



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

SISTERS OF CHARITY INTERNS CONTINUE OUR LONG TERM OUTREACH TO IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND NEWCOMERS.

Under the direction of Sheila Tracy, the Sisters of Charity Office of Interns and Volunteers offers college students the opportunity for supervised internships in a variety of non-profit agencies of social service. Jasmine Drew, a 2018 summer intern, shares what she learned from her internship with First Friends, an organization that serves asylum seekers.

My name is Jasmine Drew and I am a senior at Seton Hall University. I major in Diplomacy and International Relations and minor in Criminal Justice. After my undergraduate career, I hope to pursue both a MSW and JD degree in immigration law. This summer, I interned with First Friends of NJ/NY. First Friends is a non-profit organization that offers visitation services, post-release support and resettlement for undocumented immigrants in detention. I was excited to work with a marginalized group that is currently and unnecessarily under attack by our current administration.

In our office, I worked alongside the Directors of Visitation and Resettlement. I answered calls on the hotline, connecting them to their families. The separation of families at the border allowed me to help in resettlement. I wrote biographies for children who were looking to be taken in by families. Additionally, I assisted in preparing a Guatemalan boy to relocate to start his life in Los Angeles. Almost every case I was introduced to was an asylum case.

These interactions and experiences taught me so much about asylum seekers and about myself. Firstly, I learned that people seek refuge here to escape a poor economic system, violence and even death in their native countries. Secondly, they are always showing a great amount of gratitude. No action done for them is ever too small, nor does it go unnoticed. They are willing to still do whatever it takes to support themselves and their families back home. This internship taught me other ways that we can help undocumented immigrants. Visiting them in detention and providing support after they are released, especially with resettlement and offering a place to stay is a great way of helping them get back on their feet after being placed in a traumatizing and difficult situation. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to work here. I will always be appreciative of the Sisters of Charity for allowing me to have a memorable experience!

A Yes for Humanity: One Step Closer to Nuclear Disarmament



Sister Carol Gilbert, OP

On September 17, the Sisters of Charity were privileged to host Dominican Sisters Carol Gilbert and Ardeth Platte. Both Carol and Ardeth are veteran peacemakers, having served between them 15 years in prison for acts of non-violent civil disobedience against nuclear weapons. Ardeth shared prison time with author Piper Kerman who based her character Sister Jane Ingalls in the Netflix series *Orange is the New Black* on



Sister Ardeth Platte, OP

Ardeth. Ardeth and Carol spoke at a joint prayer service for the Sisters of Charity, the students of the Academy of St. Elizabeth, and the students of the College of Saint Elizabeth. In the evening they gave a public lecture. To learn more about their work with ICAN – International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, check out the website

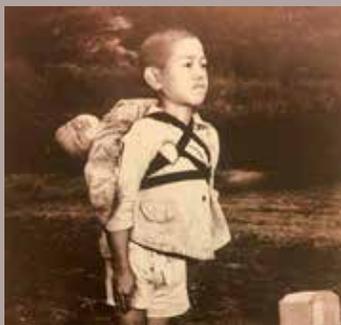
<http://www.icanw.org/> (continued on page 2)

As part of the prayer service, Carol shared this powerful poem *Questionnaire* by Wendell Berry:

1. How much poison are you willing to eat for the success of the free market and global trade? Please name your preferred poisons.
2. For the sake of goodness, how much evil are you willing to do? Fill in the following blanks with the names of your favorite evils and acts of hatred.
3. What sacrifices are you prepared to make for culture and civilization? Please list the monuments, shrines, and works of art you would most willingly destroy.

4. In the name of patriotism and the flag, how much of our beloved land are you willing to desecrate? List in the following spaces the mountains, rivers, towns, farms you could most readily do without.

5. State briefly the ideas, ideals, or hopes, the energy sources, the kinds of security, for which you would kill a child. Name, please, the children whom you would be willing to kill.



At our prayer service for International Peace Day, we distributed copies of a holy card designed by Pope Francis. It is a picture of a Japanese boy after the bombing of Hiroshima, standing in line at a crematorium with the dead body of his brother on his back. The caption, in Pope Francis's handwriting is *Il frutto de la guerra – The fruit of war*. A limited number of cards are available. If you would like one, email your name and address to pjei@scnj.org



1 Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux "When I sit in jail thinking of war and peace and the problem of human freedom, of jails, drug addiction, prostitution and the apathy of great masses of people who believe that nothing can be done--when I thought of these things I was all the more confirmed in my faith in the little way of St. Thérèse. We do the things that come to hand, we pray our prayers and beg also for an increase of faith--and God will do the rest."
~ Dorothy Day

4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi "Francis asked that part of the friary garden always be left untouched, so that wild flowers and herbs could grow there, and those who saw them could raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty. Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise." ~ Pope Francis

5 World Teachers Day – Pray in gratitude for those who have been your teachers. Send a card to one.

15 Feast of Teresa of Avila “The feeling remains that God is on the journey too.”

16 World Food Day – Make efforts to eat less meat, to eat more locally grown food, to waste less food.

17 Black Poetry Day – Check out the poetry of the African American poets Lucille Clifton, Langston Hughes, Newark’s own Amiri Baraka, Tracy Smith.

31 Halloween – In the Celtic tradition, this day is a “thin place” when the boundaries between this world and the next are very porous. Think of those you love who have gone before you into eternity – feel their closeness today.