

Justice Memo

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To: *Sisters and Associates*
From: *Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ*
Date: *February, 2010*



Haitian Crucifixion, Helen David Brancato IHM

Justice Ministry in the 90s... Racism Workshops...Coke Boycott at the Motherhouse...

Celebrating 30 Years of SSJ Justice Ministry

"I was one of the people who resisted social justice. It was very confusing to me. I was in spiritual work and just didn't see the connection between the gospel and social justice. Then we heard Maria Augusta Neal and it was then that the axis of my spiritual life changed. I remember the line she spoke: 'Integral to Jesus' preaching to the poor was that they would be poor no longer.' To follow Jesus meant that I had to be involved with the poor and with social justice."

(Helen Prejean CSJ, Mount Saint Joseph Convent, 4/25/95)

...Corporate Stand Against the Death Penalty...

...International Women's Day...

...Helen Prejean CSJ ...Veronica O'Reilly...Maria Augusta Neal...Feminism Education...

30th Anniversary Celebration of SSJ Justice Ministry

- ♥ See the December 23rd electronic mailing for information about the local community preparation for the 30th Anniversary Justice event on April 10th.
- ♥ The General Council has asked us to participate in the Justice for Immigrants postcard campaign. Please send signed cards to the Justice Office by February 12th. These will be delivered in bulk to senators and representatives on February 20th.
- ♥ Digital pictures of individuals and local communities doing works of justice are due by March 1st. Please email to mhamm@ssjphila.org
- ♥ A flyer with details about the Justice Anniversary Event will be in next week's electronic mailing.

30th Anniversary
Celebration
SSJ Justice Ministry

April 10, 2010
10:00AM – 3:00PM

Immigration:

**"We strengthen our corporate voice for justice ...
and our participation in partnerships that work for systemic change".** (Chapter 2004/Strategic Plan)



The Welcome Center Prayer Vigil, January 11, 2010

The Immigration/Human Trafficking Committee is preparing materials to use during the Lenten Season that will help us as we continue to become more informed of the complexity of this issue and advocate for humane immigration reform.

Thank you to all who have participated in the Justice for Immigrants postcard campaign and who have sought to bring this campaign to your parish. Keep the postcards coming!

To view a YouTube video of the Welcome Center Prayer Vigil for humane immigration reform go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQE-ijjHV70>

Human Trafficking:

Stop Trafficking Newsletter: Thank you to all who sent donations that will enable us to continue co-sponsoring the Stop Trafficking Newsletter. As of this date we have received \$700.00 toward the \$1,000.00 co-sponsorship fee. Just 12 more donations of \$25.00 and we will reach our goal! Checks payable to the Sisters of St. Joseph can be sent to the Justice Office.

Maryland: The 2010 Maryland State Legislative session will be introducing bills to address the industry of human trafficking in Maryland and have designated February 4th as Maryland Human Trafficking Day. Learn more about what you can do to support Human Trafficking legislation in MD. <http://actioncenter.polarisproject.org/>

Pennsylvania: In Pennsylvania legislation to increase awareness about human trafficking and to provide needed help to victims and anyone wishing to provide tips on human trafficking, is poised for introduction in the Pennsylvania legislature. Urge your state senator to co-sponsor this legislation. For more information: <http://actioncenter.polarisproject.org/>



Sustainability:

“We will focus on specific sustainability issues...and discover and implement creative ways to live more simply for the sake of the common good.” (Chapter 2004/ Strategic Plan)

Living Lightly: An Ecological Resource: Since Spring 2009 our Congregation has been engaging this resource prepared by the Sustainability Committee as a way of prayerfully assessing our lifestyle and taking concrete action steps to live more simply and sustainably as a way of living our mission. This winter many of our local communities are using Section 3: Energy. Links to some helpful websites on energy are posted on the Justice Resource page of our website to support your conversation and actions to decrease your carbon footprint.

In the past month two CSSJ Congregations have requested permission to use Living Lightly as part of their Congregational education or Chapter preparation on living simply and sustainably – word spreads fast!

Sustainability Cluster: A new cluster has been formed with the focus on sustainability. The next meeting is Saturday, February 20th from 11:30 – 1:30 at the Earth Center. All are welcome! Bring a mug, cloth napkin and lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

February Justice Resources

(To access the materials below and many others go to <http://ssjphila.org/JusticeResources.html>)

African-American History Month – Reflections on Racism

DEATH PENALTY: *February Execution Alert* (Print this out and keep in chapel)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

- *Stop Trafficking Newsletter- February* : Highlights the plight of indigenous children

IMMIGRATION: From The Immigration Policy Center: <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/> (Worth reading)

- The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants in Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania

SUSTAINABILITY/ENVIRONMENT:

- *Living Lightly: An Ecological Resource (Energy: Pages 8-9)* for discussion in local community during the winter
- Energy-saving resources:
 - *Energy Efficiency Factsheet*
 - Energy Star: <http://www.energystar.gov/>
 - The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy: www.aceee.org
 - MetaEfficient: www.metaefficient.com
 - U. S. Department of Energy: www.eere.energy.gov