



Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition

"Faith Communities In Action Against Poverty"

News Release – March 23, 2009

Continuing to pray for the poor and our MPPs

For the last three weeks, Ontario's faith communities have been praying for the poor at Queen's Park during a series of pre-budget vigils outside the provincial legislature.

Each day multifaith participants pray for the integrity, courage and spiritual strength of MPPs. And they are pray for compassion and justice to be directed to the poor in the upcoming provincial budget.

The Multifaith Prayer Vigil will end after the Ontario government tables its budget on Thursday, March 26th. That day:

- Noon prayers will be led by Bishop Michael Pryse of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada;
- At 4 p.m., the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) will have a media conference on the budget and the prayer vigil; and,
- At 5 p.m., ISARC members and other religious leaders will have a time of remembering and closing prayers.

According to coalition spokesperson, Brice Balmer, "The vigil has provided times for different faiths to come together in prayers, conversations, and meditations at Queen's Park and in local communities. This has deepened their commitment to solidarity with and justice for the poor and the need to pray for our politicians".

The vigils are being held as a public witness to the collective concern of faith communities about the swelling ranks of the poor during Ontario's deepening recession and the need for a strong response.

ISARC has provided a religious voice for Ontario's marginalized people for 23 years.

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For more information, contact:

Brice Balmer, ISARC Secretary, (519) 635-4242 cell or

Susan Eagle, ISARC Chair, (519) 636-3402 cell.

Website: www.isarc.ca

To get a flavour of the vigil, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNeo93AR-0A> and view the video "Praying for Politicians to help the Poor".