is an inspiration and a role model to help new people coming into the program,” Romero said.

Ramirez now teaches in the program, which trains workers for the food service industry, and is part of an ongoing neighborhood

CREDIT UNION *Continued on page 4*

Domestic

Continued from page 1

Christopher Johnson will be responsible for follow up. There was consensus on developing a national database on antipoverty efforts and on developing a Phoenix Plan in time for the 2009 General Convention.

In her communiqué, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said “...we are just beginning to engage this ministry in a coherent way that draws in the whole of the church in the United States.” In her address to the summit, she made clear that it was not about a domestic-based Millennium Development Goals. “That work is now only overseas” she stated.

settled in his new office at The Episcopal Church Center in New York City in mid June, Johnson will announce guidelines for awarding a round of small grants available again this year.

Aptly setting the stage for the Conference was a keynote address presented by The

Rev. Dr. Montrell Williams, rector, St. Augustines Episcopal church, Oakland CA. Taking his text from the Jubilee passages in Leviticus 25, Luke 4 and Isaiah 61, one concept of Dr. Williams' lecture was that every

seven years (Jubilee) provides us with a time to re-assess, to realign our programs and services to insure God's will is still being carried out. God comes in the person of Jesus Christ, to show us what it ought to be—to set the captives free, to feed the hungry and to visit those in prisons; that is the challenge of Jubilee. Other speakers and workshop presenters were the Rev. Carmen Guerrero, Province VIII Peace and Justice Network Chair, whose racial and cultural sensitivity training module was entitled, *A Vision for Justice*. Michael Marcus' workshop leading conferees to *Where the Funds Are* and Martha Vail instructed trainees on *Fundraising*, while Clark Moore concluded the series with

Volunteers as Fundraisers. It is my opinion that the greatest value of any of these conferences is the networking and support available through the individual participants and in the workshops.

During a break from the conference, participants were loaded onto a tour bus for a visit to a unique ministry in the Diocese of Arizona run by a dynamic and resourceful husband and wife ministry team in Mesa AZ, a 2007 Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce 501(c)(3) Nonprofit of the Year, Bridging AZ Furniture Bank, Inc., which is a warehouse where

furniture is collected and restored to serve individuals and families that are moving from transitional living conditions and making their new-found residence a home. Their vision statement: No Child Within Our Reach Sleeping Directly on the Floor.

Resource: Among the Jubilee Ministry hand-outs was a sizeable report on predatory lending practices: *State of the Dream 2008*, compiled by United for Fair Economy, <http://www.faireconomy.org/dream> <<http://www.faireconomy.org/dream>>, and presented earlier on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which concluded that the sub-prime lending crisis is causing the greatest loss of wealth of people of color in modern U.S. history.



The Rev. Carmen Guerrero, Jubilee Ministry training and Province VIII Conference Keynoter.

revitalization project (www.Re-discover-MacArthur-Park.com) The restaurant is opening another “incubator” this summer, at 45 N. San Gabriel Boulevard in Pasadena, Colletti said. It will provide commercial food education and hands-on training needed for a career path in the culinary world.



Tamales Cafe workers serve all comers at “Tamales de la Paz” on April 30. Mama’s co-sponsored the street fair, at which the mayor, police chief and Councilman Ed Reyes of Los Angeles called — successfully — for calm during May Day demonstrations in favor of immigrant rights.

Transformed space, transformed lives

Abrigo wants Episcopalians to know the credit union services are available diocesan-wide, not just in Echo Park, and that more churches should apply for loans.

“We have ATM cards and they can be used at many of the credit unions around the country and the world,” she said.

“We do small business loans up to \$50,000,” she said. “Our churches that need loans don’t come to the credit union, but we can do church loans up to \$25,000.”

The Rev. Juan Barragan, vicar of St. Bartholomew’s Church in Pico Rivera, says a \$20,000 loan from the credit union helped remodel the mission congregation’s hall two years ago.

He is convinced the conversion of the hall and church grounds helped the phenomenal growth experienced. “There were about 14 people when I got there five years ago,” he recalled. “Now, we have over 250.”

