

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



Water: A Way of the Cross: On Ascension Thursday up on Cemetery Hill, CMSV Campus Ministry offered an opportunity to reflect on the reverence, respect and oneness with water through the Stations of Cross. “The experience of praying the Stations of Water was very meaningful. It meant a lot to join with CMSV college staff and especially students as well as other Sisters of Charity expressing our concern about the water situation in our world.”, said Sr. Suzanne Ellen Wallin. The interconnectedness and relationship with all of life was reinforced as

the group repeated together after each station, “We are ONE in a field of compassion.”

May 2015 Public Witness At the request of ICCR, the Sisters of Charity of New York signed on to a letter to Nestle engaging them around the cocoa industry to improve farmer working conditions and stop child labor (west Africa). SCNY also agreed to sign on to similar letters that will be sent to Barry Callebaut, Cargill, Hershey, Lindt, Mondelez and Olam.

“Climate Change: Marching from New York 2014 to Paris 2015” was the theme of the May 13 ROAR Convocation where about forty five people (ROAR members, leaders and activists from environmental groups, parishes, and concerned citizens) gathered at the Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center to share what is happening and their desire to strengthen collaboration. Jeremy Cherson of Riverkeeper issued a call to work together in advocating for safe clean renewable energy in New York State. Riverkeeper and New York State Interfaith Power and Light want to collaborate with ROAR in convening a Faith and Climate Summit.



Pray! Reflect! Act! Faith groups such as Catholic Climate Covenant, Global Catholic Climate Movement, GreenFaith, Franciscan Action Network and the Sisters of Charity of New York are working together to increase awareness of, reflection on, and response to Pope Francis’ new environmental encyclical (due out end of June). Visit websites for resources and to find out how you can be involved. Let us know your stories – stories of those impacted by climate change, stories of how you are trying increase awareness, educate, and act. A planning group is seeking point persons in New York Archdiocesan parishes to contact their pastor / administrator to ask if they might let parishioners know of information, resources and events on new encyclical and papal visit. Let us know if you wish to be a point person.



Women of Faith Dialogue Group (coordinated by Sarah Sayeed of Interfaith Center of New York, far right back row) met at Le Gras on Sunday, May 17 to discuss the article, “*The Monstrous Elegance of White Supremacy*” by Alex Mikulich in the JustSouth Quarterly, Summer 2014 out of the Jesuit Social Research Institute. Topic and article originated from the Vincentian Family Social Justice Representatives monthly conference call where question surfaced, “How and where do we have conversations on white privilege and the moral

responsibility to address systemic racism. One of the insights that surfaced is that systemic racism, poverty, inequality, and religious intolerance are all connected.

Spread the Word! Keep in Prayer! Join With Others In Creating More Just Systems!

Bread for the World is partnering with New York Archdiocese Catholic Charities around hunger. They are outreaching to parishes to empower parishioners to address hunger through systemic change – one way is through BFW Campaign of Letters.

Right to Counsel Initiative has the possibility of protecting up to 15,000 households annually from unwarranted evictions. For the first time, the City Council and the de Blasio administration are considering providing resources to enable households facing eviction proceedings to be represented by legal counsel - where currently 97% of landlords are represented by attorneys while nearly 90% of tenants are not! Join with Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing (IAHH) in advocating for a more just system. Go to www.iahh.org or www.righttocounsel.org for more information.

USDA National Hunger Hotline The New York City Coalition Against Hunger (www.nyccah.org) operates the USDA National Hunger Hotline, a resource for individuals and families seeking information on how to obtain food. Callers are connected with emergency food providers in their community, government assistance, nutritional assistance programs, and various services that promote self-sufficiency. During summer months, the hotline provides information about meal sites where children 18 years old and under can get free, nutritious meals through the USDA Summer Food Service Program. Hotline number is 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (for Spanish) from Monday through Friday (8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET).

Indian Point Nuclear Plant (recently in the news because of a fire in Reactor 3) and the proposed **Spectra Algonquin Pipeline extension**, already approved by FERC, are two critical issues that New Yorkers and others are alarmed at and advocating against. The Algonquin Pipeline will come within 105 feet of the Indian Point nuclear power plant. Riverkeeper, IPSEC (Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition), SAPE (Stop Algonquin Pipeline Expansion) and Sierra Club Lower Hudson are but a few of the groups that offer education and ways to address.

Torture Awareness Month is June. Consider visiting the National Religious Campaign Against Torture website (www.nrcat.org). Pray and take action - just one small step!

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