

# Ecumenical Connection

A publication of the Illinois Conference of Churches



ISSUE **06**

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## Mr. Robert Gilligan

### Executive Director, Catholic Conference of Illinois

Mr. Robert Gilligan has served as the Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Illinois since January 2003. He is responsible for coordinating and implementing the Conference's public policy and legislative agenda at the State Capitol in Springfield. Acting in accordance with the principles of Catholic social teaching, the legislative agenda touches on a broad range of public policy issues seeking to protect life at all stages of development, provide a voice for the poor and marginalized, promote the family unit, and call for sound stewardship of the earth and natural resources.

Prior to being named Executive Director, Bob was Associate Director for Social Services at the Catholic Conference for six years. Before coming to the Catholic Conference, he served as the Chief of Legislative Services for the Arizona Department of Economic Security and worked at the political consulting firm of Jamieson and Gutierrez in Phoenix, AZ.

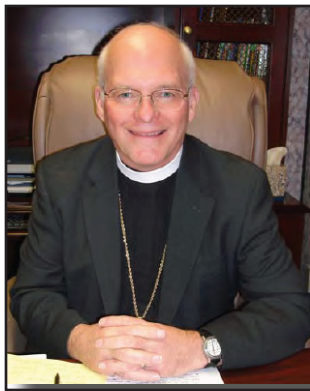
Bob is a member of the National Association of Catholic Conference Directors and is currently acting as Vice President of the organization. He served on the Child Welfare Advisory Committee for the Department of Children and Family Services and the Family Self Sufficiency Advisory Committee for the Department of Human Services. He also serves on the Adoption Registry Council, is on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Catholic Prayer Breakfast organization and is the Chair of the Public Policy team for the Illinois Conference of Churches.

In addition to his work at the General Assembly, Bob acts as spokesman for the Catholic Conference, handling media inquiries. He has a monthly radio program on AM-950 and has appeared on Chicago Tonight, Fox News Sunday and has been interviewed by the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun Times, the Daily Herald, Crain's Chicago Business as well as many other local newspapers.

Bob is a graduate of Marquette University with a degree in Business Administration. He earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Bob and his wife, Colleen, reside in Chicago and are members of St. Juliana's Parish. Bob is also the past Chairman of St. Michael's Parish Pastoral Council. He was a member of Greater Leadership Chicago's class of 2008.



Mr. Robert Gilligan, Catholic Conference of Illinois



**Reflections on the Economy**  
**Bishop Gary Wollersheim**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Illinois Conference of Churches Co-Chair**

What is the most significant issue facing us today? The news polls would indicate that it is the economy. What is a significant issue facing the Church today? Some would say it is the lack of money to do ministry. Many congregations, judicatories, and national Church offices have needed to cut back on important work due to the lack of funds.

Our culture has much advice to give about money matters.

- We need to cut taxes. We need to raise taxes.
- We need to spend more. We need to spend less.
- We need to again invest in stocks. We need to invest in bonds.
- Things are getting better. Things are getting worse.

Christianity also has much to say about money. Some of the teachings challenge our secular understandings. I share with you five thoughts.

First, money is not just a secular matter; it is also a spiritual matter. In fact, I believe it is first and foremost a spiritual matter. The Bible is full of teachings on the use of money, from the ethical accumulation of possessions to the generous sharing of possessions, to the faithful stewardship of possessions to the potential temptations posed by possessions. It is said that Jesus himself teaches on the subject of faithful stewardship of money more often than almost any other topic.

Second, a budget is not only a management tool; it is also a theological document and a statement of faith. A budget is an indication of our priorities in life, what's important and what's not. This applies to churches as well as families. It is no wonder that background checks for important jobs often involve a thorough analysis of spending patterns of the individual as a reflection of their character and life priorities.

Third, God provides abundantly for our needs. This is in direct contradiction to what we are bombarded with every day, that we live in a time and place of great scarcity. While we do definitely have people who are hurting because of our high unemployment rate, compared to most places in the world we are still a very wealthy people. St. Paul encourages the Christian to give thanks in all circumstances, especially during challenging times. This practice of giving thanks for what we have rather than pining for what we don't have goes a long way in changing our attitude about how blessed we really are.