Transforming the sacred space helped

ENEJ FALL PLANNING RETREAT

Preparation for 2009 Organizational, Long-term Strategies and General Convention, at Diocese of Olympia

St. Andrew’s House Conference & Retreat Center, Seattle (Union) WA October 15th - 17th

For registration, further information or scholarship consideration:

Contact Michael Maloney email: meamon@aol.com

Twenty Years Later: *A New Resolution*

Just twenty years ago, at the 1988 General Convention in Detroit, a major resolution was presented to the church gathering: “Taking Action for Economic Justice.” It was a response to a paper prepared by the Urban Bishops Coalition decrying the increase of poverty during a time of growth and prosperity.

The resolution, sometimes called “The Michigan Plan”, urged a major investment by the church, its organizations and its members in the self-help projects generated in lower-income communities. The resolution passed the convention and many dioceses and parishes took up the banner. We either started community loan funds and credit unions or placed money in already existing investment vehicles. Some of us supported housing development corporations to create low income housing throughout the country. Others created business incubators and micro-enterprise funds for small business development.

In doing these things we discovered that community investment and community development were not as easy

as they sounded. We learned that we also needed public support and we needed to do serious advocacy with state and national governments to get that support. We learned that communities had to organize themselves to accomplish these community projects and to speak clearly to legislators. Finally, we needed to overcome divisions among us and our parishes according to race, class, ethnicity, urban and suburban differences. We needed to reach for new levels of cooperation and collaboration.

Recently the call was raised for a new and revised economic justice proposal, twenty years later, to meet a new and more serious economic crisis. We are



*Brian Grieves at
ENEJ Annual Meeting*

TWENTY YEARS *Continued on page 7*

Credit Union

Continued from page 3

transform community, he said. “When we were planning to paint, the whole church showed up, with their own brushes, to paint. Entire families were painting the church, everybody was participating.”

The parish hall is used for lots of church and community-related activities, he said, adding that parishioners are encouraged to join the credit union.

The full-service institution also offers such financial assistance as low-interest bill consolidation, wire transfers, credit counseling, financial literacy courses, internet banking and bill pay, which Abrigo is trying to encourage members to use so it will be more cost-effective.

A volunteer income tax assistance program for low-income people averages about 16 to 20 clients per night on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the pre-tax season. The credit union’s loan portfolio is about \$3.1 million with an average of about 140 loans granted per year.

Acknowledging that we’re living in

tough economic times, Abrigo offers hope. “There are a lot of programs coming up to help people. The one place that we know about for members running into problems is the Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Association, at 888.995.HOPE. It’s a good place to go if you’re having problems with your mortgage.”

Low-interest bill consolidation loans can make the difference in a person’s life, she adds. “We have been assisting our members caught up in the payday lending scheme, helping them to pay off the loans,” she said. One member “borrowed \$2,300 in 2005 and three years later, still owed \$2,100 after paying \$200 a month to the payday lender,” Abrigo said.

“We really try to encourage our members who have those loans to come to us and we give them an opportunity to have lower payments and an opportunity for that loan to be paid off. Some of those loans have interest rates of 300 to 400 percent. It’s a very sad situation when people get into that.”

The credit union still offers assistance to about 15 vendors through Mama’s Hot Tamales, Abrigo added.

“The credit union helped us to flourish and now we’re ready to expand,” Romero said. “My dream never really was to be ‘Mama’. I knew I loved helping people, and working in the community, but this really has been a dream come true.

“I’m really proud of the work we’ve been able to do here starting with vendors from the informal economy. By helping create Mama’s, [the credit union] has helped to revitalize the whole neighborhood and to bring it back to the way it used to be.

“Little by little, it’s coming back. We’re getting rid of crime and drugs. The park has turned around 100 percent from where it was when we first got here. We’re changing the community, one tamale at a time.”

For more information about the Credit Union, visit www.efcula.org.

Province 8 Conference

A Vision for A Just America

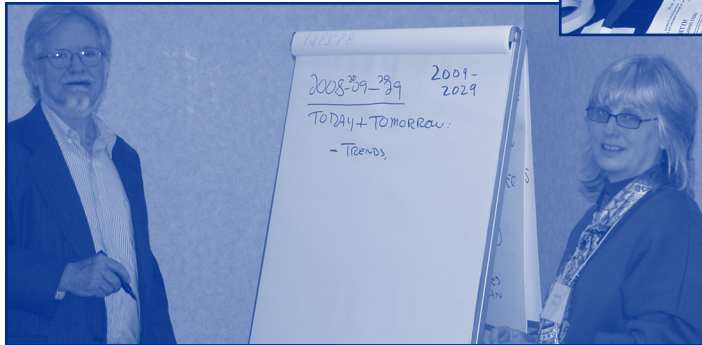
The subtitle of this conference in Oakland, CA, February 12th - 13th, described it well: 20 years of advocacy, organizing, and investing in communities!!

