

## **The Conscious Consumer**

### **Some Fair Trade Resources**

Over the past couple of weeks, the bulletin inserts on Fair Trade have focused on describing what the term means, fair trade values, who it helps and why it is important to support, how to identify fair trade goods and the relationship of fair trade to our Catholic Social Teachings and Values.

If we want to support fair trade through our purchasing power, where can we find fair trade goods (crafts, coffee, tea, chocolate)? There are far too many resources for us to even attempt to provide a comprehensive guide.

For those who are comfortable with the computer, you can just enter in “Fair Trade” and access many online resources. **Fair Trade Federation International** ([www.fairtradefederation.org](http://www.fairtradefederation.org)) provides a list of many fair trade providers. **Catholic Relief Services** in partnership with **A Greater Gift** publishes a catalogue called *Work of Human Hands*. This can be obtained by phone (800-685-7572) or online at [www.crsfairtrade.org](http://www.crsfairtrade.org). **Global Exchange** and **Equal Exchange** both have online catalogues.

Many local stores sell fair trade coffee. (Starbucks, Trader Joes, Whole Foods, etc.) In order to know if a coffee, tea or chocolate product is “fair trade certified”, it must carry a logo from one of the certifying organizations on its package.

In the Philadelphia area, we are fortunate to have stores called 10,000 Villages that sells only fair trade crafts and products. In Wayne, Global Gifts located across from the post office on South Wayne Avenue) is an affiliate of 10,000 Villages. This store has fair trade crafts, coffee, teas and chocolates. We will continue to bring awareness about conscious consuming in future bulletin inserts and talk about alternative gift giving.