



JUST Love



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

SC General Assembly Charts Future of Justice and Peace Commitments



The theme of the 2019 General Assembly of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth was *Boundless Charity Through a New Lens*. Much of the last full day of the assembly was devoted to looking through a new lens at the commitment of the Congregation to peace, justice, and ecological integrity. The day began with a morning prayer of lament over our world broken by injustice. Each sister and associate dipped her fingers in a bowl of water at her table, let the water drop like tears from her fingers, and said, “My tears are for...a situation of injustice that particularly moved her.” The bowls of tears we then used to water the roots of a plant (cf. the photo above) – a symbol of our desire that the compassion that breaks our heart will water the roots of a new world of peace, justice, and the flourishing of all life. Fr. Terrence Moran, Director of the Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, let the assembly in a process of “Asset Mapping.” The participants posted on the wall hundreds of assets that the Sisters of Charity can put to the service of the mission of peace and justice. It was moving to see the abundance of assets – human, institutional, relational, financial – that the Congregation possess.

After reading these assets the assembly “connected the dots” - came up with 30 possible projects that might forward the Congregation’s peace, justice and ecological integrity commitments. The projects were varied and creative – many constellating around homelessness and the plight of immigrants and refugees. Other projects included a Congregation commitment to examining racism/white privilege; outreach to LGBTQ+ young people, a human trafficking seminar, and the formation of a Sister of Charity volunteer core. The assembly participants were then asked “to vote with their feet” – to place their names on the project that they would most want to participate in. In the coming months we will use this material to see how to forward at least some of the projects. At the end of this dynamic, creative process, the participants were more convinced than ever of the truth of the words of James Baldwin that set the theme for the day, “We don’t need numbers. We need passion.” The assembly also issued a public statement of concern for the situation of refugee children in detention.

Public Statement Release

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, NJ

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth affirm the dignity of all persons. In light of this fundamental belief and our charism of Charity, we deplore the conditions imposed on those who are held in detention centers at our border and in other locations. In particular, we object to the undue detention of children, their separation from their families, and the unhealthy and inadequate conditions in which they are held. We advocate for the just and compassionate treatment that all children deserve and the immediate reuniting of children with their families. We call upon federal, state, and local authorities to provide for the basic necessities of all detainees including medical care and legal services. We, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, commit ourselves to collaborate with others in advocating for immediate change and long-range solutions to this humanitarian crisis at our border.

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth General Assembly
June 30, 2019



SISTERS OF CHARITY AND FRIENDS PARTICIPATE IN LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY



A contingent of 25 from Convent Station - Sisters of Charity, an IHM sister, and friends from RAMP (Refugee Assistance Morris Partners) joined five hundred others for *Lights for Liberty* on the evening of July 12 outside of the Essex County Detention Center in Newark. We protested the criminal immigration policies of the Trump administration by, as one of the organizers said, “praying with our chants and praying with our feet.” A moving moment was when Ivan, a detainee, was able to telephone to the crowd and give a first hand account of the brutal conditions inside. There were large demonstrations in cities and towns all across the country - inspiring and hopeful!



Some Ways to be in Solidarity with Immigrants and Refugees

-Display a yard sign *We Stand with Immigrants and Refugees* available for purchase here <https://isnerch.myshopify.com/products/double-sided-yard-sign-with-wire-frame-shipping-included?variant=21856626409561>

-Encourage your place of worship to us these petitions on immigrants and refugees from Pax Christi <https://paxchristiusa.org/immigrationpetitions/>

-Share resources on the rights of immigrants <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights/>

-The fastest way to get children out of detention is to pay their bail. For more information of this action <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/this-is-what-it-costs-to-free-one-immigrant-from-detention-2018-06-20>



Justice, Peace, and Ecology Dates to Celebrate in August

6 Feast of the Transfiguration/ Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima/Aug. 9 – Bombing of Nagasaki

Everyone says, "I wonder what the Pope thinks of it?" How everyone turns to the Vatican for judgment, even though they do not seem to listen to the voice there! But our Lord Himself has already pronounced judgment on the atomic bomb. When James and John wished to call down fire from heaven on their enemies, Jesus said: "You know not of what spirit you are. The Son of Man came not to destroy souls but to save." He said also, "What you do unto the least of these my brethren, you do unto me."

Dorothy Day

Learn here about the Internatioanl Campagin to Abolish Nuclear Weapons <https://www.icanw.org/>

10 Feast of Deacon Saint Lawrence who, when compelled to hand over the treasures of the Church to the Emperor, said, "The poor are the true treasures of the Church. The Church is truly rich, far richer than the Emperor."

22 Feast of the Queenship of Mary – Imagine a world in which the Magnificat of Mary is the law.

28 Anniversary (1963) of Martin Luther King's *I Have a Dream* speech

"The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges."