



# SISTERS OF CHARITY ACTION NETWORK

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

DATE: June 1, 2011

JUNE JUSTICE- *From a Distance*, the old Bette Midler song, began “God is watching us.” The world that is seen in that song is one that is green, peaceful and made up of each of us, instruments playing songs of peace and hope. Technology today doesn’t allow us to keep people and situations at a distance. Images of violence, stories of corruption, natural and man-made disasters appear nightly on our televisions. Radio news programs give us the world in 22 minutes. Facebook and twitter give us access to stranger/friends and their friends and families!

Today, I believe a more true statement would read, “Right here in our midst, God is impelling us” to give voice and visibility to the issues that haunt us individually and collectively. They aren’t pretty, or simple or easy to change. Yet there is still a call to do something. Martin Luther King, Jr. continuing the music metaphor says it well:

“Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major,  
say that I was a drum major for justice;  
say that I was a drum major for peace;  
I was a drum major for righteousness.  
I want to leave a committed life behind.”

Summer gives us the opportunity to read and reflect. If you come across an article, book, or dvd that challenges you, clarifies an issue or gives you direction or support, be sure to share it, not only with your friends but also with us. Email: [mkhamm@scny.org](mailto:mkhamm@scny.org) or [mkhamm@scnj.org](mailto:mkhamm@scnj.org)

Three Book Recommendations-

*Everyday Justice –The Global Impact of our Daily Choices*, by Julie Clawson

*Walk Out Walk On: A Learning Journey into Communities Daring to Live the Future Now*, by Margaret Wheatley

*The Death of Josseline-Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands*, by Margaret Regan

## BUDGET PRIORITIES

Congress is considering a 20% increase in nuclear weapons spending.

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (HR 1540) was approved by the House of Representatives on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The bill now goes on to be voted on in the Senate. The act authorizes \$690 billion in defense spending, including \$7.63 billion for nuclear weapons activities. While Congress is debating budget cuts to life-saving domestic programs, this bill increases nuclear weapons spending by 20% over 2010 funding levels.

[Ask your Senator to act for peace today!](#)

IMMIGRATION Resources at

[http://www.longislandwins.com/index.php/immigration/detail/immigration\\_101\\_the\\_chinese\\_exclusion\\_act\\_cases/](http://www.longislandwins.com/index.php/immigration/detail/immigration_101_the_chinese_exclusion_act_cases/)

**IMMIGRANT YOUTH** On May 11, 2011 Senator Richard Durbin introduced the DREAM Act of 2011, S. 952: a bill to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children. Urge Senators to cosponsor S. 952.

**JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS IS THE WEBSITE OF THE USCCB** that has information on issues, current statements and letters by bishops and advocacy campaigns. Currently it is related to sending postcards to our congress people related to immigrant reform.  
[www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

**ELIZABETH DETENTION CENTER ACTION** <http://www.irate-firstfriends.org/>

Almost within sight of the Statue of Liberty, there are 326 immigrants languishing in “detention”. They are confined to dormitories inside a windowless, converted warehouse. The detainees never leave the building, never breathe fresh air, and are never called by their name.

A major concern for the detainees is to be in contact with family and friends. For many of the detainees even this simple pleasure is denied, since they do not have money to purchase stationery, stamped envelopes or phone cards.

*First Friends* is an organization that is sponsoring STAMP OUT DESPAIR. Send a donation to help meet the goal of gifting each detainee with a supply of stamped envelopes, greeting cards, writing paper and funds for phone service. SCNJ contact is S. Jacquelyn Balasia.

If you would like information about this action or about visiting the detainees, call S. Regina Holtz at 908-965-0455 or email her at [Firstfriends2@juno.com](mailto:Firstfriends2@juno.com)

IRATE & First Friends 321 South Broad Street Elizabeth, NJ 07202

**EARTH- Hydrofracking Legislation**

Ask your representative and senators to support the FRAC Act!

