

## SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Update – November 2015

*Thanksgiving is a time we gather and give thanks. This issue gives thanks for the over 700,000 people in 2300 places in 75 countries who responded to Pope Francis' call to take to the streets on November 29 on behalf of our common home, planet Earth, its people and all life, especially the most vulnerable! We give thanks for all who by taking one step, no matter how small, give hope and work for change.*



**Pope Francis participated in the November 29<sup>th</sup> Global Climate March**, by sending his shoes to join the thousands of shoes displayed at the Place de la République in Paris. The shoes were on display to represent the 300,000 Parisians who were supposed to begin the Paris Climate March from that location. The march was cancelled by the French government in the wake of the terrorist attacks. Picture on left and others at website: [http://catholicclimatemovement.global/pope-](http://catholicclimatemovement.global/pope-francis-joins-climate-march/#sthash.H7xfySbL.dpuf)

[francis-joins-climate-march/#sthash.H7xfySbL.dpuf](http://catholicclimatemovement.global/pope-francis-joins-climate-march/#sthash.H7xfySbL.dpuf)

**Over 800,000 Catholic Climate Petition signatures to United Nations and French officials in Paris** were presented by Cardinal Cláudio Hummes of Brazil, along with the petitions of other interfaith groups. Collectively the messages of over 1.7 million people of faith calling for climate justice were delivered from all over the world.



During the event, Cardinal Hummes stated, “I pray for political leaders to “hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (Laudato Si # 49) and to respond to the climate justice demand from faith communities.”

Catholics joined actions in Nairobi, Dhaka, Melbourne, Manila and other parts of the globe to voice their concern for our common home as part of the Global Climate March. On November 29<sup>th</sup> at City Hall, Manhattan, Catholics joined with many groups at a press conference and march calling on Mayor de Blasio to commit to bold steps to move NYC to 100% renewable energy by 2030.



**Catholics were a visible presence at the NYC Climate March.** Holding the New York Global Catholic Climate Movement (NYGCCM) Group posters were representatives from: Good Shepherd Sisters, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sisters of Charity of New York, Congregation of Notre Dame, Daughters of Charity, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky.

***We also give thanks for ...***



**New PJIC Volunteer – Stephen Groth** has offered to volunteer in the PJIC Office. He will work with PJIC Director in areas of hunger, poverty and inequality. Steve supports Bread for the World and is glad to support groups wanting to do an Offering of Letters. He is also involved in Amnesty International. This month he is working with groups to get people to sign and send letters for people whose rights are violated. December 10 is Human Rights Day. Steve also developed a single page write up (which is available) on Bread for the World Institute’s 2016 Hunger Report, *The Nourishing Effect: Ending Hunger, Improving Health, Reducing Inequality*. It notes that 3 percent of federal spending is on nutrition programs, but 24 percent is spent on health care. There is strong evidence that more

robust nutrition programs can actually reduce our overall federal spending on medical and other costs. If interested in having Steve speak to your group, please contact PJIC Director or call Steve directly at 914-309-0801.

“The **Visiting Veterans Project** connects Mount Saint Vincent students with the heroes in the James J Peters Veteran's Affairs Hospital in the Bronx. It began early this fall and has been very popular with student volunteers and the veterans. The veterans can't wait to share stories and words of advice and encouragement with the students. This semester, the veterans and students have participated in activities like a Wii bowling tournament, a Halloween party, poker, and a Thanksgiving themed arts and crafts seminar.” PJIC Director asked Owen Smith for a brief summary so that we might be aware of CMSV students’ presence and involvement with our Veterans, who have served us and our country so faithfully. We remember both groups in our prayers and thank you for your witness of service and love!



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