



NEWS ALERT

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KERRY KENNEDY TO JOIN STATEWIDE LABOR AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN ANNOUNCING THE 15TH ANNUAL 40-HOUR FAST

Fast asks participants to GIVE UP solid food and also STAND UP for farmworker rights, for immigrants and for victims of wage theft

WHAT: This year's Labor-Religion Coalition FAST, "From False Idols to Moral Vision" reminds us that there are dire consequences when people and nations worship false idols—be it the golden calf or the Wall Street bull. In the midst of the suffering in the U.S. caused by today's economic crisis, the 2010 FAST asks participants to pray, reflect and act according to basic moral principles that must influence economic decision-making. Immediately following the news conference, the group will form a procession with banners and walk to the Legislative Office Building where those who are able will join a NY Senate Agriculture Committee public hearing on farm labor laws already in progress in Hearing Room A. Kerry Kennedy, Richard Iannuzzi and Bishop Hubbard will join others in testifying in support of the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act.

WHO: **Kerry Kennedy**, human rights activist and founder of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights
Bishop Howard Hubbard, Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany & Co-chair of the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State
Richard Iannuzzi, President of New York State United Teachers & Co-chair of the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State
The Rev. Jim Reisner, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany
Brian O'Shaughnessy, Executive Director, Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State

WHERE: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut St. in Albany. Parking is available next to the Chestnut St. entrance to the church.

WHEN: **Monday, March 1, 2010, noon -12:30 PM, followed immediately by a procession to the Legislative Office Building.**

WHY: The FAST, a statewide event, invites New Yorkers to go without solid food for all or part of the 40 hours that begin at 8 p.m. on Monday, March 1 and end at noon on Wed. March 3. During their fasting, participants are encouraged to "hunger for justice," with a special focus on New York's farmworkers, supporting steps to end wage theft and supporting comprehensive immigration reform. Local labor-religion coalitions are organizing FAST-related events across the state. These include a Wed. March 3 breaking-the-fast meal and "Good Jobs" program at noon at the Sr. Maureen Joyce Community Center, 340 First St. in Albany and "Recommitting to Economic Justice," an ecumenical prayer service in Endicott, NY. Visit www.labor-religion.org for details about FAST events.

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