



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

March greetings to all,

Before the month is over we will celebrate the beginning of spring and Easter! Yes, I'm thinking positive thoughts.

The U.S. airwaves are saturated with political news about the rise of Donald and what today may be his inevitable path to his nomination to lead the Republican Party in November's elections. There is no shortage of the use of the pronoun "I" in his remarks to any crowd. "He" will break through legislative logjams, build a wall, ban Muslims, destroy Hillary, etc. His rhetoric was lamented this past weekend by David Brooks, a conservative columnist for the NY Times, as the culmination of 30 years of anti-government speech. It is anti-government and anti-political speech because there is no need for politics, to compromise, recognize and respect differences or negotiate deals. It speaks to a dangerous independence, of going it alone.

The UK is no stranger to some of those same tendencies as marked by recent considerations of pulling out of the EU and going it alone. A date has been set (23 June 2017) for citizens in the UK to cast their votes.

I am conscious of the desires of nations and leaders to go it alone to choose an unhealthy independence over the common good as this Thursday and Friday I begin my service to the Congregation at the UN, where I will join Suzanne Golas, CSJP. The UN models an opposite trend, of coming together to solve world problems, to work together, to respect differences, and negotiate solutions in order to secure global peace.

It may not always work, it can be messy and frustrating, but coming together remains the best way to find solutions.

Peace and all good,

*Frank*

Frank McCann, CSJP-A  
Peace through Justice Facilitator

### **Papal Reflection on our Common Home**

We start this March NewsNotes with a reflection by Pope Francis on our Earth posted to the web by CAFOD.

[http://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Encyclical?  
utm\\_campaign=CCR34747+Action+News+Feb+2016&utm\\_content=262016February&utm\\_source=et\\_93893&utm\\_medium=email](http://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Encyclical?utm_campaign=CCR34747+Action+News+Feb+2016&utm_content=262016February&utm_source=et_93893&utm_medium=email)

### **Protecting victims of trafficking**

England's "Tied Visa" law keeps foreign domestic workers from seeking alternative employment if they are in a bad situation. This

assists traffickers in keeping such workers in their employ. [https://www.walkfree.org/uk-domestic-slavery/?utm\\_source=Subscribers&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=uk-domestic-slavery&utm\\_content=UK-Domestic-Slavery\\_EmailTarget\\_Launch\\_en\\_UK\\_04Feb16](https://www.walkfree.org/uk-domestic-slavery/?utm_source=Subscribers&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=uk-domestic-slavery&utm_content=UK-Domestic-Slavery_EmailTarget_Launch_en_UK_04Feb16)

## LCWR Region 3 Anti-Trafficking Work

The 2016 Democratic Convention will be held in Philadelphia from July 25 through July 28. The topic of the National Conventions and regional involvement in anti-trafficking coalitions was raised at the recent LCWR Board meeting. Sister Teresita, M.M.S has been contacted regarding the need for assistance of the Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition before and during the Convention. Sister is very active in the Coalition and she has offered some practical information regarding how Region 3 might become involved. That information will be forthcoming.

There will be an initial planning meeting held at 11:00 AM on March 3 at Covenant House (31 East Armat St, Philadelphia).

If any sisters or associates are interested and available to attend this meeting they are welcome to attend.

## CSJPs join in Stop Trident Demonstration



Stop Trident, the largest anti nuclear march in a decade took place in London and the ranks were swelled by the seven CSJPs who participated. Marching with groups under a banner of "No Faith in Trident" many groups gathered and marched together including the CSJPs, Pax Christi, London and Glasgow Catholic Workers, Quakers and more.

The march protested the plan to spend spending hundreds of millions on upgrading the Trident nuclear submarine fleet.



## St. Mary's on the Lake to Host Michael Ramos

The CSJP associates have arranged for Michael Ramos, Executive Director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle to speak about homelessness. His topic is "Towards Humanized Approach to Homelessness."

Seattle has seen a rise in homelessness of 19 percent from 2015-2016 according to those doing the homeless count at the end of January. There is a debate in Seattle over how to change the approach to homelessness. Funding existing programs appears not to be working as intended and has not reduced the numbers experiencing homelessness. The mayor and council have debated how to come up with \$49 million more dollars to fund a more personal approach that deals with the specific individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

## Mass Climate Change Demonstrations Planned in the East

Northeast environmental groups are collaborating on several actions related to climate change and fossil fuel.

The "Break Free" mass demonstration is being planned for Albany, NY, on May 14. Albany is where the trains from North Dakota off-load Bakken crude oil into barges which travel down the Hudson River or into pipelines, or continue on the CSX rail line through our communities in New Jersey. Everyone in the Northern NJ area should be concerned because the trains travel over the reservoirs that contain the region's water supply.



The Coalition to Ban Unsafe Oil Trains and 350NJ will have 3 (or more) buses going to the Break Free demonstration. One bus will probably leave from Teaneck. We hope you will sign up at the meeting to go on the buses and that you will help get others to participate.

Watch for updates on a massive climate change demonstration being planned for the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. 7/25-28/2016.

## NJPN Annual Justice & Peace Conference (UK)

"Justice, Power and Responsibility: How Can Democracy Work for the Common Good?" will be held on 15 - 17 July 2016  
\*\*\* CONFERENCE NOW BOOKING \*\*\*

Booking forms from NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX 020 7901 4864 [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk) or download [here](#) Some assistance may be possible for families. Please contact NJPN to discuss.

