

## Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation – February 2014 PJIC Update



**Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration, and full employment and decent work for all** was the theme of 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Social Development (February 10-21). Nine sisters representing five Federation congregations are in picture on left. The Sisters of Charity Federation was one of many NGOs and CSOs that approved the 2014 Civil Society Declaration at the beginning of the session. Recommendations focused on: social protection floors; guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights, legal empowerment

of all people; formal and informal quality education; expansion of innovative sources of financing for development that prioritize public financing over public-private partnerships; and, special note of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of the Family. There is a movement towards establishing post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), successor to the Millennium Development Goals, which are holistic, inclusive, participative, equitable and universally applicable as well as measurable and monitored. Months ago Sr. Cj Willie invited us to answer *The United Nations Global Survey for a Better World*. Some of us did! This is one tool the UN will use as a way to empower and hear the voices of people. An analysis of input from completed questionnaires around the world can be viewed on [www.worldwewant2015.org](http://www.worldwewant2015.org). As work continues on the SDGs at the UN level, may we be more conscious of the possibilities, promise and power that exist through personal, Congregational, Sisters of Charity Federation and Vincentian Family involvement in eliminating poverty and creating the World We Want!



**February 1 Rally to urge US legislators to "SAY NO to Fast Tracking TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership).** Sister Carol De Angelo, SCNY PJIC Director and member of the executive committee of the Lower Hudson Chapter Sierra Club, joined with members of WESPAC, ILO and other groups to advocate for transparency as President Obama and leaders of countries and corporations negotiate this treaty. Of great concern is the increased power and role multinational corporations will have over people, states and nations in areas such as labor, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and environment. To learn more about TPP and other democracy issues we face as US citizens visit [www.billmoyers.com](http://www.billmoyers.com) and [www.citizens.org](http://www.citizens.org). Recent statements of US bishops on trade are at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

***Acting on Behalf of Justice from a Contemplative Heart***, April 12, 2014, Convent of Mary the Queen, RSVP to Laura Castells-Ortlieb, 718-549-9200, ext. 210 or [lcortlieb@scny.org](mailto:lcortlieb@scny.org).

***Boundless Charity Embraces Earth***, April 26, 2014 retreat at Genesis Farm connecting eco-spirituality and the Vincentian-Setonian charism. \$15. Inquiries and RSVP to Fr. Terry Moran at [tmoran@scnj.org](mailto:tmoran@scnj.org).



**Sisters Hill Farm and Systemic Change –**

Farmer Dave Hambleton’s excellent presentation to the Sponsorship Advisory Council at its February 1 meeting was a reminder to Sr. Carol that SCNY sponsored works are actively engaged in systemic change – each one in a unique way. Here is how Sr. Claire Regan expresses it: “So often we speak of structural change and think specifically about social or legal systems. Through the Creation’s Transformative Energy Task Force, I have come to see that lifestyle change is also structural change. An example of the lifestyle change

toward buying locally and buying healthily is expressed through the working of Sisters Hill Farm. Here, methods that do not use pesticides and that use time honored as well as innovative techniques of land management and soil replenishment, as well as practical methods of education have been spread by the students and shareholders across the area, State, and Nation. Change happens through people and relationships. The changes spawned through the work of Sisters Hill Farm are in alignment with a broadly sweeping awareness of the need to ‘make change’. Earth speaks her gentle assent to this movement of grace.”



**Faith, Climate Change, Lifestyle and Those Living in**

**Poverty – is there a connection?** On view at the February Congregation meeting was an educational display prepared by Associate Margaret Comaskey, a member of the Creation's Transformative Energy Task Force (CTE). Interfaith Power and Light’s *The Regeneration Project* provided resources. Theme for this year’s February 2014 Preach-In was “Climate Change”. Over 150 postcards to US Senators Schumer and Gillibrand were sent asking that they support EPA’s Carbon

Pollution Standards for New and Existing Power Plants. If your parish, school or workplace wishes to have the display and postcards to sign, please contact Carol De Angelo.



**The Larchmont Mamaroneck Interfaith Council**

invited Sr. Carol De Angelo to speak at their February 6 meeting on faith and environment. Her topic "In Awe of God's Creation: Celebrating and Consciously Choosing Life" was an invitation to take time to: experience the beauty of God’s Creation; celebrate life with its interconnectedness and richness of diversity; and, grow in mutually enhancing Earth-human relationships.

**Water and Energy is Theme of 2014 World Water Day, March 22.** Booklets to help us reverence and use water wisely were prepared by Sr. Mary Kay Finneran, member of Global Poverty Food and Water Subcommittee. Contact Mary Kay at [mkfinneran@gmail.com](mailto:mkfinneran@gmail.com) if you wish a copy.

*Carol De Angelo, SC, Director of P/JIC Office, February 24, 2014*