

Interfaith Impact of NYS Statement In Support of the Occupy Wall Street Movement

There is a spirit in the land that cries out for justice. The “Occupy Wall Street” movement has energized people around the world to question an economic system that widens the gap between rich and middle class and neglects the poor. Interfaith Impact likewise questions an economic regime which disempowers the majority while ceding unwarranted economic and political power to the wealthy elite.

There is political power in such symbolic and dramatic action. The protestors have not yet created a specific political and economic strategy. Their main mission has been pinpointing the evils of the age by singling out the “powers and principalities” whom they believe are responsible.

The “occupiers” of Wall Street have rightly sensed a growing evil in our time. We witness a society in which the few who control money and market rule all else. Infrastructure crumbles, hunger and poverty grow, public schools struggle, governments groan under debt, and people feel politically powerless, but the market insists on its own way. There is in our midst a policy of affirmative action for the rich.

Theologically speaking, the market is not God. The Golden Calf procession of the protestors at Wall Street was a none-too-subtle reminder of this. Ethically speaking, showering the rich with tax breaks while neglecting the poor is unjust. Sociologically speaking, class warfare is not a weapon wielded by activists; it is a reality in nation and world where the rich are winning.

Not all of us agree with everything the “occupiers” say and do. Our task is to utilize this moral energy, to make explicit the ethical questions raised in these protests, to persuade the protestors and the American people to take their zeal into the marketplace, the legislative corridors and the voting booth and to help channel moral indignation into a creative building of beloved community in which there is economic security for all.

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