Companies that are threatening our drinking water with hydraulic fracturing can't be held accountable under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and they don't have to disclose the nearly 600 chemicals that they are injecting into the ground. The FRAC Act will fix this.  
[http://action.foodandwaterwatch.org/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=6726](http://action.foodandwaterwatch.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=6726)

**EARTH-NY-Hydrofracking Legislation**

It's a dirty little secret that the gas industry is exempt from regulations governing hazardous waste disposal. That means toxic drilling waste from other states can be brought into New York for disposal, even to treatment facilities that are not equipped to handle it. It's time to close this loophole and protect our state's drinking water and our health.

Bills are pending in the New York State Legislature (A.7013/S.4616) that would subject all hazardous fracking waste to the same common

EARTH- [www.awakeningthedreamer.org](http://www.awakeningthedreamer.org)

The *Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium* is a transformative educational experience that empowers participants to respond to humanity's current situation with action and informed, grounded optimism about our future. Symposiums are being offered across the globe. This summer a day-long experience is offered at Stella Maris Retreat Center 981 Ocean Ave., Long Branch, NJ 07740. Cost: \$30 USD. Make check payable to: Catholic Charities/PSM Mail check by June 20, 2011 .

Mail to: Catholic Charities/PSM, 383 W. State Street Trenton, NJ 08618

#### TRAFFICKING- ASK HERSHEY TO USE FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE

New DVD-THE DARK SIDE OF CHOCOLATE tells how child slaves from Mali are used in the harvesting of Cocoa beans on the Ivory Coast and in Ghana. The chocolate companies have signed a protocol forbidding this, the Harkin Engel Protocol, yet it continues. Put pressure on Hershey's to certify that the chocolate they use does not involve the exploitation of children.

Send an email/Sign a Petition/ available from this office or on website

<http://www.laborrights.org/stop-child-forced-labor/cocoa-campaign/resources/12415>

1-To make an agreement to take immediate action to eliminate forced and child labor in violation of ILO conventions 29, 105, 138, and 182 from Hershey's cocoa supply chain through tracing its supply chain to the farm level sourcing from farmers who can show through independent verification that they do not use forced labor or child labor asking suppliers to end such practices at the farms from which they source.

2-To make a commitment to sourcing 100% Fair Trade Certified™ cocoa beans by 2012 for at least one of its top five selling chocolate bars that prominently displays the Hershey name.

#### 3-Attend a Rally

When: June 8, 2011; 10:30am – 12:30pm

Where: In front of the Hershey Store in Times Square, 1593 Broadway. (Northwest corner of Broadway and 48th Street, Manhattan)

Who will be there: The International Labor Rights Forum, Global Exchange and Green America in conjunction with local NYC social justice and fair trade organizations, faith groups, students and schools and concerned consumers who don't want their chocolate treats linked to labor rights abuses. This rally will also draw attention to the ongoing problem of child labor in West Africa's cocoa industry just days before World Day Against Child Labor (which takes place on June 12<sup>th</sup>).

TRAFFICKING ON BACKPAGE.COM Backpage.com is a meeting place for traffickers, pimps and customers to sexually exploit women and children. The Village Voice Media owns this website. Revenue from classified ads is about 3 million a month. Encourage this company to shut down the adult services section of the ads. <http://www.enddemandnyc.org/petition.htm>

THE EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE WEB PROJECT was created to help teachers, social action directors, parish members, campus ministers, and others in leadership roles to meet the challenge of sharing Catholic Social Teaching and bring greater awareness to social justice issues. Through all of the materials available on the web site, we seek not only to introduce Catholic Social Teaching to a wider audience but to help deepen the knowledge of this essential element of faith and to help develop solidarity with all those in the global community who are suffering and oppressed.

We have a year-long group subscription to this site. If you are interested in the login information and password, please contact the Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity

Thank you.

Kati Hamm, SC