

## Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation November 2013 Update

“I would like us all to make a serious commitment to respect and protect creation, to be attentive to every person, to counter the culture of waste and disposable and to promote a culture of solidarity and of encounter.” – Pope Francis, World Environment Day, June 5, 2013. *Below are some of the ways Sisters of Charity / Associates are working for the common good by promoting a culture of solidarity and encounter.*



**Figure 1** Sisters Grace Troisi, Marion Halpin, Margaret Angelovich and Teresita Duque at Pax Christ Metro NY Fall Assembly.

**At the Pax Christi Metro NY Fall Assembly** on November 2, Fr. Michael Crosby, OFM brought to life how St. Francis of Assisi took the reality of his day and imagined a whole new way of being in the world. Fr. Mike invited us to do the same: be aware of our reality and imagine new ways to witness to the gospel. He says Francis’ vision challenges us to repair the house (= family) defined by persons connected to it, their relationships and the resources involved among them. The ordering of God’s house (the Economic Trinity) is the model for all relationships in the Universe. All of us baptized into the

Trinitarian life are to model all of our personal, communal and structural relationships on earth as in heaven – this is God’s Plan (Economy). We are called to make peace in our individual lives, in our relationships, in the organizations and systems in our world, and in Creation. Thirteen Sisters of Charity were among the gathering of about 60 people.

**Hunger and poverty** are two critical issues that the Global Poverty Task Force addresses through raising awareness, advocacy and systemic change. You can participate in the work of the Task Force by visiting websites such as [www.jubileeusa.org](http://www.jubileeusa.org) (Jubilee USA Network) and [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) (Bread for the World) and taking suggested actions such as: Petition to the President and writing letters to Congress. Anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs such as SNAP, WIC, and PFDA must be protected.. The Task Force encourages the viewing of documentary “A Place At the Table” (available by calling Sr. Yolanda Bonitch at 718-796-1178). Pope Francis, in a 2013 World Food Day message to the director general of the UNFAO, says, “Hunger and malnutrition can never be considered a normal occurrence that we should become used to, as if it were part of the system. Something must change in ourselves, in our minds, in our societies.”

**Creation’s Transformative Energy Task Force** members took a carbon footprint survey to increase awareness of: 1) the interconnectedness and relationship of all life; and 2) how our lifestyle impacts Earth and lives of others. If you wish to take the survey, go to [www.myfootprint.org/en](http://www.myfootprint.org/en). If you take survey, feedback is appreciated!



**Hotel Outreach Campaign for Super Bowl 2014** is an initiative supported by the Sisters of Charity of New York, NY-CRC-STOP Trafficking and other groups with overall coordination by Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment. Volunteers will be reaching out to hotels in the greater NY area to raise awareness and offer resources to management and staff on identifying people who are trafficked. Statistics show that human trafficking increases during major sport

events. Sr. Mary Ellen O'Boyle is coordinating the efforts of the sisters, associates and CMSV students who are calling hotel managers.

**Advocating just comprehensive immigration reform** continues to be a priority of the Immigration Task Force and the Congregation. A Press Release on Immigration was developed and will be offered as part of an event scheduled for Saturday, November 23 at Loyola University, New Orleans. Visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org) for updated information and to send weekly electronic postcards to congress. We continue to pray for and advocate against the unjust detention system in the United States. Over 250 sisters / associates, CMSV students and colleagues signed a petition to support Luis Guerra's stay in the U.S. He has been granted a stay until his next hearing in March.

**Systemic Change** – SAVE THE DATE April 12, 2014. Sr. Nancy Sylvester (Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue) will facilitate a workshop on personal and social transformation. Visit [www.famvin.org](http://www.famvin.org) to view Fr. Guillermo Campuzano, CM's powerpoint presentations: *Moving Vincentian Spirituality to Action* and *Spirituality of Systemic Change*.

#### **Federation / Vincentian Family / NGO News**

- ❖ The Social Justice Representatives of the Vincentian Family of North America confer through monthly conference calls. Sisters Carol De Angelo, Eileen Judge and Mary Ellen O'Boyle participate. Three statements were recently finalized and will be on our website soon: Climate Change, Immigration and Collaboration. SCNY Leadership Team has endorsed these statements.
- ❖ The Fifty-Second Session of the Commission for Social Development will take place from February 11 – 21, 2014. The theme is "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all." Contact Sr. Cj Willie ([cjwilliengo@gmail.com](mailto:cjwilliengo@gmail.com)) if you want to participate for one, two or more days.

**Corporate Responsibility** The PJIC Think Tank (Task Force chairs and PJIC Director) is currently identifying best way to practice corporate responsibility on issues that both ICCR (Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility) and the Congregation (including Task Forces) address with companies both are involved with. We are also joining ICCR in other sign-ons. This month the Leadership Team signed on to an ICCR investor letter to Safeway that urges the company to make a formal commitment to not knowingly purchase or sell genetically engineered (GE) salmon or GE seafood even if it is approved by the FDA.

*Carol De Angelo, SC, PJIC Director November 12, 2013*