



Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace *May, 2016*

REMINDER

Votes on the proposed congregational statement on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers must be received at Shalom Center by Friday May 20 in order to be counted. Please contact [Frank](#) if there is any question or problem.

Dear sisters and associates,

Our family was touched by life's cycle this weekend. We lost Fr. Dan Berrigan, SJ, priest, peacemaker, protester, and prophet. He had a profound impact on my life through his books, *Night Flight to Hanoi*, and *No Bars to Manhood*, which I read as a freshman divinity student at Seton Hall University. He presented the gospels in a way I had never heard them before, and coming from a very conservative family, his approach was radically new. Yet, he stimulated my mind, spoke truth to my heart, and changed my way of thinking and acting.

Hours after Fr. Dan's passing on Saturday, just home from a family First Communion in Connecticut, we received a call that our youngest daughter was heading to the hospital in Pennsylvania to deliver her third child. Nathaniel Joseph arrived at 10:30 PM, at a strapping 9 lbs. 1 oz. with a thankfully very short labor time for our daughter. The following hours were filled with awe, wonder and delight as we snuggled the not so little guy, and witnessed his introduction to his thrilled sister and brother, and, later, his three cousins.

Nathan's mom is our daughter for whom you were asked to pray 22 months ago when she was hospitalized with serious illness that appeared to be Crones disease. She recovered, took preventative action with her diet to avoid a

recurrence and she and her husband decided to try to have another child. God is good.

The love we witnessed is what Fr. Dan often spoke about. The incredible love of God for us, love that we are asked to share with others. There is no time or place for war or hate. Life is too short. With family at the first communion and with even closer family members welcoming Nathan, we experienced the awesome love of God and witnessed it being passed to another generation.

I hope Fr. Dan knows the important part he played in all of this.

I leave you with two pictures. One of a statue at the church where the first communion took place, and the second, at the end of the Newsletter, of Nathan's welcome.

Sincerely,

Frank

Frank McCann
Peace Thru Justice Facilitator



Bishop of Nottingham Issues Pastoral on Human Trafficking

The [Pastoral Letter](#) speaks to the protection of children and tells of one case of trafficking discovered within the diocese. For ways to take action against human slavery in the UK, visit the [WalkFree.org](#) website to see the work being done and how you might help.

U.S. Catholic Organizations Issues Voter Guide.

In an effort to put Pope Francis' recent messages to good use in the upcoming U.S. election Cycle, several Catholic organizations have issued a voter's guide entitled: [a revolution of tenderness: A 2016 Pope Francis Values Reflection Guide](#).

The groups that put the guide together included: Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach, Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Faith in Public Life: Catholic Program, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Pax Christi, USA, Pax Christi International and the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Extended Justice Team.

The U.S. Bishops also issue a quadrennial voter's guide entitled: [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#). The edition voted on and accepted by the bishops in November of 2015 has had no substantial changes since its last significant revision in 2007. Some bishops remarked that "we no longer live in 2007". There is a new Pope with a more pastoral approach and that change is ignored in the bishop's document.

Vatican Conference on Nonviolence



Could the global Church be growing in nonviolence?

Cardinal Peter Turkson opened a Vatican conference on just peace and nonviolence April 11-13. Organized by the Pontifical Council for Justice and

Peace, Pax Christi International, Pace e Bene and other Catholic peace organizations, the attendees included 85 laypersons, theologians, priests and a few bishops from around the world, not just those activists who dream of a church calling for Gospel nonviolence, but those who are living in violent regions who were looking for new vision and leadership from the global church.

The conference urged Pope Francis to abandon the "just war theory" as outdated and called the church to move toward a Just Peace approach. The Church would begin by integrating nonviolence in all of its dioceses, agencies, religious orders, schools, parishes and associations. In its closing document, [An Appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-commit to the Centrality of Gospel Nonviolence](#) the conference asked Pope Francis to issue an encyclical on nonviolence to guide the church forward.

The time has come for our Church to be a living witness and to invest far greater human and financial resources in promoting a spirituality and practice of active nonviolence and in forming and training Catholic communities in effective nonviolent practices. In all of this Jesus is our inspiration and model.

Marie Dennis, co-chair of Pax Christi International admitted that violent aggressors needed to be stopped. But asked: "The question is how...as long as we keep saying we can do it with military force, we will not invest the creative energy, the deep thinking, the financial and human resources in creating or identifying the alternatives that would actually make a difference."

To affirm this movement, consider joining or organizing a Campaign Nonviolence event for the week of September 18-25, or Explore the work of ... who can help us make our conversations efforts at peacemaking.