Fourth, the culture refers to us as consumers but the Bible refers to us as stewards. There is a huge difference between the two. The consumer is all about devouring things, using it up. It is like pigs at the trough pushing and shoving to make sure we get our fill with no regard for anyone else. Whereas the steward

**Spotlight on Denominations**  
**Catholic Church - Diocese of Joliet**

*Bishop J. Peter Sartain*

*Email: [rschoener@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:rschoener@dioceseofjoliet.org)*

*Web: <http://dioceseofjoliet.org/>*

*Mission:*

*We, the Roman Catholic Church of Joliet, a people of diverse races and cultures within seven counties, strive to be the Body of Christ by living the Faith, preaching the Word, building community, serving others, especially the poor, and celebrating our unity through the sacraments.*

*The largest single body of Christians in the United States, the Catholic Church is under the spiritual leadership of His Holiness the Pope. Its establishment in America dates back to the priests who accompanied Columbus on his second voyage to the New World. A settlement, later discontinued, was made in 1565 at St. Augustine, Florida. The continuous history of this Church in the colonies began at St. Mary's in Maryland, in 1634.*

*Information taken from Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, 2009.*



knows that God is creator and owner of all, therefore cares for and preserves the creation so all may be fed.

Finally, it is said by some that greed is good and even a necessary part of a capitalist economy. We recently saw the result of such a philosophy with the near collapse of the World Financial System. Christianity teaches that greed is never good, because the greedy person can never be satisfied. The more one has the more one desires. Christianity teaches that giving is good. Giving is the mark of the Christian and that which brings joy to both the recipient and the giver as we read in the Prayer of Saint Francis: "...for it is in the giving that we receive."

In Christ,

*Bishop Gary Wollersheim*

# Seeing with New Eyes:

## the Changing Faces of Poverty and the new challenges of ministry

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 11, 2011

Award Banquet - 6:00 p.m. Friday

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Saturday, March 12, 2011

Which of these children goes to bed hungry each night?



There are over 535,000 Illinois children living in poverty. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey)

Over half of all poor children experience food insecurity, meaning they don't always have access to enough food.

(Nord, M., Andrews, M., & Carlson, S. (2009, November). Household food security in the United States, 2008. (Economic Research Report Number 83). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service.)

### Who Will Benefit:

- Local congregations
- Leaders in missions, outreach, and social justice
- Clergy and laity
- Denominational mission teams
- Persons wanting ecumenical ministry

### What You Will Take From This:

- Tools to implement ministry with persons who are economically distressed in your community
- Biblical grounding of God's care for persons who are economically distressed
- Demographic view of persons who are economically distressed in your community

### Special Guests

- Rev. Peg Chamberlin, President, National Council of Churches and Executive Director, MN Council of Churches
- Amy Terpstra, Associate Director, Social IMPACT Research Center, Heartland Alliance

### Evening Entertainment

- Rev. Mike Rayson, internationally acclaimed pastor and musician
- Award the 2011 Rev. Donald E. Mason Ecumenical Award for Christian Unity and Mission

### Illinois Conference of Churches Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Belleville, Illinois

**Fee:** \$90 including lodging, breakfast, and dinner.  
\$55 for commuters who wish to share dinner  
\$35 for commuters (does not include lodging or meals)  
\$3 fee for credit card processing (if paying by credit)

We are offering an **OPTIONAL** tour of the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows at 12:00 noon on Friday, March 11. This tour is free of charge. If interested, please select the appropriate box on the registration form so we can provide the Shrine with an accurate count.