The Rev. Carmen Guerrero, gave the keynote address. The workshop on *Community Investing* featured Sr. Corinne Florek, RSM, former investment manager for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and

the Adrian Dominican Sisters and now the manager of community investments for the Sisters of Mercy. Perhaps more than anyone else Corinne can be credited with bringing community investing to light in the Episcopal Church through her role with the Diocese of Michigan's McGehee Fund. (The Diocese of Michigan brought "Taking Action For Community Investment and Economic Justice" to the 1988 General Convention). She proved community investing to be safe and 'profitable' in the '80's by placing the sisters' retirement funds in community development financial institutions. She gave a wonderful overview of all community investments with a focus on loan funds in the US and internationally.

Urla Obrigo described how the Los Angeles Community Federal Credit Union provides banking services to those connected to the Episcopal Church, its work with the poor in LA County and its plans to expand its services into San Diego. Phoebe Higgins reported on the work of the Community Bank of the Bay, Oakland, one of a small number of truly

community-serving banks in the US on the model of South Shore Bank in Chicago. One of



John Hooper and Lucinda Keils led the Michigan Plan workshop at the Province VIII conference and at EUC.

the speakers of the day quoted Jim Wallis on page 212 of his book *God's Politics* as saying that "there are several thousand verses in the Bible on the poor and God's response to injustice."

A workshop titled *The Revised Michigan Plan* served as the first chance for ENEJ to solicit input from interested Episcopalians on how the Church should revive its economic justice ministries going forward from General Convention 2009. Modeling the 1980's Urban Bishops work which preceded the 1988 Economic Justice

Resolution, we brainstormed a list of economic trends which now face our nation and the Church. This produced a large list of concerns which are currently being organized by ENEJ and from which we will develop



Dianne Aid and Anna Lang Soto - Immigration workshop.

resolution(s) to be brought to the General Convention.

The conference ended with Carmen Guerrero leading a discussion with



Lovie B Spencer, Province VIII Peace & Justice Network, Northern California

Province 8 people about how to develop/move forward with Economic Justice ministries in that region. We look for future reports on this.

This conference and especially this last workshop were the beginning of what ENEJ hopes can become one of

its unique roles. It's our hope to facilitate such conferences in other provinces in order to make real both the national Church's Economic Justice commitment (1988 and hopefully 2009) and to focus on, share and promote the many local diocesan and parish economic justice programs.



Immigration Workshop at Province VIII Conference.

2008 Gloria Brown Award



Gloria Brown awardees, Robert Bustamonte and Karl Kramer, Campaign Co-directors, receive presentation by Mike Kendall

The 2008 Gloria Brown Award went to the Living Wage Coalition of San Francisco. The award, accompanied by a cash grant of \$2,000 is made in honor of the late Gloria Brown. Brown, as Executive Director of the Coalition for Human Needs, and in other roles helped establish and promote economic justice ministries throughout the United States.

The Living Wage Coalition (LWC) of San Francisco, Robert Bustamonte, Karl Kramer, Campaign Co-directors, is a grass roots movement of low wage workers and their allies fighting for economic justice. They educate, organize, and mobilize to demand that their tax dollars and use of public property do not go to businesses that pay poverty wages. As part of the Minimum Wage Coalition, the LWC was instrumental in getting the City of San Francisco to adopt an ordinance requiring its contractors to pay \$10.77 per hour and provide health and vacation benefits. More than 15,000 workers have benefited from this change. The wage is indexed to the consumer price index. The Living Wage Coalition was initiated by a coalition of labor unions, community organizations, and religious congregations in 1998

The Hugh White Award

The Hugh White Award is made to an individual who has done outstanding work in the area of worker justice. The 2007 recipient was Keith Ludlum of the Smithfield Campaign. The 2008 Recipient is the Rev. Anna B. Olson, Director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice of Los Angeles. Anna Olson, an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Los Angeles, was appointed Deputy Director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, Los Angeles, in January 2007. Prior to that appointment she was rector for five years of Trinity Church Los Angeles, a bilingual parish with many parishioners from Mexico and Central America.