Palestine-Israel

Palestinian Loss of Land 1947 to Present



While there are no major headlines coming from the Israel Palestine conflict, we should be aware of several current issues that do not make the front pages of our news.

The U.S. accuses Israel of using excessive force against Palestinians, Times of Israel Staff, April 14, 2016

"The annual report by the State Department into human rights abuses around the world accused Israeli forces of "excessive use of force" in the Palestinian territories, and "arbitrary arrest and associated torture and abuse, often with impunity," by the IDF, the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

"According to numbers cited in the report, 149 Palestinians were killed in 2015 by Israeli security forces, but only 77 were in the course of attacking Israelis.

"There were numerous reports of the ISF (Israel security forces) killing Palestinians during riots, demonstrations, at checkpoints, and during routine operations; in some cases they did not pose a threat to life,' the report read." . . .

"The State Department report said the biggest human rights violations in Israel were terror attacks against civilians, and "institutional and societal discrimination" against Arabs, Israelis of Ethiopian extraction, women, non-Orthodox Jews and migrants.

"In the Palestinian territories, the report singled out the PA for failing 'to condemn incidents of anti-Semitic expression and embraced as 'martyrs' individuals who died while carrying out attacks on Israeli civilians.'

"Hamas, it said, was guilty of a slew of humans rights abuses in the Gaza Strip, including 'security forces killing, torturing, arbitrarily detaining, and harassing opponents, including Fatah members, and other Palestinians with impunity. Terrorist organizations and militant factions in the Gaza Strip launched rocket and mortar attacks against civilian targets in Israel, and they did so at or near civilian locations in Gaza.'

"The report also pointed at Israeli legislation forcing foreign government-funded

NGOs to take certain measures, which critics say would target groups critical of the government." . . .

For additional information on the plight of Palestinians consider reviewing the [Maryknoll Middle East Notes](#)

Bernie Sanders was the one candidate who did not pander to AIPAC, a pro-Israel lobby group in DC. He chose not to speak at their convention and stated that the Palestinians are mistreated by Israeli authorities.

We will be looking more at the Israeli Palestinian issue in future editions of this newsletter as the "Palestinian Question" underlies so many of the conflicts in the Middle East.

COP Agreement Signed at the UN



22 April 2016:

During the High-Level Signature Ceremony for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change held at the UN Headquarters in New York, US, on 22 April 2016, 175 Parties to the UNFCCC signed the Paris Agreement (174 countries and the EU), the largest ever number of first-day signatures to an international agreement. Of the 175 Parties that participated in the ceremony, 15 States deposited instruments of ratification. The signature ceremony was preceded, on 21 April, by the High-Level Thematic Debate on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which highlighted the interlinkages among the actions necessary to address climate change and foster sustainable development, and a briefing on forest conservation and restoration that discussed the implications of the formal signing of the Paris Agreement.

[Read more...](#)

In other climate change related news...

The LCWR issued one of its *Resolutions to Action* called [COP 21: Progress on Climate Change - Finally](#) by Sr. Joan Brown, OSF. The Resolution is prepared in the format of a pastoral cycle.

CAFOD is proposing a local, renewable energy plan for people in poverty for all nations to allow participation in sustainable development while protecting the environment. **CAFOD** seeks signatures in support of their plan. You can find, and if you agree, sign, their plan [here](#).

In recent months I have personally had the opportunity to present the IPJC Course, [Climate Change: A Call to Conversion](#) to different groups in my own parish. The course is very well done and requires no significant knowledge beyond what is presented in the course materials. I presented to our "Gospel Group," mainly immigrant women of color, and the second time to members of the Human Development, Social Justice ministry. Despite most attendees feeling they knew a lot about and understood climate change, they were deeply moved by the presentation materials and committed to making changes in their own lives. Participants were especially concerned about the condition of the Earth they would be leaving to their grandchildren.

Readers of this newsletter may want to consider presenting this course in your parishes, or to groups you know. In our case, the presentations were to already existing groups open to new material.

Calendar for May

- May 1 Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
 Founding of the Catholic Worker, 1933

- May 5 Feast of the Ascension

- May 9 Fr. Dan Berrigan, b. 1921

- May 24 First anniversary of Laudato Si

- May 30 Memorial Day (U.S.)

National Justice and Peace Network

Annual Justice & Peace Conference 15 - 17 July 2016

"Justice, Power and Responsibility:

How Can Democracy Work for the Common Good?"

*** CONFERENCE NOW BOOKING ***

Booking forms from NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX
020 7901 4864