Register online at the Illinois Conference of Churches website [www.ilconfchurches.org](http://www.ilconfchurches.org) under the **EVENTS** tab. For additional information, contact Pamela Tackett, ICC Administrative Coordinator, at [pamela@ilconfchurches.org](mailto:pamela@ilconfchurches.org)

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES  
2160 SOUTH 6TH STREET, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62703  
217.522.7099 [WWW.ILCONFCHURCHES.ORG](http://WWW.ILCONFCHURCHES.ORG)



# Seeing with New Eyes:

## the Changing Faces of Poverty and the new challenges of ministry

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 11, 2011

Award Banquet - 6:00 p.m. Friday

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Saturday, March 12, 2011

### Registration Deadline: February 18, 2011



### Registration Form (please print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(exactly as it should appear on your name badge)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination/Communion \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Position \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ special meal requirements \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be attending the OPTIONAL tour of Our Lady of the Snows Shrine at 12:00 Noon on Friday, March 11 (there is no fee for the tour)

### Please select:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$90 registration for conference and overnight lodging

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 registration for conference and dinner

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 registration for conference (no meals or lodging)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$3 fee if paying by credit card

Please enclose a check made payable to "Illinois Conference of Churches" and mail this form to Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering, 2160 South 6th Street, Suite D2, Springfield, Illinois 62703.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ARE ACCEPTED ONLINE AT [WWW.ILCONFCHURCHES.ORG](http://WWW.ILCONFCHURCHES.ORG)  
To pay by Credit Card, select the "DONATIONS" tab on the website. Click on the DONATE picture at the bottom of the page to pay via PayPal. There is a fee of \$3.00 for credit card processing. Please specify "BI-ANNUAL STATEWIDE GATHERING" in the remarks column. If paying by Credit Card, please save this form and email it as an attachment to [pamela@ilconfchurches.org](mailto:pamela@ilconfchurches.org).

### Overnight Accommodations

We have reserved a block of rooms at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. Room fees are included in the registration amount of \$90.

National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows is located at:  
442 South De Mazenod Drive  
Belleville, Illinois 62223-1023

For additional information, please contact Pamela Tackett, Administrative Coordinator, at 217.522.7099 or via email at [pamela@ilconfchurches.org](mailto:pamela@ilconfchurches.org)

### Illinois Conference of Churches Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois



Illinois  
Conference of  
Churches

2160 SOUTH 6TH STREET, SUITE D2

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62703

217.522.7099 [WWW.ILCONFCHURCHES.ORG](http://WWW.ILCONFCHURCHES.ORG)



## **Bi-Annual Reverend Donald E. Mason Ecumenical Award for Christian Unity and Mission**

to be presented at the 2011 Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering Award Banquet,  
March 11, 2011, National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois

The Reverend Donald E. Mason Ecumenical Award for Christian Unity and Mission will be implemented in 2011 to honor an individual or organization who exhibits unusual and outstanding efforts for work in ecumenism; by faithfully carrying out the mission of the Illinois Conference of Churches in "making public, prophetic witness to Christ's love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism."

The Bi-Annual award is named for the late Reverend Donald E. Mason. Mason, a native of Waco, TX, who graduated from Hastings College in Nebraska and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He served pastorates in Davis, California, and Palo Alto, California, before moving to Urbana, Illinois, where he pastored First Presbyterian Church for 17 years until his retirement in January 2008. Reverend Mason's ministry was marked by involvement in international mission and ecumenical and interfaith relations. While in Urbana, his congregation and the Urbana Rotary Club participated in clean water wells efforts the Republic of Malawi in South East Africa. He was active in the Religious Leaders for Community Care and the Champaign-Urbana Ministerial Association organizations, and served as a former president of the Illinois Conference of Churches. Reverend Mason died on July 22, 2009.

Those eligible for this award are persons or organizations who are effective in the development of programs to combat racism and poverty. One or more of the following criteria should be met by the nominee:

- The promotion of an honest sharing and understanding of common and divergent theological convictions;
- Making public, prophetic witness to Christ's love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism;
- An ecumenical witness and mission expressing the reconciling love of Jesus Christ.

**Nominations must be received by December 15, 2010.** Please email nominations to [pamela@ilconfchurches.org](mailto:pamela@ilconfchurches.org) or mail nominations to Pamela Tackett, Illinois Conference of Churches, 2160 South 6th Street, Suite D-2, Springfield, Illinois 62703.

