

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

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

NewsNotes--February 2015

Dear Sisters and Associates,

This edition of NewsNotes comes to you from the relative warmth of my home office since the overnight snowfall-which is continuing-makes it risky to negotiate my way to Shalom Center. Thanks to all who interceded for my recovery, I am back to work and feeling fine.

This issue has lots of information on Human Trafficking due to the recent U.S. Human Trafficking Awareness Day and the International Human Trafficking day announced by Pope Francis. But, there are also other interesting items some of which are time sensitive like the invitation to participate in a phone call with Michelle Obama tomorrow, Tuesday regarding Obamacare.

Peace and all good,

Frank McCann, CSJP-A

Justice and Peace Facilitator

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Sunday Feb. 8, the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, will be the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking.

St. Bakhita was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan. After gaining her freedom, she became a religious sister and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting those who suffer. Approximately 21 million people are enslaved throughout the world. Join us by making a personal commitment. Sign the [pledge](#) to take action.



CSJPs join IPJC Action against Human Trafficking before Super Bowl yesterday.

Resolve to fight human trafficking!

- 1 Learn about trafficking.
- 2 Educate your community.
- 3 Become a Responsible Consumer.
- 4 Volunteer.
- 5 Advocate-Engage your elected officials.
- 6 In the U.S., report trafficking to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).
- 7 Pray. Attend a special noon Mass at the National Basilica in Washington, DC or host your own Prayer Vigil.

Parishes and communities across the country are encouraged to organize their own local events.

Sample prayer services and other resources are available from the [Global Freedom Network](#).

A flyer, sample prayer intentions, and the "Become the SHEPHERD" toolkit from USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services, are available [here](#).

You will find additional resources from UISG on the [LCWR website](#) including an explanation of this effort as well as four documents: a letter from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic

Life (CICLSAL) about the day, a prayer service, a daily prayer, and the agenda for the commemoration of this day in Rome.

You might also want to visit the new website of [U.S. Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking](#) at where you'll find additional information and resources.

Nicholas Kristof, columnist for the NY Times, and his wife Sheryl WuDunn have worked for decades on the issue of Human Trafficking. PBS is currently running a series on Monday nights based on their book, ***A Path Appears***. Look for the series on your local PBS Station tonight and next Monday. The first installment, which aired last Monday, Jan. 26th, can be seen until February 14th using [this link](#).

[www.NotMyLife.org](#) is offering a film and other tools to help spread the news about human trafficking. Of particular interest might be the [Not My Life House Party Toolkit](#) that equips you to host a party in your home to spread awareness of the realities of human trafficking. Even today it is amazing how many people are unaware of the problem, much less our own complicity in trafficking.

For those who have not read it, **Sister Susan Francois, CSJP** was just published in Sojourners. The article, [Resistance. Lamentation. Action.](#) is based on Susan's recently submitted master's thesis on human trafficking.

Please share any and all of this information with your members, associates, coworkers, and networks so that joined in solidarity worldwide we can make a difference and engage on social media. Post to Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SistersAgainstTrafficking](#) and Tweet using #HumanTrafficking and #SlavesNoMore.

Let us put an end to human trafficking!

SCOTLAND BANS FRACKING!

Scottish energy minister Fergus Ewing announced a ban on issuing permits to allow fracking in Scotland until a full consultation has taken place that would determine if fracking can be done safely and if there is a need for the shale gas that might be retrieved. This is considered a great victory by those opposed to Fracking-the use of chemical compounds under great pressure to remove oil and gas deposits from shale rock deep underground.

Potential fracking regions are in Northwest Scotland.

In Scotland, 15% of the people approved of fracking while 54% were against it.

We can hope, pray and act that this decision, the promise to veto the XL Pipeline and the upcoming (June) Encyclical by Pope Francis will create momentum for real change in the dependence on fossil fuels.

OBAMACARE CONFERENCE CALL

The LCWR invites any congregation members who are responsible for or involved with signing people up for Obamacare to join in a conference call with First Lady Michelle Obama on **Tuesday, February 3rd at 1:00 P.M. ET** to discuss how the Affordable Care Act is impacting the lives of your congregation members. We encourage you to circulate this invitation to fellow faith leaders, especially those who are engaged in enrollment efforts during this open enrollment period from now until February 15th.

Call Details

- **Date:** Tuesday, February 3rd
- **Time:** 1:00 PM ET, please join 5-7 minutes early to avoid connection delays
- **RSVP:** To receive the dial-in information, please register for the call by clicking:

<http://ems6.intellor.com?p=600507&do=register&t=1>

This call is off the record and not for press purposes.

MERTON'S CENTENNIAL

January 31 was the centennial of the birth of Thomas Merton, contemplative and nonviolent activist. Spiritual Directors International has put together a video to honor his prayer and life.

You can find the video here: <http://youtu.be/tNIHwniEQMw>

DEATH PENALTY

The U.S. death penalty has been in the news a lot recently as states have tried to return to executing inmates by lethal injection after a botched execution last April.

Sr. Helen Prejean helped win a stay of execution for three inmates on death row in Oklahoma. The Supreme Court will decide if the use of the drug midazolam violates an inmate's protections against cruel and unusual punishment. Arguments will be heard before the court in April. Sr. Helen is a spiritual adviser to one of those inmates, Richard Glossip who was scheduled to be executed on January 29th.

After last month's NewsNotes I received a note from our own Sr. Margaret Redmond, CSJP explaining that she is part of a Lifelines group in the UK organized by Margaret Shepherd. As a "befriender" Sr. Margaret writes to inmates on death row in U.S. prisons. She asked if others would be interested in knowing that such opportunities are available.



Campaign Nonviolence

Campaign Nonviolence wants to work with individuals, organizations, and movements to strengthen their efforts to abolish war, protect human rights, end poverty, challenge injustice, heal the planet and to

meet today's profound spiritual task: to build a more just, peaceful and nonviolent world. In short, they want to build a culture of peace, as do CSJPs.

I would like to work with a person or small group from each region to plan for actions to take place in September to further the Campaign's vision: to end war, poverty and the climate crisis. These actions can be CSJP led or organized by others who are willing to be part of this growing network of persons willing to grow in nonviolence as a path to justice.



Bread for the World is urging Congress to renew our federal government's major child nutrition programs, including those for school meals, summer feeding, and the WIC nutrition program for pregnant and new mothers along with their small children.

Every five years, Congress must re-authorize the law that funds these programs, which have helped millions of children over the decades. Thanks to the leadership of Bread for the World and its church partners, the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act expanded and improved these programs.

Now is the time to renew these national nutrition programs. Be part of Bread's 2015 Offering of Letters by taking a few minutes to write letters to your members of Congress.

Bread notes that the UK began a program years ago to cut childhood hunger in half in a decade. Bread would like the U.S. to take up the same challenge.

Watch for more details in coming issues...