

SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation September 2014 Update
Special issue on People's Climate March



We were 400,000 or more, but we were part of a much bigger effort to speak the truth to power. There were similar events in over 150 cities around the world. It was awesome to be a part of that effort.
– Eileen Judge, SC

To be part of such a large, peaceful gathering of committed men and women was a spiritual uplift. As we heard from and walked with persons on fire with love and respect for our earth, I found myself bursting with gratitude for this unifying spirit. – *Mary Carmel Craig, SC*

Marching for climate change was a wonderful, peaceful experience. It was inspiring to be with so many young people who really demonstrated the urgent need for governments and all people to participate in caring for the universe. May this movement continue to grow, and may we all do what we can in making needed changes. – *Mary Sugrue, SC*



Sunday's March was an inspiring and hope-filled event -- so many ages, religions, backgrounds, creativity, and determination -- focusing on our Earth! – *Mary Donagher, SC*

Seeing thousands from various faiths all united on our care of mother earth and climate justice. – *Mary Kay Finneran, SC*

This march was just too important to miss, and I am glad to have been there. The peaceful, joyous, inclusive spirit and the creativity of the various groups made it a truly good experience - and fun! I don't think I will forget walking down Sixth Avenue singing at full voice. – *Margaret O'Brien, SC*

I was overwhelmed by the number of young people who took their place on the frontlines of a movement that, it is hoped, will save our planet. – *Mary Mc Cormick, SC*



It was indeed a wonderful experience. I was moved by the sheer variety of folks - young, old, all faiths and none. I also loved those sitting in meditation on the rocks of Central Park, as we passed. – *Zeni Fox, Seton Hall University*

Being at the climate march was not an option. It was a necessity. I had to be there! – *Steve Groth, SCNY PJIC Colleague*

Participating in the power-filled response of hundreds of thousands to the summons to heal our wounded planet renewed me in mind, body and spirit. I am most grateful to the

team that started this impetus. I pray that industrial nations will listen and befriend “green energy”. – Lily Butler, SC



The People's Climate March brought together 400,000 people of different faiths, ethnicities, and backgrounds to become a unified voice for the need of positive change. It was one of the most humbling and exhilarating experiences of my life - which taught me that every voice can be heard even among masses. Change is possible as long as we band together, enlighten others and do our best to make our world a better place. – Gabrielle Loccisano, CMSV student

The People’s Climate March on Sunday, September 21 was an historic, exciting and inspiring event. The Vincentian Family had a strong presence at the march. Thank you to everyone who participated through physical presence or in spirit through prayer and support. Sisters of Charity of New York Pat Brennan, Lily Butler, Mary Carmel Craig, Carol De Angelo, Andrea Dixon, Mary Donagher, Mary Kay Finneran, Mary Ann Garisto, Vivienne Joyce, Eileen Judge, Connie Kelly, Mary McCormick, Regina Murphy, Mary Ellen O’Boyle, Margaret O’Brien, Florence Speth and Mary Sugrue marched as did Companions in Charity, Kathryn Brady and Karen Killeen. Other Sisters of Charity Federation and Vincentian Family members represented were the Daughters of Charity, SC-Halifax, SC-NJ, St. John’s University, College of St. Elizabeth and College of Mount Saint Vincent (22 students came with Matt Shields, Director of Campus Ministry, and an alum). Zeni Fox brought a group from Seton Hall University. James Addison from LEFSA, a SCNY sponsored work, and Steve Groth, a SCNY lay colleague, were there. The crowds were so great it was difficult to find people – so there may have been more!



Ribbon Project at end of PCM – marchers were asked to write on ribbon what they most loved, cared for, were concerned about Earth. Picture was taken by Petra Halbur, journalist student at Hofstra University. Pictures of Ark and Minaret were also taken by Petra.

Marching into 2015 and beyond! There was a strong Catholic as well as interfaith presence at the People’s Climate March. Many Catholics are committed to climate change as a moral and faith issue. Those who were part of Catholic organizing calls for the PCM want to stay connected so that Catholics, with other faith groups, will be part of the growing movement of people of faith speaking out on behalf of Earth. Go to www.ourvoices.net to see how you can take action. Our Voices, bringing faith to the climate talks, is a multi-faith international campaign for a strong climate treaty at the Paris 2015 Climate Summit. People of faith are encouraged to sign the online petition and to tell the stories of how people of faith are responding to climate change.

For more information, contact Carol De Angelo, SC, PJIC Director, cdeangelo@scny.org