**Nomination Form**  
**Reverend Donald E. Mason Ecumenical Award**  
**for Christian Unity and Mission**

to be presented at the 2011 Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering Award Banquet, March 11, 2011  
National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois

I. NOMINEE

Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

II. Describe the passion of the nominee. Please tell us about the nominee's attitude toward ecumenism and their visions for the future *(please feel free to attach additional pages as needed)*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

III. What difference has the nominee made in the lives of people, the church, and the world beyond in making disciples for Jesus Christ and addressing the issues of poverty and racism? *(please feel free to attach additional pages as needed)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IV. Additional comments or information that would be helpful during the selection process. *(please feel free to attach additional pages as needed)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

VI. PERSON MAKING THE NOMINATION

Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations must be received by December 1, 2010. Please email nominations to [pamela@ilconfchurches.org](mailto:pamela@ilconfchurches.org) or mail nominations to Pamela Tackett, Illinois Conference of Churches, 2160 South 6th Street, Suite D-2, Springfield, Illinois 62703.

# Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have donated your time and support to making our upcoming 2011 Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering a success!

## Award Dinner Sponsor:

Catholic Urban Programs, East St. Louis, Illinois  
 Memorial Hospital, Belleville, Illinois  
 United Church of Christ, Illinois South Conference

## Additional Sponsors:

BEACON Ministry, Belleville  
 Call for Help, Inc., East St. Louis  
 Carbondale Interfaith Council, Carbondale  
 Homeless Action Council, Belleville  
 Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Carbondale

# Thank You to Our Team!

We would also like to thank those individuals who have spent so much time and effort on making this Poverty Summit a reality.

Rev. Dr. Doug Cripe, Crossroads Christian Church, Caseyville; Very Rev. Robert Flannery, Diocese of Belleville, Carbondale; Rev. Ted Hartley, United Methodist Church, Johnston City; Mr. Joseph Hubbard, Catholic Urban Programs, East St. Louis; Rev. Don Jones, United Church of Christ, Nashville; Mr. William Kreeb, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, East St. Louis; Sister Catherine Wellinghoff, St. Paul's Church, Jonston City

