

Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation – January 2014 Update

An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles, its hopes and aspirations, its strengths and weaknesses. The Earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters. If indeed “the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics” the Church “cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.” ... (Evangelii Gaudium, #183, Chapter 4 The Social Dimension of Evangelization)

The ministry of peace, justice and integrity of creation of the Sisters of Charity of New York extends beyond the PJIC Office and work of Task Forces, its members and chairs. This month we give thanks for all of you who participate in the PJIC ministry, often unknown and unseen by many of us. We acknowledge and are grateful for those mentioned below. You or another sister or associate may be involved in a PJIC ministry we are not aware of. If so, please contact Sr. Carol De Angelo so we can share with others.

- ❖ Sr. Charlotte Raftery is a Board member of New York City Coalition Against Hunger. NYCCAH serves, advocates for and empowers people to address systemically the growing problem of hunger and food security. Visit www.nyccah.org to find out about Food Secure NYC 2018.
- ❖ Sr. Florence Speth is a Board member of Homeless Services United, a coalition of people who work with and advocate for homeless (www.hsunited.org).
- ❖ Sr. Winifred Lyons in her pro-life ministry visits elementary schools in the NY Archdiocese assisting children to first respect themselves and then others. The children identify topics such as sharing, caring and not cheating. She helps the older children create age appropriate lesson plans for the younger children. Sr. Winifred is also available for people involved in crisis pregnancies and post abortion situations.
- ❖ Sr. Ellen O’Connell is a member of the Education Committee of Pax Christi Metro NY.
- ❖ Sr. Andrea Dixon is a Commissioner of the Office of Black Ministry (OBM) for the Archdiocese of New York. The OBM works with the Catholic black community (fastest growing group of Catholics in NY Archdiocese) to build a church community and plan events to celebrate Black Church and its diversity and contributions to the NY Archdiocese. The annual Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral on the first Sunday of February is a witness to this growing Church. Visit www.obmny.org for more information.

Let us pray for each other:

- ❖ *May we grow in awareness of the interconnectedness and relationship between issues, people and all God’s Creation.*
- ❖ *May we recognize that our presence, witness, prayer, letter writing, emails and calls to public and corporate leaders make a difference and impact the common good.*
- ❖ *May faithfulness to Jesus and the gospel offer us a vision and hope for a just, peaceful and loving world.*
- ❖ *May the Christian and vowed life be a source of strength, courage, risk taking and flexibility as we collaborate with others, especially those living in poverty, war, oppression and violence.*

Public Witness: At Assembly 2011, Assembly Delegates voted that the Leadership Team of the Sisters of Charity of New York speak out publicly and more often on issues of global poverty, immigration and human trafficking. Listed below are actions, letters or statements that the Leadership Team has signed since December 2012 through January 2014, either in the Congregation's name or Leadership Team's name (if issues were not mandated at the 2011 Assembly).

December 2012

1. Call to Action to NYC Leaders to develop strategies and policies against hunger (in Congregation's name). This action was coordinated by New York City Coalition against Hunger (www.nyccah.org) and Interfaith Center of New York.

February 2013

1. Call to Action on Climate Change (in Leadership Team's name) sponsored by the Interfaith Moral Action on Climate, www.interfaithactiononclimatechange.org.
2. New Yorkers Against Fracking - Leadership Team signed on as a faith leader.
3. February 6 PRAY-IN against Fracking (in Leadership Team's name) at Governor Cuomo's Manhattan Office (endorsed by Food and Water Watch, Sierra Club and other groups).

March 2013

1. United to End Homelessness Platform (www.endhomelessness.org) also addresses homelessness and affordable housing needs – in Leadership Team's name.

May 2013

1. ICCR (Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility) Investor Statement on Bangladesh – in Congregation's name)

June 2013

1. Letter to Secretary of State John Kerry urging support for the Bangladesh Safety Accord (on Fire and Building Safety) – in Congregation's name.

August 2013

1. Letter to Niki asking that they sign the Bangladesh Accord (request of ICCR) – in Congregation's name

September 2013

1. Letter to House of Representatives demanding protection, security and family unity under US Custom and Border Protection – in Congregations name.
2. Letter regarding next appointment of chair of Federal Reserve by President Obama (request of Jubilee USA) – in Congregation's name.

October 2013

1. SCNY Press Release on Comprehensive Immigration Reform (developed by Immigration Task Force and approved by Leadership Team in name of Congregation) was used for a New Orleans event.

November 2013

1. ICCR Guidance Document, "Statement of Principles and Recommended Practices for Confronting Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery" – in Congregation's name. Statement and list of endorsers sent to companies in Food and Agriculture and Hospitality sectors.

January 2014

1. An Energy Vision Statement on the Heartland of Kentucky's 'Holy Land' – in Leadership's name. More information at www.lorettocommunity.org/energy.

Carol De Angelo, SC, Director of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation, SCNY, January 14, 2014