



SISTERS OF CHARITY ACTION NETWORK

Office of Justice, Peace and Ecological Integrity
A collaborative ministry of the SC's of New York and New Jersey

DATE: April 1, 2011

April Justice

For all those with green thumbs, Earth lovers, gardeners, farmers, advocates and artists already in our midst...

Messenger

My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird —
equal seekers of sweetness.
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?
Am I no longer young, and still not half-perfect? Let me
keep my mind on what matters,
which is my work,

which is mostly standing still and learning to be
astonished.

The phoebe, the delphinium.
The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.
Which is mostly rejoicing, since all ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart
and these body-clothes,
a mouth with which to give shouts of joy
to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,
telling them all, over and over, how it is
that we live forever.

~ Mary Oliver ~

Libya

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCLN) wants us to Urge Congress to Challenge the War in Libya. They argue that cruise missile strikes, bombing runs, and arms supplies to the anti-government rebels will not produce a long-term resolution to the problems in Libya. The U.S. military intervention is only worsening the complicated solution in Libya. **There is no military solution to what is at heart a political and humanitarian problem. If you agree, [Tell your senators and representative: an immediate ceasefire and robust diplomacy are needed.](#)**

Immigration/Trafficking

1-States introduce Dream Act Yesterday, State Senator Bill Perkins (District 30) introduced the New York DREAM Act (S. 4179), co-sponsored by State Senator Dan Squadron (District 25). This bill would provide benefits to New York undocumented youth who meet certain criteria. The benefits include access to financial aid for higher education, access to driver's licenses, work authorization and access to health care. Write to your legislators and let them know you are for this law. Ask them to get on board. New York now joins Maryland, California, Illinois, and Connecticut as states that are trying to push state versions of the [DREAM Act](#). We need state action because the federal version of the DREAM Act was filibustered in the U.S. Senate late last year -- despite strong support from the public and majorities in both Houses of Congress.

Detention Centers

2-After a 20 month investigation of conditions in US detention centers, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights says that the Immigration Detention System violates Human Rights obligations and it urges the U.S. government to expand alternatives to detention programs. President Obama and ICE must implement the IACHR's recommendations. By failing to follow through on its detention reform commitment, the U.S. government betrays its international human rights commitments and, as importantly, the American families and communities who suffer when loved ones and neighbors are locked up in a dangerously broken detention system. Deportation in the US has increased by 1200% since 2009. The New York Immigration Coalition is supporting a letter writing campaign <http://www.thenyic.org/pencampaign/crisis-numbers>

Human Trafficking

3-See report on the March 26th meeting at Fordham, co-sponsored by the university and CRC-Stop Trafficking, a coalition of over 30 congregations including the SCNY's. http://www.fordham.edu/Campus_Resources/eNewsroom/topstories_2072.asp

For Ongoing Info on Trafficking

4-Stop Trafficking Newsletter www.stopenslavement.org

Earth

Earth Day is April 22nd

1-This year's theme is a billion acts of green. Click on the www.earthday.org website to find out what's going on and to join with others. Go to www.3vphotos.com Slideshow#7 to see the SCNY's Organic Farm summer experience from 2010.

2-As we pray for the people in Japan, we are asked to pray for the people of Fukushima where uranium is now being found in drinking water. See Congressman, Eliot Engel's letter to Secretary of Energy, Dr. Stephen Chu, <http://engel.house.gov/>, in requesting that the nuclear plant at Indian Point not be granted relicensing at this time. Senator Engel feels that because of its proximity to the metro area, the financial center and its location near a fault line, that if its owners were looking for initial permission to build a plant today, given our current knowledge of the risks, it would not be granted.

Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20585

3-Hydrofracking - Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” is a drilling technique in which a mix of water, sand, and chemicals is injected into the well bore at high pressure to crack the rock, allowing natural gas to flow more freely...Critics say wastewater produced by these gas wells contains harmful substances and poses a threat to towns up and down the Delaware River in Pennsylvania and in New Jersey. To prevent water quality degradation, future pollution, and to protect the health and safety of all residents, ask your representatives to put a moratorium on this practice of drilling for natural gas.

http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2011/03/lawmakers_seek_to_ban_fracking.html

4-Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium is supporting the shift in humanity, from a dream rooted in consumption and competition, to one of sustainability and mutuality. Some years ago people from North America and indigenous people from the rainforests recognized that people needed to have an awakening to move into environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on this plane. [Read more about the program](#)

Keene NH, US - Keene State College

Afternoon April 9, 2011 (1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.)

Coffee, tea and snacks will be available. Cost \$5

For more information please contact: Katy Locke 603-357-2626 katylocke@myfairpoint.net

Long Branch NJ, US - Stella Maris Retreat Center

Day long July 13, 2011 (9:00a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

Registration 8:30am to 9:00am Cost \$30

For more information please contact: Mary Ellen Blackwell 609-394-5181

mblackwell@cctrenton.org

5-Journey to the Universe –New film narrated by Brian Swimme is being previewed on April 21st from 5:30pm-6:30pm at the Kimmel Center of NYU. For more info or to RSVP to http://www.nyu.edu/rsvp/event.php?e_id=3490

Haiti

1-Microfinancing- This is the 1st year anniversary of the Vincentian Project, Zafen at www.zafen.org During this week Vincentians will match your contributions up to \$25,000 to small business projects that will help Haitian people. <http://famvin.org/en/archive/vincentians-double-your-money-april-1-7>

2-Click here to read an interview of a ten year old with a Haitian author who wrote about a boy who was rescued from the rubble. The author recommends several other books to help children understand the situation in Haiti. <http://clintonbushhaitifund.org/page/-/eightdaysrevised.pdf>