

SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Update, July – August 2015



Figure 1 Enjoying view of Hudson and refreshments after Campaign for a Cleaner Hudson Vigil

Campaign for a Cleaner Hudson – on July 23rd vigils sponsored by Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper and other groups were held in cities and towns along the Hudson River. The Sisters of Charity held their own vigil in the Solarium of Convent of Mt. St. Vincent. Sisters, associate LeeAnn Braithwaite and her mother, Ann Baldwin, Matt Shields, Director of CMSV Campus Ministry, and Sr. Ann Braudis, MM, gathered to celebrate, pray for, and share Hudson River stories. Please join us in celebrating and caring for the Hudson by participating in the *Campaign for a Cleaner Hudson*. An online petition can be found by going to the internet and typing *Campaign for a Cleaner Hudson*. Or, if at Le Gras, please sign a postcard to GE Chairman Immelt and leave at the Receptionist desk to be mailed. General Electric has fulfilled its obligations to remove the amount of

PCBs the settlement required. Since more PCBs than estimated were dumped in the Hudson River, a 200-mile long Superfund site will remain. Pray and advocate that General Electric accepts its moral and civic responsibility to

expand its work in the interest of a more thorough cleanup and a healthier river.

Connecting LCWR, 2015 Assembly Calls, and a SCNY PJIC Ministry

Some of the articles in *Update: A Publication of Leadership Conference of Women Religious, August/September 2015* spoke to me of the SCNY 2015 Assembly Calls and what we are about when we talk of a ministry of peace, justice and integrity of creation. What connections do you make as you read this section of *LCWR Participates in CLAR Events in Bogota, Colombia*? “Of particular note during the congress was the frankness and honesty with which people spoke about the urgent and indispensable need for an infusion of new life, ideas, and energy into religious life. Repeatedly, presenters and attendees spoke of their dreams for a religious life that:

- incarnates mysticism, prophecy, and hope
- values the presence and the questions of its young members, referred to as the “New Generations”
- constantly looks ahead to the horizons to observe what is new and innovative
- is marked by communion, openness, and a welcoming spirit
- works consciously to strengthen its intercultural nature and its inter-congregational collaboration
- is characterized by mercy and compassion for those living in poverty
- lives in harmony with creation (The congress participants celebrated with great hope the release during the congress of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato si’*)
- relates to a church that is characterized by servant leadership, is a community of communities, and is poor and belongs to those who are poor.”

Thank Pope Francis for calling us to care for people of the planet and the One Earth Community! Read *Laudato Si'*. Form or join a group to reflect on our call and response as Catholics! Join Catholics throughout the world in signing the Catholic Climate Petition. Go to Catholic Climate Covenant or Global Catholic Climate Movement and look for online petitions to sign, especially the one that will be presented to world leaders at the December Paris UN Climate Summit. Keep alert to information on the September 24 Vigil in New York City to thank Pope Francis and to call attention to poverty, climate change and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals that will be discussed and voted on after Pope Francis' address at the United Nations. Sister Kathleen Deignan and Brother Kevin Cawley will be talking about *Laudato Si* on September 9 at 7 pm at Greenburg Nature Center. Matt Shields, Director of CMSV Campus Ministry, is planning a special September 25 event at Smith Hall (possible livestreaming of Pope Francis' address to UN). Think about joining online *The People's Pilgrimage* or doing your own pilgrimage. Catholics are invited to make a pilgrimage to a sacred place (of beauty; needing restoration; threatened by extinction). We have on the grounds of Mt. St. Vincent the beautiful majestic Hudson River, a river once considered dying but now come back to life! Celebrate on September 1 the first annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.



An Invitation to Catholics in the New York Archdiocese We are looking for Catholics who wish to join with others to learn about, reflect on, and respond to *Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home*. Please call Sr. Carol De Angelo at 718-549-9235 if you are interested.

Pope Francis Seeks Forgiveness of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. As Americans we may also be interested in the LCWR Update article which reads in part "... in his July 9 address to a social justice summit in Bolivia, attended by many from the indigenous community, Pope Francis asked forgiveness for sins committed by the Catholic Church during the conquest of the Western Hemisphere. He said: "I humbly ask forgiveness, not only for the offenses of the church herself, but also for crimes committed against the native peoples during the so-called conquest of America." The full text of his remarks is available at: tinyurl.com/net8kq9. A little less than a year earlier, LCWR members, gathered in assembly, took time to reflect upon the gifts and struggles of the indigenous peoples of the Americas and to acknowledge their own complicity in the many indignities and injustices they continue to suffer. Members adopted a resolution asking Pope Francis to formally repudiate the period of Christian history that used religion to justify political and personal violence against indigenous nations and peoples.

Pray-ers are critical in the ministry of peace, justice and integrity of creation. Pope Francis reminds us that the Eucharist is a cosmic act. We pray for migrants, climate refugees, families held in detention, those impacted by war, violence, modern day slavery, those who are hungry, homeless and living in poverty, those whose power, influence and decisions can bring about just policies and systems.

Carol De Angelo, SC, SCNY PJIC Director, August 19, 2015