

Dr. Stephen M. Colecchi

Director of the Office of International Justice and Peace

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Dr. Stephen Colecchi currently serves as the Director of the Office of International Justice and Peace of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The Office provides staff support to the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy, which coordinates USCCB policy on international issues. He represents the Conference on international issues, manages the staff of international policy advisors, and coordinates the Department's work with the Church internationally and with Catholic Relief Services and other international bodies.

Dr. Colecchi received a B.A. degree *Magna Cum Laude* in Philosophy and Religious Studies in 1973 from Holy Cross College. In 1975 he earned an M.A. degree in religion from Yale University Divinity School. After several years in active ministry, he completed a Doctor of Ministry degree at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore in 1983.

He formerly served as the Special Assistant to Bishop, Director of the Office of Justice and Peace, and Diocesan Director of Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond.

Nationally, Dr. Colecchi has chaired the Board of The Roundtable Association of Social Action Directors and served on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committees on Domestic Policy and International Policy. He also has chaired the boards of Refugee and Immigration Services of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, the Virginia Poverty Law Center, Social Services of the City of Richmond, the Ministerial Association of Parish Professionals, and Virginia Social Service Advocates. He has served on the Boards of the Central Virginia Foodbank and the Richmond Peace Education Center.

He has received a number of honors, including: the Order of Abraham recognition from the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, the Virginia League of Social Services Executives President's Award for contributions to the advancement and improvement of social services, the Religious Educators' Federation Recognition as the Religious Educator of the Year, and special recognitions from diocesan Hispanic leaders and Virginia's Legal Aid Directors for legislative advocacy. Dr. Colecchi has also been awarded a number of academic honors.

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Dr. Colecchi has written numerous articles on Catholic social teaching, social justice, political responsibility, jubilee, and the infusion of Catholic social teaching into Christian education programs. His articles have appeared in *Parish, Church, The Catholic Virginian*, the op-ed pages of Virginia newspapers and in publications of the United States Catholic Conference and national Catholic associations. He is the author of a *Leader's Guide to Sharing Catholic Social Teaching* and *In the Footsteps of Jesus Parish Resource Manual*, both published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. In 2005 the Catholic Press Association awarded him with the First Prize Book Award in the category of Educational Books for the *Resource Manual*.

Dr. Colecchi is married and has two adult daughters. His wife, Dr. Cheryl A. Colecchi, is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in private practice.