



## *Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace* *February, 2016*

Happy February to all,

Saturday, at the Sister-Associate retreat day in the East, Sr. Arlene Flaherty, O.P. reminded us that we are bearers of the light that burst forth in God's loving act of creation 14 billion years ago. Today, we see a lot of darkness in the world, and many of us who seek peace through justice are at least knee deep in that darkness, if not up



to our necks in it. That is what happens when we open our hearts in solidarity and hospitality to those we serve. We are touched by the darkness that overwhelms them we too can feel overwhelmed. That is to be expected, suggested Sr. Arlene; "We can't be bearers of the light unless we have negotiated the darkness ourselves."

With this issue of NewsNotes I found a spark of light in every story. People with good hearts are trying to make a difference, and we are invited to join in their efforts. As we enter Lent, perhaps we can take encouragement from the many good efforts to bring God's kin-dom into reality.

Lent is a good time for us to reflect on how we may fall short in doing this and resolve to do more.

As Sr. Arlene reminded us, no matter how dark, the darkness can never overcome the light.

Peace,

*Frank*

Frank McCann, CSJP-A  
Peace through Justice Facilitator

## Human Trafficking

The American football "Super Bowl #50" will be Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup>, and such large sporting events are opportunities for human traffickers.

February 8, the Church commemorates the life of St. Josephine Bakhita, who, as a child was sold into slavery in the Sudan, and later in life became a Canossian Sister. Pope Francis marks her Feast Day to rededicate ourselves to ending trafficking of all human persons.



Human Trafficking is not a game.

Covenant House is seeking 20,000 signatures to support California Attorney General Kamala Harris efforts to protect innocent youth in America. Please [use this link](http://notagame.covenanthouse.org/?origin=DHQEI1607CJ1GN#what-you-can-do) to add your name to their petition asking other Attorneys general to support Ms. Harris. <http://notagame.covenanthouse.org/?origin=DHQEI1607CJ1GN#what-you-can-do>

In the UK:

[Call on your government to ratify the protocol to end forced labour.](#) Half of

the 10 worst countries for workers in the 2015 Global Rights Index have a structural problem of forced labour in their economy. Estimates of workers in modern slavery have consistently risen over the last decades, today ranging from an alarming 21 million to 36 million.

## Refugees



Refugees are the subject of the most recent issue of *A Matter of Spirit*, published by the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center in Seattle. (This is a CSJP supported ministry.) You can download a copy here: <http://www.ipjc.org/journal/AMOSWinter16.pdf>

This may be helpful to you in current CSG meetings.

The UK Catholic Bishops Conference has a program to learn how to help the refugees. See: [Refugee Crisis: Open your Hearts](#)

## The Calais "Jungle"

Calais France is where a large refugee camp has been created for refugees, mainly, though not exclusively Syrians, many of whom are trying to make their way to Britain to either find safe haven or to join family members there. Currently there are about 5,000 persons in the camp including families and unaccompanied children.

This week's Issue of the Tablet leads with a story on the camp at Calais.



