



JUST Love

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

The Spirit Calls Us Today To Be Present: Sisters of Charity and Immigration



On May 10, 50 Sisters of Charity, associates, and colleagues in ministry gathered for the program "The Spirit Calls Us Today To Be Present: Sisters of Charity and Immigration." The title was taken from the February letter of Sr. Rosemary Moynihan and the Council on President

Trump's executive orders on immigration and refugees <http://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/statements.pdf> We gathered to discern how to respond as a Congregation to the current rise in anti-immigrant and refugee sentiment in the US. We experienced this in a palpable way at the motherhouse in Convent Station as the banner at the gate proclaiming "Immigrants and Refugees Are Welcome" was ripped from the fence three times. We were privileged to hear Dr. Anna Brown of St. Peter's University who beautifully wove together social science,



poetry, spirituality and the thought of Pope Francis to motivate us to deep discernment and prophetic action. At these links you can access Dr. Brown's PowerPoint slides <http://www.scnj.org/index.php/immigration-reform>. Fr. Terrence Moran then led us in a process of "asset mapping" to identify our assets as a Congregation that we can use in solidarity with immigrants and refugees. We then developed several exciting projects using our assets in solidarity and service of immigrants and refugees. We left energized to take the next step in the Sisters of Charity's long history of welcoming the stranger.

Some Resources for Advocacy of Immigrants and Refugees

- At this link, find a description of the current immigration and refugee activities of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth http://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/Sisters_of_Charity_Action_and_Advocacy_on_Immigration_and_Refugees.pdf
- A paper by our speaker Dr. Anna Brown, "Immigrant Rights Are Human Rights," from the Guarini Institute for Government and Leadership, St. Peter's University <http://www.saintpeters.edu/guarini-institute/files/2015/10/Comprehensive-Immigration-Reform-Brown.pdf>
- CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network) has excellent resources with up to date information on immigration policy and how to support immigrants <https://cliniclegal.org/resources/know-your-rights>
- The Adrian Dominican Sisters offer *Immigration: An Initiative for Our Times* – a resource for a study/reflection group on immigration <http://www.adriandominicans.org/Portals/1/Pdf/peacejusticecare/engagedinmission/Immigration%20Initiative%20Booklet.pdf>
- A "Know Your Rights" handout for immigrants from Catholic Charities in English and Spanish http://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/Know_Your_Rights_-_English.pdf and http://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/Know_Your_Rights_-_Spanish.pdf
- Many resources on welcoming refugees and advocating for them are provided by the Refugee Council USA <http://www.rcusa.org/>
- To subscribe to the LCWR Immigration Google Group send an email to lcwr-immigration-coalition@googlegroups.com



Our Continuing Series on the UN Sustainable Development Goals...

Forests cover 30 per cent of the Earth's surface and in addition to providing food security and shelter, forests are key to combating climate change, protecting biodiversity and the homes of the indigenous population. Thirteen million hectares of forests are being lost every year while the persistent degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares. Deforestation and desertification – caused by human activities and climate change – pose major challenges to sustainable development and have affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in the fight against poverty.

Action on Goal 15: Partner with the National Forest Foundation <https://www.nationalforests.org/get-involved/tree-planting-programs> or the National Arbor Day foundation <https://www.arborday.org/> to plant a tree.



USING FACEBOOK FOR JPIC ADVOCACY

Are you one of the 1.1 billion people who have a Facebook account? Think about using Facebook for advocacy for peace, justice, and the integrity of creation. The National Education Association offers these tips:

- Follow the Facebook page of the numerous JPIC organizations: “like” them, comment, and share content.
- Update your cover image to reflect your support for a justice issue you care about.
- Comment on articles and news about justice, labor, politics, peace, ecology or other issues you care about.
- Share your activities, achievements, thoughts and opinions.
- Share your stories and photos of people making a difference in schools and communities.
- Photos and videos have demonstrably higher engagement rates.
- Once a post extends past three lines, engagement drops sharply.
- Make each post count. Don't post what you had for breakfast.
- Offer something valuable or interesting to your audience. Keep it short!
- Be informative, confident and POSITIVE.
- Post when your audience is most likely to be online.
- Remember the Four C's: Be Clear. Be Concise. Be Contrasting. Be Convincing.

Some Facebook pages to follow:

- Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity <https://www.facebook.com/Office-of-Peace-Justice-and-Ecological-Integrity-300157523445664/?ref=bookmarks>
- Justice Conference of Women Religious <https://www.facebook.com/Justice-Conference-of-Women-Religious-797539123651666/>

- ROW/Religious on Water <https://www.facebook.com/Religious-on-WaterROW-614313611967348/>
- ROAR/Religious Organizations Along the Hudson <https://www.facebook.com/ROARHUDSON/>
- US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking <https://www.facebook.com/SistersAgainstTrafficking/>



JPIC Dates in June

1-5 Pray for the Sisters of Charity Federation meeting in New York with the theme *Hazard Yet Forward: Futuring Charity Together*

4 Pentecost Sunday “Through the Spirit, the risen Christ is universally present in the world everywhere and in every moment, as pervasive as the air we breathe, as the sun or the rain that comes down on us, as the wind that blows around us, as the life that flows with our every breath.” Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ

5 World Environment Day <http://worldenvironmentday.global/>

11 Trinity Sunday “Relational Universe – Relational God.” Denis Edwards

15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day <http://www.inpea.net/weaad.html> Wear something purple today to show your awareness of elder abuse.

18 Corpus Christi “Jesus says, ‘This is my body broken for you.’ America says, ‘This is your body broken for me.’” Jerome Mechtenberg-Berrigan

23 Sacred Heart “The Sacred Heart demonstrates the enormity of God's love for humanity, and calls us to disarm our own hearts that we too might be gentle, nonviolent, compassionate and perpetually loving.” Fr. John Dear

26 International Day of Support for Torture Victims and Survivors <http://www.cvt.org/>

27 Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Pray for the people of Haiti on their patronal feast and for our Sisters Janet Lehmann and Dianne Moore who accompany them.