

SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Update September 2016



Bread for the World attended the *Today Show* broadcasting on September 14 to press that hunger and poverty be issues prioritized in the electoral debates. Incoming College of Mount Saint Vincent Graduate students, Christina Drey, Adria Anderson and Nikki Bogan (pictured on the left) were among

those who participated in the rally. Following the broadcasting, participants went to the offices of Presidential Candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump to deliver 631,000 petitions of voters calling on candidates to make ending hunger a priority and to ask the candidates how they will work to end hunger if elected in November. They were able to discuss hunger as an issue with representatives of both candidates' campaign teams, and have received a detailed response from the office of Hillary Clinton, which was later published in the *New York Times*. We hope to receive a response from the office of Donald Trump soon. If interested in learning more about Bread for the World and their current campaigns, please visit Bread.org.



On September 22, 27, 29, Campus Ministries and Sisters of Charity Graduate Intern Nikki Bogan teamed up to organize a letter-writing campaign available to the students of College of Mount Saint Vincent. Every Tuesday and Thursday for two weeks in September the students had the opportunity to write letters for three different causes. Some students have chosen to write letters to the prison ministry program participants, some students wrote to the Sisters of Charity assisted-living home, and others have joined in the Bread for the World

campaign to end global hunger. The Bread for the World letter writing campaign offered to those students is a great way to support systemic change, in that these letters will provide the support to defeat the issues at hand. With their letters, students are asking legislators to take action in ending poverty by supporting Congress in increasing the Department of State's global health

account to at least \$230 million. With this amount contributing to national and international development programs, we can end hunger by 2030!

On September, Sister Carol DeAngelo of the Sisters of Charity, and Graduate Intern Nikki Bogan, attended an Interfaith Climate Justice Vigil to stop the Spectra AIM Pipeline. The vigil took place outside of Governor Cuomo’s home in Mt. Kisco. This gathering, hosted by Food and Water Watch and Healing and Protecting Our Land Together: A Call to Prayer, was moving to say the least. During this Season of Creation, it is important for persons of all religions to come together for climate justice, and that is exactly what happened at this vigil.

Sister Carol DeAngelo was one of the many participants to speak and offer up prayer at the vigil. A few of the other climate justice activists who spoke at the vigil were Ven. Bhikku Bodhi (Theravada Buddhist Monk), Reverend Peggy Clarke (of Unitarian Universalist), Rabbi Sara Zacharia, Bette Anne Jaster (of Dominican Sisters of Hope) and Abraham Velazquez (of The Peace Poets). Climate justice activists that attended offered up prayers and thoughts from their perspective, which together formed a great energy of unity and community praying to halt the Spectra Aim Pipeline.



On September 30, members in partnership with the Sisters of Charity of New York came together for a UN Orientation and discussed the importance of the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The participants of the meeting were Nikki Bogan and



Cristina Drey (PJIC Graduate Interns), Tyrone Hodges (College of Mount Saint Vincent Graduate Student), Bruce Segall (Coordinator for Immigrant Matters, volunteer with SCNY PJIC Office), Georgia James and Mario Pimentel (LEFSA team members) and Melissa Gibilaro (Coordinator for Justice, Peace and Care of Our Common Home for Sisters of Charity of Halifax).

Sister Teresa Kotturan of the Sisters of Charity Federation led the conversations with informative imagery on how NGOs are contributing to the global

development planning of the United Nations. She explained how we are all a part of the Vincentian family working to support global development with the systemic change model in mind.

In order for us to fully understand how we can accomplish the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, we must understand the necessity of systemic change. For a systemic change project to succeed and thrive, there are four criteria. The first is that the project must aim to improve the overall life-situation of those who are benefiting from the project. The second aspect is that it must be sustainable, meaning that the project will be permanent and stable for the years to come. Thirdly, the project must be replicable. The format and base of the project should be able to be replicated and revised for other projects with a similar mission. Fourthly and lastly, the project must be innovative and have room for growth in other circumstances. This means that the project should bring about social change by enhancing traditional practices and anticipating continual growth and sustainable spread.

A great example of a program using the systemic change model is LEFSA (Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates), sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of New York. Founded in 1986 by Sister Dorothy Gallant, SC and Sister Theresa Skeenan, Sister of Mercy of Maine, LEFSA empowers the homeless with help from the homeless. Georgia James and Mario Pimentel, who participated in this UN orientation, once struggled with the issue of homelessness, and through the LEFSA program have pulled themselves out of homelessness. Georgia and Mario are now team members at LEFSA helping those who continue to struggle. LEFSA's use of the systemic change model (mentioned above) is helping to accomplish the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Projects (like LEFSA) that use the systemic change model can help conquer the global issues that we hear about every day.



How can we help accomplish the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals?

Think globally, act locally. We encourage you to identify a 2030 Sustainable

Development Goal you are passionate about; identify and connect with others who are working to accomplish that goal; and take action. Share your story with others! The 17

goals are all intertwined and of equal importance, so if we work as a global community we can accomplish them by 2030.

To learn more about the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

To learn more about Systemic Change, please visit: vinformation.famvin.org

Nikki Bogan, PJIC Office Graduate Intern