President’s Peace Commission Mission Statement

The President’s Peace Commission fosters an ethical commitment to participate in the establishment of world peace and social justice. The Commission encourages respect for human rights and dignity of all people. The Commission annually hosts symposia that offer opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to grow in their active pursuit of peace and justice. Through the symposia and other activities, the Commission seeks to build within the St. Mary’s University community a greater awareness of the Roman Catholic and Marianist perspectives on peace and justice. The President's Peace Commission reflects the University community through student, staff, and faculty representatives appointed by the University President.

For more information, please see our website: http://www.stmarytx.edu/ppc

Faculty: Marcella Lesher, Leona Pallansch, Richard Pressman, Rev. Rudy Vela, S.M.

Staff: Paul Felarca, Bro. Brian Halderman, S.M., Krystina Irvin, Irene Quesnot

Students: Jennifer Butler, Vanessa Colón, Alfonso de la Torre, Charles Devine, Christian Ekleberry, Sean McKee, Philippe Nassif, Keily Rivero, Lauren N. Sanchez, David Zapata, Álvaro Zapatei

The President’s Peace Commission would like to thank Wells Fargo for their generous support of the spring 2009 program.
Tuesday, March 24, 2009

9:45am–11:00am Reflecting on the 2008 Election
Invocation
Rev. Bernard Lee, S.M., Th.D., Vice President for Mission & Identity, St. Mary’s University
Speakers
Gabriel Omar Hernandez, student, St. Mary’s University
Juan Sepúlveda, former Texas State Director, Obama for America and President/Founder, The Common Enterprise
Sonia Garcia, Ph.D., Political Science, St. Mary’s University
Moderator
Leandra Williams, AmeriCorps*VISTA, Service Learning Center, St. Mary’s University

11:10am–12:25pm Identity in the US: What is an American?
Speakers
Larry Hufford, Ph.D., Political Science, St. Mary’s University
Sana Kii Johnson, student, University of Texas-San Antonio
Rodolfo Rosales, Ph.D., Political Science, University of Texas-San Antonio
Philippe Nassif, student, St. Mary’s University and PPC member
Moderator
Leandra Williams, AmeriCorps*VISTA, Service Learning Center, St. Mary’s University

12:35pm–1:50pm Remaking the American Dream: Bridging the Gap between the Rich and Poor
Speakers
Carl Eschbach Ph.D., Texas State Demographer; and Demography, University of Texas-San Antonio
Billy Hubbard, Special Projects Manager, Dept of Community Initiatives, City of San Antonio
Patti Radle, Director, Inner City Development
Moderator
Leandra Williams, AmeriCorps*VISTA, Service Learning Center, St. Mary’s University

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

9:20am–10:10am Surviving the Economic Storm
Speakers
Steven Nivin, Ph.D., Economics, St. Mary’s University; Director, SABÉR Institute
Charles Roberson, Executive Vice President, Finance and Strategy Manager, Wells Fargo
Álvaro Zapatei, student, St. Mary’s University and PPC member
Moderator
Leandra Williams, AmeriCorps*VISTA, Service Learning Center, St. Mary’s University

10:20am–11:10am Is Being Healthy for the Wealthy?
Speaker
Omega Arteaga-Gamboa, President, The Omega Health Group
Carlos Roberto Jaén, MD, Ph.D., FAAFP, Chair, Family & Community Medicine, UTHSC
Vibeke Mendonecia-Lee, LCSW, Co-Chair, San Antonio Healthcare-Now Coalition
Moderator
Lauren N. Sanchez, student, St. Mary’s University and PPC member

11:20am–12:10pm “No Child Left Behind”: How Do We Get There?
Speakers
Ilsa Garza, Volunteer Marketing Coordinator, Communities in Schools-San Antonio
Liz Garza, Ph.D., Superintendent, Edgewood Independent School District
Daniel Higgins, Ph.D., Teacher Education, St. Mary’s University
Moderator

12:20pm–1:35pm Power to the People: An Examination of Alternative Energy Projects
Speakers
Bill Barker, Solar San Antonio
Kyle Murray, Ph.D., Geological Sciences, University of Texas-San Antonio
Ryan Rittenhouse, Public Citizen and Clean Economy Coalition
Jennifer Butler, student, St. Mary’s University and PPC member
Moderator

March 23-27

An exhibit by Mexican photographer, Maria Teresa Fernandez, documenting the human toll of the building of the wall between Mexico and the USA. Location: Photo wall, 2nd Floor, University Center. Co-sponsored by the Women’s History Month Committee and the President’s Peace Commission.