

Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation – September/October 2013 Update



Human Trafficking – Modern Day Slavery

Sister Carol De Angelo with CMSV sophomores, Erika Pichardo and Gabrielle Loccisano attended the September 26 ICCR event, *Breaking the Bonds – Modern Day Strategies to Counter Modern Day Slavery*. Gabrielle, president of the Women’s Issues Club said it “was meritorious. It was eye-opening to hear from such distinguished panelists, especially Ima Matul, a survivor organizer for CAST. Not only were the panelists amazing but so were the attendees. Dealing with the issue of Modern Day Slavery is complex but it is reassuring to know that there are many wonderful people dedicating themselves to the fight.” To create greater awareness of the reality, panelists urged that we use the term “modern day slavery” rather than human trafficking. They also encouraged us to recognize and address laws, regulations and practices in areas of labor, human rights, environment and foster care system, as well as in the hospitality and sports industries, from a holistic perspective rather than compartmentalizing. We will abolish modern day slavery when we recognize our role in it as consumers. One concrete suggestion they offered: type in the phase, human trafficking footprint, in your computer’s search engine to understand better how each person contributes to human trafficking.

Syria – Sr. Mary Kay Finneran shares her experience on the *Say No to War in Syria* vigil and rally sponsored by WESPAC and other groups. “On Friday, September 6th, Sisters Lily Butler, Carol De Angelo and I joined hundreds of others who were opposed to a United States attack on Syria. We gathered at a main intersection in White Plains and then marched to the office of Representative Anita Lowey to share our concerns. It was amazing to experience the response of people on the street and in cars who gave us a Thumbs Up to a non-military response.”

Immigration Highlights

- ❖ 500 NETWORK postcards were distributed to many groups and 145 were signed and sent back to NETWORK to be delivered to Congress advocating for just comprehensive immigration reform;
- ❖ 48 signed letters (in July) were faxed or sent to Ravi Ragbir, coordinator of New Sanctuary Coalition – NYC, and presented to the judge at a hearing requesting that Joaquin S. Corona Solis not be deported. At the hearing, decision was delayed for a few months. Keep Joaquin and this request in prayer.
- ❖ A \$5000 ministry grant has been approved for New Sanctuary Coalition – NYC, a group with which we collaborate in many ways.
- ❖ On August 22nd Sr. Lily Butler joined 7 other faith leaders to participate with the New Sanctuary Movement - NYC in an act of Civil Disobedience. All 8 were arrested outside the Detention Center on Varrick Street in lower Manhattan. Sister Lily who accompanies those facing detention and deportation says of her decision, “I am grateful to be able to take this risk in an effort toward achieving

Comprehensive Immigration Reform.” All eight will appear in court in early November.

- ❖ On Saturday, October 5th Sr. Lily joined hundreds of others in Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn for an Interfaith rally again asking for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Lily was joined by seventeen day laborers from the Yonkers area. Hopefully our legislators can hear the cries of these people for just and humane laws and regulations. At the October 5 Congregation Day, sisters and associates signed over 100 letters requesting that Luis Guerra remain in this country and not be deported.



The International Day of Peace was celebrated around the Peace Pole at Mount Saint Vincent on Thursday, September 19. About fifty participants (students, sisters, associates, staff and professors) gathered for “A Celebration of Peace”. The event was sponsored by the CMSV Office of Campus Ministry, PJIC Office of Sisters of Charity of New York and student groups. Ritual included songs and dance. Representatives from student groups and the SCNY Church Group and Task Forces (Global Poverty, Immigration, Creation’s

Transformative Energy and Human Trafficking) offered petitions of peace and hope.

“Radioactive Gas in Our Pipelines” Carol De Angelo attended an October 4 Conservation Café held at Pace University, Pleasantville Campus. The supply of natural gas to our homes, businesses, schools and other buildings is expected to change this November when the new Spectra Pipeline to New York City is scheduled to be completed. The natural gas will be delivered from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania, potentially transporting significantly high levels of radon mixed with the gas, characteristic of the Marcellus Shale, which underlies Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and New York. Fracking, with its impact on health, land, air, water and long-term implications, was also addressed.

Fracking – Sisters Mary Kay Finneran and Carol De Angelo attended a September 11 viewing of Gaslands II, a film documentary which highlights how effects of fracking are kept secret or even falsely denied. Sr. Mary Kay Finneran says, “I came away with a sense of needing to continue educating myself and sharing this information with others on an everyday basis. Yes, YOU CAN DO SOMETHING. Call Gov. Cuomo at 518-474-8390 and tell him to say NO to FRACKING – join with the Food and Water Subcommittee of the Global Poverty Task Force and say no to fracking.”

Corporate Public Witness – over the summer the Leadership Team, on behalf of the Sisters of Charity of New York, signed on to two letters: Jubilee USA letter addressed to President Obama regarding next appointment of chair of Federal Reserve and letter addressed to House of Representatives demanding protection, security and family unity under US Custom and Border Protection. *Carol De Angelo, PJIC Director, October 7, 2013*