

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



**CSW59** The 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was officially held from March 9 through March 20. Over 6000 participants attended official UN sessions and side and parallel events at the United Nations or offsite. Joan Woods (second from left), a member of the Global Poverty Task Force, attended *The Legacy of Leadership Through Inter-Generational Connections* (also attended by Carol De Angelo). LeeAnn Braithwaite also registered for the

CSW. We are grateful to Sr. Teresa Kotturan and the Sisters of Charity Federation which co-sponsored several events. Sisters Geraldine Hanley, Doris Heinlein and Mary Kay Finneran attended one of them: *Women's Spirituality: Pioneering and Transforming*. Sister Doris Heinlein said this of the parallel event, "It was the best 90 minutes Geri and I have spent in recent memory." Please consider attending a CSW event next year. Invite a colleague, a young adult, or student to participate.

**C**orporate Responsibility Thanks to SCNY Chief Financial Officer, Sister Meg Sweeney, the Sisters of Charity of New York are active in ICCR and TRI-CRI's efforts to advocate for transparency, accountability, and stricter regulations in issues around the environment, climate change, crude oil transportation by rail, human trafficking and other areas. Sr. Meg is involved in efforts to explore how religious congregations might invest in fossil free companies that promote safe clean renewable energy. We can also participate in corporate responsibility by exercising our power as consumers! Visit [www.behindthebrands.org](http://www.behindthebrands.org) to see how food companies of products you buy are rated! Use your consumer power to bring about change and the future we want for our children.

**Mother Elizabeth Boyle Immigration Prayer Cards**, an idea initiated by Sr. Lily Butler and developed by the Immigration Task Force, is a special project to encourage all of us to welcome the immigrant in our midst and to pray and advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. It is also an opportunity to remind ourselves and others of the long history Sisters of Charity have in accompanying the newly arrived immigrant. At the March Congregation meeting, sisters and associates took copies of the Prayer Card for themselves and to give to family, friends and colleagues. Sisters Lily Butler and Lorraine Cooper distributed and spoke with parishioners of St. Peter's and St. Joseph's in Yonkers, St. Athanasius, Bronx and other parishes. Copies of the prayer are available at the PJIC Office. Let us know if



you want copies to distribute. If you wish to join the Immigration Task Force in its email advocacy for just comprehensive immigration reform, contact PJIC Office.



**Nodine Hill Organizing Initiative**, a collaborative project of the Sisters of Charity of New York, Westchester United, and Reformed Church of Bronxville, develops local leaders who will identify neighborhood needs and issues and seek to address systemically. Nodine Hill is a section of Yonkers plagued by gangs, drugs and geographic isolation. Accomplishments since Kate Nicholson, community organizer, began in October are: a team of 9 key local leaders who represent larger groups is

emerging; local leaders involved residents in their 300 resident apartment complex in addressing building concerns with management; local school Parent Association is planning trainings for parent engagement; and, leaders of an area Latino youth soccer league are researching more play space and time so programs can grow. This two year project is possible because of grant money.

**March Public Witness / Sign-on** The Sisters of Charity of New York signed the *Catholic Morality and Nuclear Abolition Statement*. The Washington Working Group of Pax Christi International (composed of Maryknoll, Sisters of Mercy and the Columbian Fathers and Brothers) developed and requested groups to sign on. Group does advocacy work around the following issues: nuclear disarmament, US relations with Israel and Palestine, the war in Syria, etc. Statement will be delivered to Catholics in Congress and the Administration with a copy of the Holy See's *Nuclear Disarmament: Time of Abolition*. It will also be made public in advance of the NPT (Nuclear Proliferation Treaty) Review Session in April-May. In signing on, we join others in sending a clear message to Congress that the elimination of nuclear weapons is not only a moral imperative; it is the ultimate measure of our worth as human beings.

**S**tanfordville Cosmological Spirituality Group and the Power of Love – Ed Shaughnessy, a member, said of their March 18th conversation, "...At last night's gathering of our Spiritual Cosmology group at Sisters' Hill, a dozen of us reflected on the chapter "Evolution and the Rise of the Secular God" by Ilia DeLio OSF, in "From Teilhard to Omega Co-creating an unfinished Universe" [edited by Ilia DeLio]. Each chapter is a meditation on its own....I was in awe of how insightful and knowledgeable those present were. To discover "the where I want to be now," and the discussion group resonated with this, the challenge is to discover Jesus. Chardin has emphasized that we are not a people looking back but the people of God looking forward, toward what Chardin called the "...cosmic longing for completion." [p. 49, ¶ 3] This to me is a profound insight....We are looking forward as the earliest disciples did. We are looking for Jesus as the Omega. Bringing together all the universe and its diverse and divergent populations through the power of love." As the Sisters of Charity of New York prepare for Assembly, may we take heart in this knowledge and reality.

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