# The National Workshop on Christian Unity

May 9-12, 2011 ~ Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

MONDAY, May 9		TUESDAY, May 10	
8:00 – 11:00am	EDEIO Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting	7:15 – 8:30am	<b>Breakfast</b> (sponsored by the National Council of Churches)
8:00am – 5:00pm	EDEIO Registration	8:30am – 5:00pm	NWCU Bookstore
8:00am – 8:30am	UMEIT Registration	8:45 – 10:15am	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS - Rev. Dr. Robert Welsh</b>
8:30am – 2:30pm	CADEIO Board Meeting	10:30 – 11:45am	<b>SEMINAR SESSIONS I</b>
8:30am – 5:00pm	NWCU, CADEIO, EDEIO and LERN Registration	1. Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs	3. Spiritual Ecumenism
8:30am – 5:00pm	NWCU Bookstore	4. Harvesting the Fruits	6. Tale of Two Pontiffs
8:30am – 5:30pm	UMEIT Training	8. The Church and the Holocaust	
10:00am – Noon	LERN Executive Board Meeting	Noon – 2:00pm	<b>*Network Luncheons: CADEIO, EDEIO, LERN, UMEIT</b>
Noon – 1:00pm	EDEIO Luncheon for Exec. Committee & Newcomers	2:45 – 3:30pm	<b>SEMINAR SESSIONS II</b>
Noon – 1:00pm	LERN Luncheon for Exec. Board & Newcomers	2. Ecumenical Consultation on Ethical Decisions	4. Harvesting the Fruits
Noon – 2:00pm	UMEIT Lunch (on own)	5. NewFire – Intergenerational Ecumenism	6. Tale of Two Pontiffs
1:00pm – 1:45pm	NWCU Newcomers Orientation	7. Global Christianity	9. Orthodox Spirituality
2:00pm – 5:30pm	LERN Plenary	3:45 – 5:00pm	CADEIO Assembly
2:00 – 4:00pm	EDEIO Plenary	3:45 – 5:00pm	LERN Plenary
4:15 – 5:30pm	EDEIO Province Meetings	3:45 – 5:00pm	EDEIO Plenary
5:00 – 6:00pm	CADEIO Regional Meetings	6:00pm	<b>Holy Eucharist</b> (PCUSA rite), First Presbyterian Church
7:00pm	Processional Leaders gather at Smithfield United	6:00pm	<b>Parakles</b> (Ukrainian Rite Vespers), St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church
7:30pm	<b>OPENING PRAYER SERVICE</b> Smithfield United Church of Christ Reception follows the service		
WEDNESDAY, May 11		THURSDAY, May 12	
7:15 – 8:30am	<b>Breakfast</b> (sponsored by the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute)	7:30am	Catholic Eucharist
8:30am – 5:00pm	NWCU Bookstore	8:30 – 10:00am	NWCU Bookstore
8:45 – 10:15am	<b>SEMINAR SESSIONS III</b>	8:45 – 10:15am	<b>BIBLE STUDY - Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell</b>
2. Ecumenical Consultation on Ethical Decisions		10:30 – 11:45am	<b>CLOSING ADDRESS - Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC</b>
5. NewFire – Intergenerational Ecumenism		Noon – 1:30pm	<b>**CLOSING LUNCHEON</b>
7. Global Christianity		1:30 – 3:00pm	NEOA Meeting
8. The Church & the Holocaust		2:00 – 5:00pm	CADEIO Board of Directors Meeting
9. Orthodox Spirituality		2:00 – 5:00pm	EDEIO Executive Committee Meeting
10:30 – 11:45am	<b>INTERACTIVE PLENARY on Racism - Rev. Canon Harold T. Lewis</b>	2:00 – 5:00pm	LERN Executive Board Meeting
Noon – 1:15pm	<b>**Luncheon with Panel &amp; Discussion on Racism</b>	7:00 – 9:00pm	National Planning Committee Meeting
1:45 – 4:45pm	EDEIO-LERN-UMEIT- Joint Plenary on Living Into Reception		
2:00 – 3:15pm	CADEIO Seminar 1	FRIDAY, May 13	
3:30 – 4:45pm	CADEIO Seminar 2	9:00am – 2:00pm	National Planning Committee Meeting
6:00 – 9:00pm	<b>*Gateway Clipper Three Rivers Dinner Cruise with Entertainment</b>		

The National Workshop on Christian Unity is being held May 9-12 (Monday through Thursday) at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel, 300 West Station Square Drive, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Please note:  
 You must register separately for the Workshop and the Denominational Network Programs.

Please contact your specific Network for details on fees and requirements.

NWCU 2011 Fee Structure:

Full registration - \$175 through April 9, 2011 - \$200, thereafter

Daily Attendance - \$75 per day

Student Rate - \$75 (full registration)

Partial refunds of 50% granted through April 9, 2011

No refunds after April 9, 2011

Information is available online at [www.nwcu.org](http://www.nwcu.org)



## Article Submissions

If you have information to include in our newsletter, please send an e-mail to: Pamela Tackett, Administrative Coordinator [pamela@ilconfchurches.org](mailto:pamela@ilconfchurches.org)

## Upcoming Events

- **January 26, 2011 - Bi-Annual Gathering Team Meeting**  
Catholic Urban Programs, East St. Louis, Illinois
- **February 15, 2011 - Leadership Team Visioning Meeting**  
Location to be determined, Springfield, Illinois
- **February 16, 2011 - Joint Teams Meeting**  
Location to be determined, Springfield, Illinois
- **March 11-12, 2011 - Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering**  
"Seeing with New Eyes: the Changing Faces of Poverty and the new challenges of ministry"  
National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois
- **May 24, 2011 - Leadership Team Meeting**  
Location to be determined, Decatur, Illinois
- **August 30, 2011 - Leadership Team Meeting**  
Location to be determined, Galesburg, Illinois
- **September 23, 2011 - Annual Assembly**  
Location to be determined, Bloomington, Illinois

## Ecumenical Connection, Issue 06 - December, 2010



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