



Dear Friend,

We wish you blessings during this season of light and love. At this turning of the year, it's fitting to celebrate the day-to-day work led by local Labor-Religion Coalitions. Here's a promising sample!

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## Striking out against wage theft

During the holidays, volunteers in Ithaca are giving out new [pocket-sized, worker rights brochures](#) where they shop and eat.

The Labor-Religion Coalition of the Finger Lakes launched the education campaign (in collaboration with the Tompkins County Workers' Center) during the [Days of Action Against Wage Theft](#) just before Thanksgiving.

A Nov. 17 march against wage theft in Syracuse organized by the Workers' Center of Central NY and Occupy Syracuse was also part of the national awareness effort sponsored by Interfaith Worker Justice.

Wage theft is the illegal nonpayment or nonpayment of workers' wages. It can include forcing workers to work off the clock, misclassifying them as independent contractors to avoid paying benefits, refusing to pay them overtime, appropriating tip money that should go to workers and paying them less than minimum wage.

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## NOW is the time for a living wage

Voices of nearly 200 faith leaders rang out at Riverside

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Church in NYC on Nov. 21 at a rally supporting living wages at city-subsidized projects. The Greater NY LRC has been active in the campaign since its beginning. Rabbi Michael Feinberg, GNYLRC Exec. Dir., also testified the next day in favor of the [Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act](#) at a City Council hearing.

Adding his influential voice to the campaign for the first time was Msgr. Kevin Sullivan of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of NY. Msgr. Sullivan was one of our “Faith at Work” honorees at a Nov. 15 reception.

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### “Am I My Brother’s Keeper? Health Care and Social Responsibility”

Planning is underway for this March 31, 2012, event at Christ United Methodist Church in Olean, sponsored by the [Health Care Access Coalition](#). The group addresses health care needs in rural Cattaraugus County and advocates at the state and national level for universal health care. It’s a project of the Labor Religion Coalition of Southwest NY.

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### We Are All Immigrants Campaign

Designed to educate congregation members about how their own immigrant histories mirror the experiences of current immigrants, the campaign reached 60 Long Island congregational leaders this fall.

Richard Koubeck, Community Outreach Coordinator at LINK [Long Island Jobs with Justice](#) is part of the LRC network. Contact him for more information about the toolkit and resource packet containing program ideas, resources, prayers and reflections for faith-based advocates.

**The Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State, with a statewide staff and ten local affiliates, educates and advocates for economic justice.**

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Labor-Religion Coalition  
of New York State  
800 Troy Schenectady Road  
Latham, New York 12110-2455  
US



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