#### MARIA SKOBTSOVA HOUSE, the Calais Catholic Worker

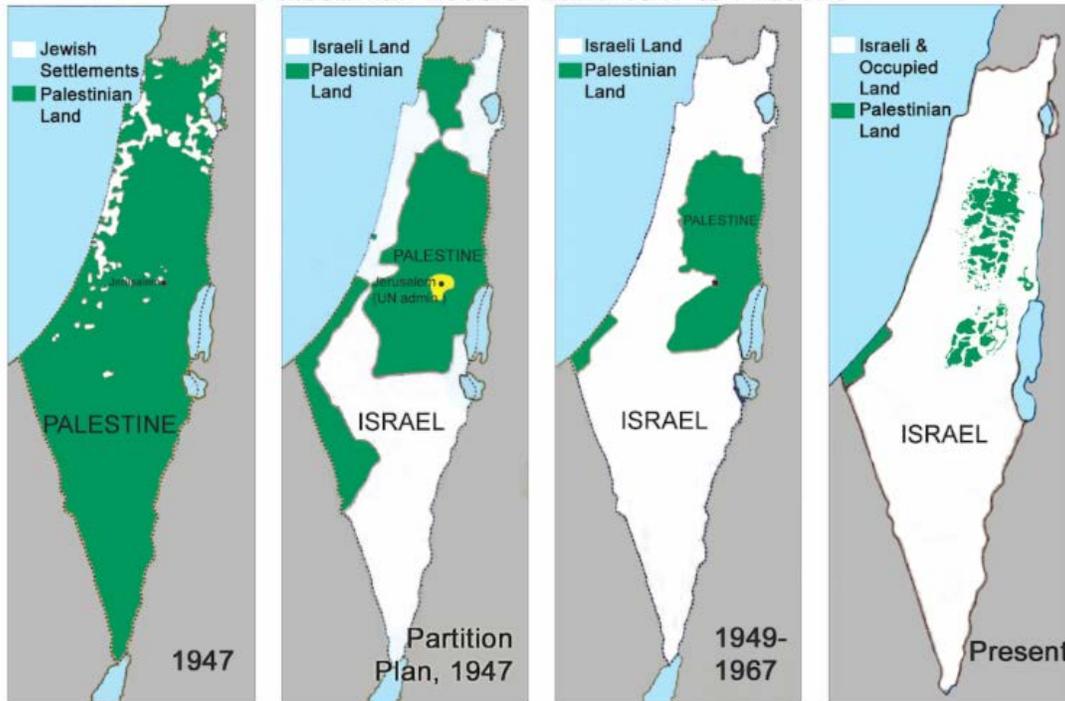
In an effort to offer hospitality to those in that camp, Brother Johannes Maertens, formerly of the Catholic Worker in London has moved to Calais to open a Catholic Worker house there. The house itself has been donated for this purpose by Secours Catholique, a member of Caritas International, the Catholic network of relief service agencies.

The house is named for Maria Skobtsova was a Russian poet, a political activist and a mother of two children; who like many of her time fled from the violence, persecution and war in her country. As a refugee she settled in Paris, later becoming a religious nun opening a house of hospitality for the poor and destitute in the city.

The Calais Catholic Worker is seeking financial support and volunteers.

## Divestment in Israeli Banks

### Palestinian Loss of Land 1947 to Present



Jewish Voice for Peace has applauded the Methodist Board of Pension's decision to divest all investments they have in Israeli banks responding to the belief that those banks are involved in funding Jewish settlements in Palestinian Territories. If you are interested in signing The JVP "Thank You card to the Methodist Board, please use the following link:  
[http://org.salsalabs.com/o/301/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=18896](http://org.salsalabs.com/o/301/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=18896)

Look forward to spending some CSG time on the Israeli-Palestinian issue in coming months.

### Year of Mercy Support Sentencing Reform with CCUSA

Earlier in this Congress, CCUSA joined with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in support of efforts to improve the USA's sentencing laws, provide improved programs for incarcerated individuals and improve our programs to help ex-offenders return back to our communities (see joint letter [here](#)).

<http://cqcengage.com/catholiccharitiesusa/app/write-a-letter?2&engagementId=157993#.VqgUYcqrPJ4.facebook>

### Sisters' Clever Plan to Highlight Care for Creation

This recent Global Sister's report from NCR tells of the Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi Valley who want to bring care for the environment to the attention of Iowa caucus voters. Iowa is the first official vote taken as part of the campaign to be President of the United States.

<http://globalsistersreport.org/news/environment/sisters-band-together->

[billboard-campaign-bring-popes-environmental-message-iowa](#)

## Which are the Most Corrupt Countries on Earth?

A Guardian story reports on a study of the least and most corrupt countries on the planet. Shockingly, 6 billion of Earth's 7.4 billion people live under corrupt governments. The ranking of countries has been updated.

Information can be found here: [http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jan/27/index-perceived-corruption-billions-locked-in-poverty-by-public-sector?utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=GU+Today+USA+-+Version+CB+header&utm\\_term=153566&subid=9240817&CMP=ema\\_565b](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jan/27/index-perceived-corruption-billions-locked-in-poverty-by-public-sector?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=GU+Today+USA+-+Version+CB+header&utm_term=153566&subid=9240817&CMP=ema_565b)

## Iran, P5+1 Mark Deal Implementation Day



Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif and EU High Representative Federica Mogherini [announced](#) on Jan. 16 that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) [verified](#) that Tehran completed its nuclear commitments under the July 14 nuclear deal.

The agency's verification triggered "implementation day" according to the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, between Iran and the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States).

On implementation day, nuclear-related sanctions on Iran imposed by the United Nations, European Union, and the United States were lifted or waived.

