

## Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Update, December 2016 – January 2017



**The January 21<sup>st</sup> Women's March in Washington, DC and other cities throughout the world** made history. Women and men marched for many different reasons. Sisters of Charity of New York and colleagues attended the marches in D.C. and New York. From Jennifer Mahoney we hear, "Thank you, Washington D.C.! You were a most gracious host. From the military to the police department to the crossing guards. You cheered for us, waved at us, honked your horns in support,

thanked us and buoyed our spirits! It was an inspiring, unifying and encouraging day filled with incredible women (and men!). Now for the serious work that needs to be done! As we made our way out of the city an officer asked, 'Are you ladies proud?! You made history today!'. And the crowd went crazy." Sr. Vivienne Joyce says, "What are my reasons: let me count the ways. I joined the march the day after the inauguration to join with women and men who recognize climate change as a dangerous reality; who want to welcome immigrants, and honor our wonderful diversity of race, religion and culture and oppose racism, sexism and bigotry in all its forms and the further exploitation of people who are poor or ill or disabled. I want the dreamers to stay in this country of ours. I want to oppose the devaluing of our American ideals of inclusion and recognize global realities and ... I believe in the gospel of Jesus and this is one way to celebrate our 200th anniversary as an American community of religious sisters." Picture above shows Sisters Kathleen Byrnes, Mary Ellen O'Boyle and Vivienne Joyce at march in NYC.



**News from New Orleans.** Sister Claire Regan in her ministry at House of Charity continues her work of peace, justice and care of creation in many ways. Here are just a few glimpses of Sr. Claire's multifaceted ministry. Sr. Claire was co-coordinator of the New Orleans "*Circle the City with Love*" event on January 15, the actual day of Martin Luther King's birthday. (Sr. Claire is at the bongo drums, fourth person from left.) The *Circle the City with Love* movement calls us to find our voice, be good citizens, and work towards peace and justice that love demands

of us; to value and work for inclusiveness and celebrate diversity. Initially there were 35 people (many nuns, mostly older folks) until two large groups of college-aged students joined the circle – bringing the number up to about 65 people! A wonderful diversity of races, creeds, nations, and locals, and visitors from across the country! This event was happening in tandem with events across the country. On January 18 the House of Charity "welcomed home" Ms. Cathy Rogers whose home was rebuilt by Saint Bernard's Parish, after trying to return for eleven

years. Claire came to know Cathy from her weekly ministry with the *Helping Mothers Heal* ministry. On February 4 the House of Charity hosted a lobbying workshop for members of *Burning Bush*, the collaborative of religious sisters and brothers working for an end to violence in New Orleans. Thank you, Claire!



**January 23 Vigil of Hope at CMSV Interfaith Chapel** – Sisters of Charity, Associates, staff, colleagues, CMSV Campus Ministry and others joined with others throughout the country to voice prayers of hope and to pray for President Trump, his new Administration and US Legislators. Sisters at Elizabeth’s Place (ALP) gathered at the same time using the Vigil Prayer. Sisters Peggy Smith and Anna Marian Lascell called to voice the sisters’ gratitude and to say, “The prayer and sharing of sisters was great.” Thank you, Sisters at ALP!

**2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** – the Global Poverty Committee was pleased to have Sr. Teresa Kotturan, SCN, NGO Sisters of Charity of Federation Representative at the United Nations, speak at its January 9 meeting. She explained some of the intricacies of the UN and the work of the NGOs. Her power point presentation with comments and the Q & A period that followed helped all to understand better the 17 Sustainable Development Goals which make up the 2030 Agenda to transform our world and end poverty by 2030. The CMSV Model UN Club has invited Sister Teresa to come to Benedicts on March 30 at 4 pm. Keep alert to finalized details. All are invited. Ashley Lushinsky, PJIC graduate intern for winter/spring semester attended the January 30 and 31 Civil Society Forum and parts of the Commission for Social Development (February 1-10). In the near future Ashley will share a two-page report on the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSocD and strategies on implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Thanks to our Immigration Task Force, Creation’s Transformative Energy Task Force, Sister Mary Ellen O’Boyle, Coordinator for Anti-Trafficking Efforts, our sponsored ministries and all our colleagues who address 2030 SDGs in multiple ways.

**A New Year’s Resolution!** Read and reflect on *Pope Francis’ World Day of Peace Message 2017*. Find on internet by typing above name (in italics). “...I would like to reflect on nonviolence as a style of politics for peace. I ask God to help all of us to cultivate nonviolence in our most personal thoughts and values. May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat each other as individuals, within society and in international life...”

**Update** on immigration, refugee and related issues will be coming soon. Please visit [www.justiceforimmigrants](http://www.justiceforimmigrants) for latest action alerts. January was Human Trafficking Month. Visit [www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org](http://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org) on a regular basis. Network Lobby and USCCB have asked for in-district visits to US Representatives to address Bridge Act and Affordable Health Care. Email [basegall@gmail.com](mailto:basegall@gmail.com) if interested.

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