In Los Angeles for several years prior to becoming deputy director of CLUE L.A., Anna was on the front lines as both an organizer, leader and activist in the Los Angeles area on behalf of hotel workers, janitors, security



Mike Kendall presenting Hugh White Award to Anna B Olson

officers, and immigrants rights issues, and other issues. Before her ordination, she was an organizer in Texas for the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. She is completely fluent in Spanish. She is a graduate at Stanford University at Union Theological Seminary. She is married to Steve Vay and they have two children.

Nominations for 2009

To make nominations for the 2009 Gloria Brown Award or Hugh White Award, contact ENEJ at meamon@aol.com for an application form or download it from www.enej.org.

Twenty Years

experiencing an economy that has not been kind to working people and lower income people. Changes in the world economy are literally changing the way we do business. We find ourselves in a recession that includes both decreases in salaries and increases in prices, putting the squeeze on many of us.

The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice is engaged in

preparing a new economic justice resolution appropriate to the decade we live in. We are starting from seven current trends that affect all of us: globalization of the economy, unaccountable large corporations, the Iraq/Afghanistan wars, immigration, environmental degradation, reduction of government services, and the reduction of moderate and middle class income and wealth. We are

seeking to understand these trends more fully, especially in their economic aspects. We are asking what light our faith, our spirituality, and our theology throw on this new situation. We will recommend to the 2009 Convention some carefully developed action plans by which so that the Church and its membership can respond to this crisis.

Continued from page 5

ENEJ Special Appeal

ENEJ recently appealed to its membership to contribute to a fund to support our participation in the Presiding Bishop's Summit on Domestic Poverty and our planning for General Convention. So far, we have received \$4,600 out of our goal of \$5,000. Contributions may be sent to ENEJ at Episcopal Community F.C.U., 840 Echo Park Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.

If you use the enclosed mailing envelope please indicate how much is for the Special Appeal and how much is for your regular membership.

The following individuals and parishes have contributed:

<i>The Rev. Canon Henry Atkins</i>	<i>Michael Maloney</i>
<i>Madeleine C. Beard</i>	<i>Jane Mayrer</i>
<i>James L. Beard</i>	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Dale Moore</i>
<i>Howard F. Gondree</i>	<i>Dr. Tupper Morehead</i>
<i>Kay Clough Burrill</i>	<i>Marian T. Ott</i>
<i>The Rev. Geoffrey B. Curtiss</i>	<i>The Rev. Carl W. Rehling</i>
<i>Jeffrey L. Dey</i>	<i>Betty A. Reardon</i>
<i>The Rev. Norm Faramelli</i>	<i>Anne Seabrook</i>
<i>John S. Hooper</i>	<i>The Rt. Rev. William Evan Sanders</i>
<i>Judson L. James</i>	<i>Nancy Sullivan</i>
<i>The Rev. Fred Jansen</i>	<i>Austin and Ruth Turney</i>
<i>The Rev. Thomas Kerr</i>	<i>Colleen Blackburn</i>
<i>The Rev. Arthur and Susan Lloyd</i>	<i>Vanderveer</i>
<i>St. Dunstan's Parish, Madison</i>	

*Province VIII Convocation Cluster II
presents*

CLOTHE YOUR MINISTERS WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS:

*Through theological education,
culturally relevant liturgy
and with justice*

Keynoters:

*The Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg,
The Rev. Canon Carmen B. Guerrero
and The Rev. Canon Eric Law*

**Franciscan Renewal Center,
Scottsdale AZ**

July 31st - August 3rd, 2008

For submission of \$100
all-inclusive registration fee, additional
information or scholarship consideration,
contact:

**The Rev. Canon Carmen Carrero,
Episcopal Diocese of Arizona,
602.350.4688, 602.254.0976 or
cbg41127@yahoo.com**

ENEJ

1131 North Laura Street
Jacksonville, Florida
32206

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jacksonville, FL
Permit No. 3037