## Survive and Thrive-Feed Hungry Mothers and Children



[Bread for the World](#) has sent out its 2016 Offering of Letters kits with the theme "Survive and Thrive." This year's campaign focus is on the nutrition and health of mothers and children around the world. The goal is to empower Christians and their congregations to write letters to the US Congress (yes, that feisty bunch) in support of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in December. Those in the UK may find the materials helpful in drafting similar letters to your MPs. Kits can be ordered, or all materials are available on the [Offering of Letters website](#).

### Hope not Hate Report

HOPE not Hate released its latest *State of Hate* report, a review of hate politics in the UK and across Europe in 2015. While these groups are becoming more marginalized, the report finds them becoming more violent.

[Click here to subscribe to HOPE not hate magazine to see the full report](#)

### Climate Focused Videos March 8-14, 2016

**7th Annual Westwood GreenScreen**, a week of thought-provoking films and special events about protecting the health of our planet and all species--and, most importantly, what we can do about it!

[http://www.westwoodgreenscreen.org/?can\\_id=d0579658544c4176912b118139053825&source=email-great-films-for-climate-activists-coming-to-westwood&email\\_referrer=great-films-for-climate-activists-coming-to-westwood\\_45656&email\\_subject=dont-miss-7th-annual-westwood-greenscreen-enviro-film-festival&link\\_id=0](http://www.westwoodgreenscreen.org/?can_id=d0579658544c4176912b118139053825&source=email-great-films-for-climate-activists-coming-to-westwood&email_referrer=great-films-for-climate-activists-coming-to-westwood_45656&email_subject=dont-miss-7th-annual-westwood-greenscreen-enviro-film-festival&link_id=0)

### First Friends Dinner to Feature Sr. Simone Campbell



[First Friends of NJ & NY](#) will hold its fund raising dinner on Wed. May 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Richfield Regency in Verona, NJ. Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS, director of NETWORK will be the keynote speaker.

First Friends upholds the inherent dignity and humanity of detained immigrants and asylum seekers. They provide hope and compassion through volunteer visitations, resettlement assistance and advocacy.



Several CSJP sisters and associates are involved in supporting First Friends and the detainees they serve.

### Ostriches Being Killed for Fancy Handbags

From PETA, UK: What many people don't know is that hundreds of thousands Ostriches are raised on barren factory farms in South Africa and killed at a young age so that their skins are being turned into handbags and other fashion accessories.

This new exposé features never-before-seen footage from the world's largest ostrich slaughterhouses - some of which supply global fashion brands such as Prada and Hermès.

[See the video here.](#)

After watching the video, you can take action from the Peta-UK website:

[http://action.peta.org.uk/ea-action/action?ea\\_client.id=5&ea\\_campaign.id=46979](http://action.peta.org.uk/ea-action/action?ea_client.id=5&ea_campaign.id=46979)



### Dreamers to Lead Vigils at Tacoma Detention Center

The Northwest Dreamers CSG (Community Small Group) has been taking part in the Saturday vigils at the Tacoma Detention Center with several other faith groups. The vigil is intended to support families as they exit the center after visiting loved ones held in detention. Organizers have asked if the CSG would now lead the effort on the fifth Saturdays of the month, which they agreed to do. More hospitality being extended!

## Tehran Elects Moderates

In part as a by-product of the nuclear deal negotiated with the West, Iran has elected an almost unanimously moderate slate of officials to their assembly, and won a clean sweep of Tehran's 30 seats in the Majlis, Iran's parliament. The assembly is responsible for choosing candidates for supreme leader. Rural results are not yet tallied. A record of up to 20 women were expected to win parliamentary seats.

There are still a majority of anti-west hard liners in the government, despite two of the most vocal losing their seats. The newly expanded moderate minority does signal a shift in momentum within Iran.

[http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/29/reformist-backed-candidates-tehran-iran-assembly-elections?utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=GU+Today+USA+-+Version+CB+header&utm\\_term=159359&subid=9240817&CMP=ema\\_565](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/29/reformist-backed-candidates-tehran-iran-assembly-elections?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=GU+Today+USA+-+Version+CB+header&utm_term=159359&subid=9240817&CMP=ema_565)

## CALENDAR

March 1 Death Penalty Abolition Day

March 8 International Women's Day (from PaxChristiUK.org)

To mark International Women's Day we thought it would be good to acknowledge and celebrate the peacemaking work of the women we know. Sisters, mothers, daughters, grandmothers, friends around the world contribute to peace in the family, in the community and the world. Help to celebrate women peacemakers by writing to women you know - and some you don't - on this day. We have produced postcards and have provided contact details of Pax Christi and other women peacemakers around the world.

See our own, Alexine Anderson, CSJP featured on the post card- bottom row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left.

March 13 Daylight savings begins in the U.S.

March 17 Feast of St. Patrick

March 19 Feast of our Patron, St. Joseph

March 22 World Water Day

March 24 Holy Thursday  
Feast of Blessed Oscar Romero

March 25 Good Friday  
International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

March 27 Easter Sunday

March 31 Caesar Chavez born 1927