

## Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation – December 2013 Update

“The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.” Pope Francis opens his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (November 2013) with this sentence. Inspiration, wisdom, challenge and support can be found in its 224 pages. When you read Section #71 think of the many ways we do this in personal and corporate ministries (e.g. Task Forces, Sponsored Works, committees, Sisters of Charity Federation NGO): “...We need to look at our cities with a contemplative gaze, a gaze of faith that sees God dwelling in their homes, in their streets and squares. God’s presence accompanies the sincere efforts of individuals and groups to find encouragement and meaning in their lives. He dwells among them, fostering solidarity, fraternity, and the desire for goodness, truth and justice. This presence must not be contrived but found, uncovered...”



**Pilgrimage for Reform Immigration –** Sisters of Charity, Wilda Asfour, Lily Butler, Carol De Angelo and Mary Kay Finneran joined delegates from three dioceses, New York Archdiocese, Brooklyn / Queens and Rockville Center for the pilgrimage on Friday, November 22, 2013. As part of the pilgrimage, three immigrants, one from each of the

dioceses, shared their stories at Our Lady of the Rosary (Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton), State Street. The group of about 45 pilgrims then processed to Battery Park praying a decade of the rosary facing five stations, each with a special significance for immigrants (Statue of Liberty, Statue of Immigrants, Castle Clinton, Ellis Island and the 9/11 Eternal Flame). Our time and prayer together was inspiring and moving – reminding us of the struggle, challenges and gifts of immigrants who have brought so much to the United States of America. We can continue to welcome the immigrant and pray and advocate for just comprehensive immigration reform by visiting [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org) weekly to send an electronic postcard to our representative and senators. Contact Sr. Lorraine Cooper if you wish to “Take A Legislator to Prayer”. We can support those facing deportation and detention by participating in the Jericho Walk virtually each Thursday by praying the Jericho Walk Prayer (contact Sr. Wilda Asfour for a copy).



### **“Sustainability on a Finite Planet: One NGO’s Approach to a Future We Want.”**

On November 21, eight Sisters of Charity, Maureen Alexander, Wilda Asfour, Rose Bianco, Lily Butler, Carol De Angelo, Mary Kay Finneran, Elizabeth Judge and Helen McGovern and Daughter of Charity, Julie Cutter, Executive Director of the Sisters of Charity Federation joined about forty CMSV

students and professors for Sr. Caroljean Willie’s presentation in Benedict’s. Informative and inspiring, the presentation reminded us that the Sisters of Charity Federation and its NGO touch the lives of people and influence and change unjust

structures throughout the world. As a congregation, we participate in this ministry that is both global and local.



**"What's Faith Got to Do With Sustainability?"** Sisters Carol De Angelo and Doris Heinlein (not in picture), with lay colleague Hasita Nadai, attended a November 18<sup>th</sup> RNGO (Religious NGO Committee) panel and discussion. As panelists spoke of the significance of awe and wonder in our lives, of being part of an interconnected Universe, of creation as the primary context of revelation and of caring for God's Creation, I thought of the many sisters, associates and lay colleagues involved in the Creation's Transformative Energy Task Force, the Life Transforming Spirituality Group, the Stanfordville Cosmological Spirituality Group and other groups we collaborate with (e.g. GreenFaith, ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River) and NYIPL (New York Interfaith Power and Light) – faith based groups that offer a vision and specific actions to care for God's Creation.

**A Suggested Action** from Sisters of Earth Sr. Miriam Terese MacGillis: Go to [www.lorettocommunity/energy.org](http://www.lorettocommunity/energy.org). Read, reflect on and sign "An Energy Vision from the Heart of Kentucky's "Holy Land". Encourage individuals and groups to do the same.



**December 10 Human Rights Day, Pope Francis calls for a Worldwide Wave of Prayer to End World Hunger** – Steve Groth, Bread for the World member, is passionate about ending world hunger. Seeking partners in this work, he finds support knowing that the Global Poverty Task Force and other Sisters of Charity are working to end hunger in US and abroad. Steve organized the Ardsley wave of prayer (at noon in each time zone). Pope Francis invites us to join the campaign against hunger, *One Human Family, Food for All*.

**We join the world in prayer and sorrow over the death of Nelson Mandela**, former President of South Africa, who spent his whole life working for human rights for the black population of his country. After 27 years of imprisonment for his efforts, he was a model of forgiveness and reconciliation with those who had imprisoned and tortured him. Through the work of Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, the Sisters of Charity of NY were involved in working for an end to apartheid in S. Africa in the 1980's. We sponsored several shareholder resolutions to companies doing business in S. Africa (e.g., GM, Citibank, IBM, etc.) asking them to withdraw from the country, since their presence economically supported the unjust system of apartheid. Many Sisters will remember withdrawing their house bank accounts from Manufacturers Hanover Bank, joining a nation-wide protest against the Bank's presence in South Africa. We rejoiced in 1990, when Mr. Mandela visited NYC - visible proof that our small efforts were part of the worldwide effort for racial equality in South Africa. Rest in peace, Nelson Mandela. *(We thank Regina Murphy for helping us to remember and recall our collective history!*

*Carol De Angelo, SC, Director, December 11, 2013*