The IAEA report noted that Iran

reduced the centrifuges at Natanz from over 16,000 to 5,060 IR-1 machines, which will enrich uranium to 3.67 percent, and removed the associated infrastructure;

- reduced the number of IR-1 machines centrifuges at Fordow to 1,044 (328 will operate for radioisotope production) and removed all nuclear material;
- stopped up testing on advanced centrifuges machines and removed all advanced centrifuges except one, IR-4, IR-5, IR-6, and IR-8 machine for testing with uranium and two single machines for mechanical testing;
- stored all dismantled centrifuges under IAEA seal;
- reduced the stockpile of enriched uranium to less than 300 kilograms;
- removed the core of the Arak reactor and disabled it by filling it with concrete;
- reduced its stockpile of heavy-water to 130 metric tonnes;
- provided the IAEA with an inventory of all centrifuge rotor components and bellows;
- began implementing its Additional Protocol; and
- instituted enhanced transparency mechanisms, including continuous monitoring at key sites by the IAEA.



## Lenten Reflection Guides

CAFOD has daily reflections online at their website

<http://cafod.org.uk/Prayer/Prayer-resources>

The Jesuit inspired [Education for Justice](http://educationforjustice.org) website offers 11 reflections for Lent written by peace activist, John Dear.

<https://educationforjustice.org/resources/lenten-reflections-2016-following-jesus-path-nonviolence-0> This resource is recommended by Pax Christi International, UK and US.

Pax Christi USA has a reflection booklet. "Everything is Grace." It is downloadable for \$2.50

[http://paxchristiusa.3dcartstores.com/Lent-2016--e-BOOK--DAILY-REFLECTIONS--NO-HARD-COPY-WILL-BE-SENT\\_p\\_297.html](http://paxchristiusa.3dcartstores.com/Lent-2016--e-BOOK--DAILY-REFLECTIONS--NO-HARD-COPY-WILL-BE-SENT_p_297.html)

Diocese of Hexam and Newcastle

<http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/spirituality/spiritlent16.php>

NETWORK offers the opportunity to sign up for daily reflection to be sent via e-mail. The reflections (and actions) will be focused on the theme: "Mend the Gap." <http://networklobby.org/lent>

## Calendar For February

### Feb. 3

Rosa Parks birthday b. 1913

### Feb 10

Ash Wednesday, Lent begins

[Annual Prayer Service for Migrants & Refugees](#)

Wed 10 AM · [Liberty State Park](#) · Jersey City

### February 13

'The Right to Food'

A program **from** 10.30 - 4.00, at the Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ

### February 17, at 2 PM

Catholics, Climate and Capitalism

Molloy College will present a lecture entitled "Catholics, Climate and Capitalism." Cardinal Peter Turkson, collaborator on the Encyclical letter, Laudato Si will be the presenter. For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact Molloy College's Office of Advancement at 516-323-4600, or [event@molloy.edu](mailto:event@molloy.edu).

### 20 February

World Day of Social Justice

### 27 February

Stop Trident

There will be a Stop Trident demonstration in London. You [sign up on Facebook](#) and are encouraged to invite friends.

Join the demonstration to say "No" to government plans to buy a new system at a cost of over £100 billion. Parliament will be voting on this in 2016. So this is urgent.



The majority of the British people, including the Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and other parliamentary party leaders, oppose nuclear weapons. They are weapons of mass destruction that can kill millions. They don't keep us safe and they divert resources from essential spending. More information on the event can be found [here](#).

### March 1

## International Death Penalty Abolition Day

**March 5, 2016**

A Poor Church for the Poor

'[A poor church for the poor](#)' - Las Casas Institute, University of Oxford is offering a one-day conference at Leeds Trinity University, Horsforth on Saturday 5th March 2016, arrivals from 10.30am, conference until 5.30pm. Booking through: EventBrite - [bit.ly/1NLBqi0](http://bit.ly/1NLBqi0) or email [lascasas@bfriars.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lascasas@bfriars.ox.ac.uk)

**May 7th to 15th, 2016**

Break Free from Fossil Fuels

With partners in 12 countries, 350.org is announcing a moment of global escalation against the fossil fuel industry, it's called **Break Free from Fossil Fuels**, and it will be unlike any project they've ever joined before: not a day of action, not a single march echoed around the globe, but coordinated, major actions of thousands of people taking on iconic fossil fuel projects and companies across the globe. [Click here to join the Break Free mobilization right now.](#)



Wishing everyone a prayerful Lent.