

## Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Update, November 2016

Responding to Pope Francis' call in *Laudato Si'* – Love in Action

We give thanks for all who live the charism of charity according to their specific calling and gifts!



We give thanks for Michael Gallucci, Grounds Manager for Mount Saint Vincent, and his team of workers (part of team on left). Because of them, the campus grounds are beautiful, healthy and thriving. Pope Francis in *Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home* calls us to "till and keep" the garden of the world. "This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations." (#67). What a beautiful example we have in Mike and the grounds staff in responding to *Laudato Si'*. Thank you for using your gifts and work efforts to provide us all with a place and space of beauty where we experience the wonder and awe of God's Creation, right here at Mount

Saint Vincent, overlooking the majestic Hudson River and Palisades. *Picture includes only part of the team.*

**W**e give thanks for ...

**The Peace Prayer Vigil** at Dominican Convent, Sparkill, led by Sister Ellen Rose O'Connell on the eve of the elections.

About 125 people gathered to pray for the nation, all candidates who were running, and for a call for peace and wisdom... **Chairs and members of all the Task Forces: Global Poverty Task Force** and its committees (International Debt Relief, Local Poverty, Food & Water, and Community Development Investing); **Immigration Task Force; Creation's Transformative Energy Task Force; and, Coordinator of Anti-Trafficking, Sister Mary Ellen O'Boyle** (including nine Sisters of Charity of New York who volunteer at the Safe House)...**All our sisters, associates and colleagues** who through prayer, email advocacy and other ways



raise awareness of, educate on and advocate for those affected by poverty, war, hunger, homelessness, climate change and oppression; who keep in prayer the unborn, the sick, persons who are trafficked, refugees, the undocumented, detained and deported... **PJIC Office Volunteers** Bruce Segall, Coordinator for Immigrant Matters; graduate interns, Nikki Bogan and Cristina Drey (who leave early December)... **POTS**, its staff and all involved, especially for hosting the November 22 breakfast forum - **Then and Now: The Journeys of Families in Shelters - 2008 to 2016** where stories/experiences of those who are homeless were shared.



**A Visible Presence at Standing Rock, North Dakota**

On October 21, Nikki Bogan, Graduate Intern for the Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation, departed for Cannonball, North Dakota, where the peaceful protests to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline have been going on for months. Nikki and Adria Anderson, went to stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Reservation in protecting their sacred lands and the Missouri River. Once Nikki and Adria announced their decision to go, they received support and

donations from friends, family and local organizations, such as SAPE (Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion). They delivered blankets, jackets, food and firewood to the Water Protectors at Oceti Sakowin Camp. Upon arrival, they were quickly “adopted” by an elder Lakota Tribe member and United States Marine Veteran named Severt Young Bear. He talked about the importance of protecting this water for his children and their future. During the three days that Nikki and Adria spent at Standing Rock, they recognized a unification of persons from all over the world who had come together to protect this sacred source of life, water. They witnessed a connection between each person and the connection with Mother Earth. Severt Young Bear shared his philosophy on this and urged the graduate students to “tell the truth” and bring awareness of the situation at Standing Rock to CMSV. And so, the November 17 event was born!



**Our Poisoned Waters: Standing in Solidarity with Standing Rock – A Call for Action from the CMSV Community**

Susan Van Dolsen, presenter at the November 17 event and founder of SAPE, says, “We were honored to join Nikki Bogan and Adria Anderson, graduate students at the College of Mount Saint Vincent yesterday at a special program they planned where they shared their experiences from their trip to Standing Rock.

We made so many connections as water protectors here in New York.” The event gathered CMSV faculty and students, Sisters of Charity of New York representatives, and local organizations to discuss the situation at Standing Rock, as well as the initiatives being taken to stop the Algonquin Pipeline here in New York. *Our Poisoned Waters* organizer Nikki, states, “Now is the time to make these connections and stand up together if we want to see a change!” Laura Leadbetter, SCNY Associate, participant in the program, holds a sign in support of Standing Rock.



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