

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

Pursuing justice, we seek God's gift of peace.

NewsNotes--January 2015

Happy New Year!

Pope Francis World Day of Peace Message on Human Trafficking



Pope Francis' World Peace Day message entitled, "[Slaves no longer, but brothers and sisters](#)" addresses human trafficking.

In the UK, this coming **Sunday is Pax Christi's Peace Sunday 2015**, picking up the theme of the Pope's World Day of Peace Message: "Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters." A wide array of materials can be found

[here](#), including resource books, prayer cards and flyers. According to their website, this is the main opportunity for Pax Christi, UK to raise funds.

In the U.S., **January 11th is designated as Human Trafficking Awareness Day**, a good time for us to raise our awareness about trafficking and to consider how better we might respond. **The Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center** has created a [Prayer Service for an End to Human Trafficking](#). The prayer service features a great set of suggested action steps repeated below. These are simple action you can take to help end human trafficking.

Join world religious leaders by signing their declaration to end slavery by 2020: <http://www.globalfreedomnetwork.org>

Before you buy, check to see if your purchases were made using forced labor: <http://www.goodguide.com> (You can even download a goodguide App for your iPhone!)

For upcoming sporting events, write to coaches, athletes, hotels and/or sponsors about human trafficking:

<http://www.iccr.org/resources/2012/CelebrationWithoutExploitationToolkit.pdf>

See how many slaves are working for you:

<http://www.slaveryfootprint.org>

Think you know of a case of human trafficking? Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-3737-888

For more education and action resources: <http://www.ipjc.org>



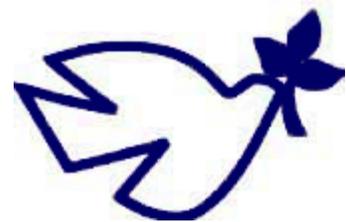
The LCWR notes that many religious congregations and faith communities are using January and February dates to bookend a month of education, prayer, and action around human trafficking. The resources listed below provide only a sampling of the wonderful materials prepared by women religious:

- <http://www.ipjc.org/links/HumanTraffickingAwarenessDay-PrayerService2015.pdf>
- <http://www.csjboston.org/news-and-events/events/0111-prayer-vigil-for-human-trafficking-awareness-day/>
- http://www.stopenslavement.org/jan_11/Prayer_Service.pdf
- <http://www.cscsisters.org/spirituality/Prayer%20Services/humantrafficking2015.pdf>

Other resources are now available from [the Sisters of St. Agnes](#) that include handouts, prayer services and more for use in outreach to parishes. Links to important human trafficking websites are also available.

Witnessing for Peace

Katrina Alton, CSJP took part in the monthly "4 minute witness" with the Glasgow Catholic Worker at the Faslane trident submarine base in Scotland. A prayerful video record of the witness can be found [here](#). This witness is held every first Saturday of the month at 2:30 pm.



A Vow of Nonviolence

As has been reported elsewhere, six associates from the West took a vow of nonviolence before their bishop in December. Congratulations to Max, Sue, Bryan, Elizabeth, Denny and Annie! A CSG experience is being prepared for anyone considering taking a vow of nonviolence.



Max,Sue,Bryan,Elizabeth,Denny, Annie - Vow of Non-violence

Racial Unrest

The wave of racial unrest in the U.S. was addressed by Bishop Edward Braxton of Belleville, IL, in a pastoral letter entitled [The Racial Divide in the United](#)

[States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015](#). Using the Pope's World Peace Day theme, he opens by inviting us to imagine ourselves as whites in a black majority culture and goes on to question the role that the Catholic Church is now playing in racial reconciliation. He believes we could be doing more. He reviews the deaths of several of the young black men who have recently been killed by police or neighborhood watch personnel, pointing out the differences in each case. Bishop Braxton points out that each case is different and each person whose life is lost should be considered individually.

Bishop Braxton writes:

A growing awareness seems to be emerging that renewed efforts must be made to re-establish bonds of trust and respect between law enforcement, the judicial system, and local communities... Religious leaders are appreciating the urgent need for them to take a more active role in bridging the racial divide especially between young African-American men and White representatives of the law.

What can the CSJP community offer in supporting a dialogue and repairing the wounds of young black men and how can we push forward solutions for the undeniable injustice they experience?

Witness Against Torture

Witness Against Torture is a community of Catholic Workers and friends from around the country gathering this week in Washington DC for their annual protest against the continued operation of Guantanamo prison. Sunday, January 11 is the 13th anniversary of the opening of Guantanamo in 2002. They are gathered for a seven-day, liquids only fast during which they witness every day at public places, embassies, and federal buildings.



You can:

- * Follow their actions this week on their [website](#) or by signing up to get their emails,
- * Join them in the fast and share your reflections,
- * Join them in prayerful support.

Pictures of the Close Guantanamo actions are posted on [Flickr](#).

Pope Francis gets the final word: (from his Peace Day message)

Businesses have a duty to ensure dignified working conditions and adequate salaries for their employees, but they must also be vigilant that forms of subjugation or human trafficking do not find their way into the distribution chain. Together with the social responsibility of businesses, there is also the *social responsibility of consumers*. Every person ought to have the awareness that "purchasing is always a moral - and not simply an economic - act".

Peace,

Frank McCann, CSJP-A,
JPIC Facilitator