



SISTERS OF CHARITY ACTION NETWORK

Office of Justice, Peace and Ecological Integrity
A Collaborative Ministry of the SCs of New York and New Jersey

March Justice

"Metanoia, conversion, is about shedding one set of attitudes, one kind of consciousness for another. We simply have to be where we are with a different state of mind."

Joan Chittister OSB [The Qualities of the Illuminated Life](#)

"In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs."

Thomas Merton OCSO [Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander](#)

FOCUS ON IMMIGRANTS

On Ash Wednesday March 9, 2011, Pax Christi NJ is initiating a pilgrimage that will take participants from the footbridge at Ellis Island to the barbed wire fences at the gates of the Elizabeth Detention Center. Ellis Island is a powerful symbol of our nation's history of welcoming immigrants. However, the current reality is that 1500 immigrants are currently being held in NJ in the Elizabeth Detention Center and local county jails with plans to build a massive new 2700 bed facility next to the Essex County Correctional Facility in Newark. **Join for part of the walk, attend the vigil, or join in prayer. Send a "postcard" to your representatives asking for compassionate, comprehensive reform by clicking on www.justiceforimmigrants.org**

The New Sanctuary Movement of New York, a coalition of religious congregations, asked their members to take a stand against the Secure Communities Act which uses its power to send immigrants, who are awaiting trial, to detention centers and eventual deportation. **Find out more information and make copies or sign a petition, <http://newsanctuarynyc.wordpress.com/2011/02/22/a-call-to-end-nycs-collaboration-with-ice/>** Although the intent of this law may be good, the means to the end are contradictory to our belief that people are innocent until proven guilty. Besides tearing apart families, it also undermines the confidence immigrant people have in the justice system. **Watch a 12 minute Video called, *Families under Threat*. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q50Dc00NZfs>**

FOCUS ON WOMEN

March 8, 2011 is celebrated as the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. As we are part of the group being celebrated, you might enjoy taking a moment to give thanks for all who have gone before us. See a three minute video, "1911-2011-From Suffragette to Social Networker".

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UW44GxmAz08&feature=related>

There is still much to be done as we learn from the UN DESA report for March 2010,
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/wwpop2010.htm>

There is a International Women's Day Prayer available as an attachment to this mailing or at www.scnj.org .

On March 26th, 2011, 9:30am - 3:00pm, Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus, will host a TRAFFICKING OF YOUNG WOMEN PANEL. To register, RSVP by MARCH 12 at <http://lifewaynetwork.org/2011/02/17/register-now/> Location of the event is O'Keefe Commons, O'Hare Hall. The event will include speaker Rachael Lloyd, the founder of Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS),

and a panel exposing us to the plight of young women who are sold into labor or sex slavery here in New York, throughout the United States and worldwide. We will have time for questions, discussion and planning.

STOP TRAFFICKING NEWSLETTER serves as a monthly forum for exchange among religious congregations and their collaborating organization to promote awareness, advocacy, empowerment and action to counter human trafficking. This month's newsletter gives many links for information and action on this issue. A new feature, one page information sheet to raise awareness, is found in the archives section under education.
<http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html>

FOCUS ON THE WORLD AFRICA/The Congo

What are we talking about when we say Conflict Free Minerals? <http://www.enoughproject.com/>
See a rating of 21 companies that produce cell phones and computers. By a click of the mouse, contact your favorite tech company producer and ask to ensure that their products use only conflict free minerals.
<http://www.raisehopeforcongo.org/>

March 26, 2010 EARTH HOUR 2011, For the Planet, By the People

At 8:30pm on Saturday March 26, 2011, Earth Hour will celebrate a worldwide commitment to ongoing change for the betterment of the one thing that unites us all—the planet. Your journey can start here by signing up and adding your voice to the hundreds of millions across the globe who have already spoken with their actions
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65NNtuVjNNU&feature=player_embedded#at=49
<http://www.worldwildlife.org/sites/earthhour/index.html>

ENVIRONMENT March 22, 2011 UN Water declares World Water Day: Responding to the Urban Challenge. Water is a human right. 900,000 million people live without access to clean water. **The objective of World Water Day 2011** is to focus international attention on the impact of rapid urban population growth, industrialization and uncertainties caused by climate change, conflicts and natural disasters on urban water systems. Look below to see how you can raise awareness. World Walks for Water
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbVPnqJ73xQ>
<http://www.worldwalksforwater.org/dl/eng/leaflet.pdf>

See what one of our NJ associates, Jean Semler, is involved with in Uganda
http://www.lutefs.com/app/mission/mission_ThePeopleBehindChange.jsp
or write to your legislators in Washington asking them not to cut the budget in this area.

Dear _____

March 22nd is World Water Day, reminding us that safe drinking water is essential for human health and economic development. But nearly one billion people around the world live without access to safe drinking water and 2.5 billion do not have adequate toilets. Even more alarming, the problem is getting worse instead of better.

The most cost-effective and direct way for our country to help reduce poverty, disease and hunger is to help increase access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation for millions. Life-saving programs are at risk due to budget cuts, even though clean water is one of the best investments we can make in tight economic times. I urge you to increase funding for global clean water projects for the health and safety of the world.

Sincerely,
Name
Address

ENVIRONMENT March 31, 2011 Gasland - the Movie

On Thursday, March 31, 2011 attend a viewing of “Gasland”, followed by discussion from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Science Building - College of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale, New York. The largest domestic natural gas drilling boom in history has swept across the US, but is it safe? Find out why Hydrofracturing is dangerous for our water supply. This DVD is available in this office.

As both Congregations move into another phase of Congregational life, you may need to look at these ideas at a later date. The websites are continually renewed, so when you find one that you'd like to go back to, **just click on Favorites and then click on, Add to Favorites. That way you can find it easily. If you have information on issues that you would like to share, contact me at mkhamm@scny.org or mkhamm@scnj.org**
Thank you.

Sister Kati Hamm, SC