

DATE: April 30, 2003
TO: St. Mary's University Community
FROM: President's Peace Commission
RE: Report to the Community

This has been a very active year for the St. Mary's University President's Peace Commission (PPC). We'd like to share a brief synopsis of some of our activities and events this year and express our gratitude to the campus community for the participation and support that you have given to these programs and to the Commission.

- ❖ **October 2002 Program:** More than 1,200 people attended our three-day Fall 2002 program, *U.S. Education: Passing or Failing?* Given increased attention to public education issues, particularly in the state of Texas—with revised standardized testing and dramatic projected budget shortfalls—the program provided an opportunity to explore some controversial education issues.
- ❖ **November 2002 Luncheon:** Building from the success of the Spring 2002 program, *Understanding the Middle East*, that included a visit and presentation by Dr. Jehan Sadat, the Commission sponsored a **luncheon** featuring authentic dishes originating from the Middle East in conjunction with **International Education Week** in November 2002. The luncheon provided an opportunity for our community to sample another culture's cuisine and we heard many positive comments for weeks afterwards. We extend our appreciation to Aramark catering for the fine work they did in preparing this luncheon. Also, a peace pole that circulated throughout the San Antonio community was displayed during this event.
- ❖ **March 2003 Program: *Bully or Friend? The U.S. in the World Today*** attracted more than 1,600 people. A presentation by Laura J. Lederer, Senior Adviser, Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons, U.S. State Department was co-sponsored by the Shalom Network of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). Lederer's presentation on *Trafficking in Persons: News from the U.S. State Department* drew 250 campus and community members and was followed by a consultation that will influence national and potentially international policy pertaining to human trafficking.
- ❖ **March 2003 Peace Awards:** The *Alice Wright Franzke Feminist Award* was granted to Prof. Ana Novoa and Prof. Lee Terán of the St. Mary's University Law School and Center for Legal and Social Justice for their contributions to peace, empowerment, cooperation, equality and respect of all persons. The *Art of Peace Award* was given to Sr. Martha Ann Kirk from the Religious Studies Department at the University of the Incarnate Word for her artistic contributions to building peace throughout the world.
- ❖ **April 2003 Film:** A screening of *Jenin, Jenin*, along with a presentation and discussion about the history of Palestine was co-sponsored by the American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee, San Antonio Chapter. St. Mary's University and local community members participated.
 - **Fall 2003 PPC Program** will be *Bioethics: Everything You Wanted to Know about Life and Death, but Were Afraid to Ask* and is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 21 - Thursday, October 23**. Faculty are encouraged to develop complementary curriculum with this theme in mind and to bring their classes to this co-curricular program, and supervisors are encouraged to allow their staff to attend these sessions.
 - **Spring 2004 PPC Program:** The dates are **Tuesday, March 23 - Thursday, March 25**.
 - If you would like to receive occasional updates about forthcoming President's Peace Commission programs and related events, please send an email message to
 - stmuppc-announce-subscribe@yahogroups.com

Again, the President's Peace Commission thanks President Charles Cotrell and the University community for their support and participation this year.