

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

*“Protect the Earth, Dignify Humanity: The Moral Dimensions of Climate Change and Sustainable Development”* – Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, delivered this address to scientists, economists and leaders of world religions at a major international summit at the Vatican on April 28, 2015. In it he says, “We therefore need to cultivate a new set of values and virtues – including conservation of the environment, compassion for the excluded, courage to take bold decisions, and a commitment to work together in common purpose for the global common good. We need a full conversion of hearts and minds, habits and lifestyles, structures and institutions.”



**LeeAnn Braithwaite**, well known to many Sisters of Charity, worked this Spring semester in the PJIC Office as a CMSV Graduate Intern in International Development and Service. Pictured on the left are LeeAnn (back row left) and her IPSL cohorts with Dr. Omar Nagi, faculty advisor, and Sr. Carol De Angelo. LeeAnn says of her internship, “This semester I had the privilege to work in the Office of Peace, Justice and

Integrity of Creation. It opened my eyes to the way problems are interconnected and the small part I can play in solving those problems.” We are grateful to LeeAnn and look forward to her return as an intern after her semesters in Italy and the Philippines.

**Awareness, Advocacy and Action to Stop Modern Day Slavery.** Pictured on right are Sr. Mary Ellen O’Boyle and other members of the Peace and Justice Committee from St. Francis Xavier Parish, Manhattan, students from Xavier High School, and one of Senator Schumer’s aides. They met in Senator Schumer’s Manhattan office to discuss human trafficking, immigration, environmental issues in the proposed TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership Treaty), fracking and natural gas facilities. On the issue of trafficking, the group presented 10 bills that will support Covenant House’s work with trafficked youth. On April 24, the College of Mount Saint Vincent hosted “Migration, Trafficking and Freedom” Conference. Sr. Mary Ellen O’Boyle was on the planning committee for the April 18 conference, *Slavery No More: Breaking the Supply Chains of Human Trafficking*, co-sponsored by CRC-STOP and Manhattan College. The monthly STOP Trafficking newsletter at [www.stopenslavement.org](http://www.stopenslavement.org) is a great resource. Also visit [www.slaveryfootprint.org](http://www.slaveryfootprint.org) and take the survey to find out “how many slaves you own”. View the



video at the end of the survey, *MIAFW: INDIA! Made In a Free World (MIAFW)* to find out about this new campaign addressing slavery and child labor in the cosmetic industry.

**Glimpses of Other PJIC April Happenings:** Catholics are organizing around Pope Francis' Environmental Encyclical and September visit. Volunteers are needed to inform others, especially Catholics, about this encyclical and invite reflection on and response to its call. Mary Ann Sorese from Leviticus met with Carol De Angelo to talk about ROAR's *Grounded in the Gift of Our Lands: A Resource Book for Making Land Use Decisions* so that Leviticus might assist their members around land use. Creation's Transformative Energy Task Force is aware that the Mayan culture has a rich understanding of the cosmos and interconnectedness of all Creation. Claire Regan and Laura Morales Chitic (Associate) met during Assembly to share ideas. Sr. Rosenda Magdalena Castaneda Gonzalez offered her insights during a lively dinner discussion at the Gatehouse with Sr. Nora Cunningham as translator. The CTE Task Force hopes to learn more so we might benefit from the richness of the Mayan culture. Sr. Lily Butler continues to distribute the Elizabeth Boyle Immigration Prayer Card to parishioners when she visits parish Sunday masses. Sisters and Associates called ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) Office advocating that a man held over three years in detention be released. Claire Regan is part of a group called *Burning Bush* (Catholic Sisters and Brothers for Peace). *Burning Bush* gave a statement witness in a vigil in New Orleans, LA on the lawsuit concerning President Obama's use of Executive Powers on behalf of immigrants facing deportation and unaccompanied minors. Members of the Global Poverty Task Force are educating themselves on a proposed Robin Hood Tax and efforts to pass legislation in New York State and the U.S. Congress calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and related cases. Awareness, advocacy and action in these areas address poverty and inequality.

### **Working With Young Adults, Our Future Leaders**

Members of the Albertus Magnus High School Environmental Club (Margaret Mapelli, faculty advisor) are responding to Pope Francis' invitation to be Protectors of Creation. This year they initiated a School Recycling Program and engaged students in experiencing the beauty and wonder of nature. Through Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group, Kiera Townsend, president, contacted Sr. Carol De Angelo and invited her to an April 30 meeting to discuss local environmental issues and how they connect to the larger global picture. It was inspiring and a privilege to spend time with these young leaders.



**Public Witness Sign-ons.** Sisters of Charity of New York signed on to statement, *Nuclear Danger Today: Existing Nuclear Arsenals Are The Greatest Threat*, which was presented at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the UN on May 1. We also signed on to a letter to UN Member States requesting that they stand in solidarity with people and planet on securing the recognition of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in the political Declaration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

*Carol De Angelo, SC, PJIC Director, May 6, 2015*