

Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Update, February 2016



New York State Drivers Licenses for the Undocumented The SCNY Immigration Task Force is working with groups such as New York Immigration Coalition and the Upstate Network for Immigrant Rights (UNIR) to raise awareness, get facts out, and petitions signed on importance of passing legislation that will allow the undocumented to get NYS Drivers Licenses. **Contact Sr. Eileen Judge for a fact sheet, petition and more information.** On left, Task Force members are from left to right, Genevieve Wetmore, SC, Lorraine Cooper, SC,

Evyleen Larkin, SC, April Kabagambe, IPSL graduate intern for PJIC Office, Suzanne Ellen Wallin, SC, Eileen Judge, SC and Lily Butler, SC. Debra Gish, Associate, a new member to Task Force joined us via Skype. Missing in the picture are Bill Hurley, Associate, and Carol DeAngelo, SC.

Wanted! Stories on how we are living out the *Vincentian Family Social Justice Representatives Collaborative Statement in Support of Our Muslim Brothers and Sisters*, approved February 2016. Please send stories to Carol De Angelo, SC.

Lenten Postcards to StarKist and Costco, sponsored by CCOAHT, a nationwide coalition that represents religious orders and organizations, and is a key leader in the Catholic struggle against human trafficking in the United States. Request is that StarKist and Costco do all in their power to ensure that their supply chains are free of the taint of forced labor. To learn more visit <http://www.usccb.org/upload/USCCB-6x4-25-LentCard-Costco.pdf> and <http://www.usccb.org/upload/USCCB-6x4-25-LentCard-Starkist.pdf>.

Catholics, Capitalism, and Climate

(written by Mary Keelan) The big draw at the Molloy College event on Wednesday, February 17, was Cardinal Turkson who addressed issues of capitalism and climate change as they relate to Pope Francis's recent encyclical, *Laudato Si*, and the social justice teachings of the Church. He asked, "How should we understand creation as a Catholic?" He emphasized that "humanity is not an afterthought". Though his point of reference was the encyclical, he expanded on its meaning and emphasized that its message has "immense practical consequences" in how each



of us develops "our relationship with God, with one another, with nature." He urged the audience to understand that "every act of cruelty to any human being is an act against all humanity" and that all should work towards a "world of intergenerational and intragenerational solidarity." Though the Cardinal was the main catalyst for the event, the choice of panelists reacting to his comments and to audience questions, was inspired. Father James Martin, SJ, as Chair set the tone, linking what Cardinal Turkson had just talked about with the recent comments of Pope Francis during his trip to Mexico, how consumerism leads to cynicism and selfishness when compassion for the poor is our calling. Four members of the Stanfordville Cosmological Spirituality group who attended are Pat Mara, Margaret Ellen Burke, SC, Mary Keelan and Carol De Angelo, SC (from left to right).



Laudato Si' – A Prophetic Challenge for the 21st Century

Irish Columban Fr. Sean McDonagh, well-known eco-theologian who works to raise awareness of the connections between social justice issues, environmental sustainability and faith, spoke at Maryknoll February 28. Among those who attended were Sisters of Charity, colleagues, members of ROAR and the GCCM-NY group. When asked to share a highlight, Margaret Ellen Burke, SC says "Fr Sean's presentation was full to overflowing with significant background information and quotes from FIVE of our Popes who spoke of this issue. He also described clearly how our outlook on the topic has been affected down through the years. He called us to be aware that we need a new spirituality, a new way of seeing and responding at this time in history." And, Eileen Judge, SC, "We need to be overwhelmed by nature and its

beauty! The environment can't wait." Fr. Sean echoed the thoughts of many, that Laudato Si is one of the most important documents to come from a Pope in the past 120 years in social justice teachings. He challenged us to follow up Laudato Si with systemic and extensive moral catechesis and formation aimed at bringing about the change that Laudato Si calls us to. And, he highlighted the inseparable bond between human nature, those living in poverty, creation and interior peace. What we need to do is to develop a moral imagination that sees as sins how our choices, actions and behaviors affect the air that we breathe, the soil that grows our food, the water that is fundamental to life (and our electrical, manufacturing, food and other systems). Lu Doyle, Adult Formation Director at St. Augustine, Larchmont, and a member of GCCM-NY, offered a sign of hope. They have over 50 parishioners studying Laudato Si.

Needed – names of groups / centers / organizations in the downstate New York region that are focusing on Pope Francis' call to dialogue, transformation, and action in Laudato Si! If you have information, please contact Carol De Angelo, SC. One of the objectives of the GCCM-NY group is to raise awareness of all that is happening at the grassroots level around Laudato Si, and to offer opportunities to share information and network. *Carol De Angelo, SC, SCNY PJIC Office, 718-549-9235, cdeangelo@scny.org*