

## Commission for Justice

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# Justice Memo

To: Sisters and Associates

From: Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ

Date: July, 2009



*In response to God's transforming grace and these signs of the times, how do we dare to live these SSJ values?*

## Values

*Contemplative Life Stance*

*Right Relationship*

*Courageous Risk-taking*

*Self-emptying, Inclusive Love*

*Human Trafficking*

*Our broken immigration system*

*The unsustainable lifestyle of our American culture*

*Chapter 2009*

## Implementing Our Corporate Stand Against Human Trafficking

***"We commit ourselves personally to our corporate stances."*** (Chapter 2004)

**Suggested Action:** Dawn's Place, a safe-house for victims of human trafficking located in Germantown, is in need of any of the following items on an on-going basis. If you would like to contribute any of these items you can drop them off at the Justice Office or at Elizabeth House (138 Carpenter Lane, Philadelphia):

- Art Supplies: colored pencils, tempera, watercolors, drawing pads, markers, etc.
- Certificates for Pathmark, Acme, or Target
- Earth-friendly cleaning or laundry supplies
- Toiletries: soap, shampoo, deodorant, tampons, toothpaste, etc.
- Toilet paper
- Reading materials in Spanish (novels, magazines...)



## Corporate Voice – Immigration

***"We strengthen our corporate voice for justice..."***

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

**1)** The Immigration/Human Trafficking Committee has recommended to the General Council that we sign on to the "Principles of Immigration Reform" (Reform Immigration for America) and "A New Path Toward Humane Immigration Policy" (American Friends Service Committee). A copy of both of these statements is on our website. **2)** A statement on Immigration Reform that was published in the Baltimore Catholic Review and signed by Congregations of men and women religious who minister in that Archdiocese is also on the website. We are grateful to Sister Connie Gilder who was instrumental in preparing and publicizing this statement. **3)** Finally, an Immigration Statement from the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, adapted from the Federation Statement, is on the website. We encourage you to share this statement with your parishioners.

## 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)

- 1) **Living Lightly: An Ecological Resource:** Each local community is asked to engage in ongoing contemplative dialogue around the Ecological Resource. This resource offers one way to keep the conversations that we began at Chapter alive and has the potential “to invite us into a cycle of deep learning and deep change.” The suggested timeline is:
- ♥ Spring/Summer 2009: Section 1 – Spirituality
  - ♥ Fall 2009: Section 2 – General Overview
  - ♥ Winter/Spring 2009 – 2010: Any two sections of your choice

**Change for Global Change:** Even during this economic downturn so many of you have been faithful to contributing to our *Change for Global Change* grant fund. Thank you to all who brought your school, parish, friends, colleagues, or family on board with this project or who contributed from your own local community donations. At this time our bank account balance is \$20, 621.00 and there is still promise of checks to come.

One recent donation of \$944.21 came from St. Stephen Church in Elkin, NC (Sister Janis McQuade’s parish), a parish of only 68 households. Another donation is on the way from St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park MD, at the prompting of Candidate Connie Murphy and the follow through of Sister Mary Jane Daily (and I’ll bet all the other sisters got into the act, too!). The parish administrator designated one weekend in June for the contents of the church “poor box” to be donated to *Change for Global Change*. Parishioners were invited to toss their change in the poor box as they left church and a check is on the way for over \$1,500.00.

Grant applications for *Change for Global Change* will be available in the near future. If you would like to apply for a grant, please e-mail your request to: [info@changeforglobalchange.org](mailto:info@changeforglobalchange.org)



## *July Justice Resources*

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

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

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING:**

- *Stop Trafficking Newsletter- June:* This issue highlights books and films on human trafficking themes.
- *Exploitation of Children on the San Diego/Tijuana Border* (Prepared by Sisters of St. Joseph, Orange, CA)

### **IMMIGRATION:**

- Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill Statement on Immigration (Adapted from Federation statement)
- Immigration Statement in the Baltimore Catholic Review signed by our Congregation
- “Principles of Immigration Reform” (Reform Immigration for America)
- “A New Path Toward a Humane Immigration Policy” (American Friends Service Committee)

**SUSTAINABILITY/ENVIRONMENT:** A few good flicks for your summer viewing pleasure...

- **Flow: For Love of Water** DVD, 84 min. A film about the global water crisis
- **Blue Gold: World Water Wars** DVD, 90 min.
- **An Inconvenient Truth:** DVD, 96 min.
- **Justice and Compassion in the Web of Life:** DVD, Helen Prejean CSJ
- **The Spirituality of Sustainability:** DVD, Carol Zinn SSJ