



JUST Love

JANUARY 2021



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

In 1993 the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth took their first Congregational Public Stand against the death penalty. The Congregation, after a period of education and reflection, was asked to vote on the proposition “that the Sisters of Charity publicly state their opposition to the death penalty and call for its abolition.” 72% of the sisters responded to the proposal and 89% of those responding were affirmative. The advocacy of the Sisters of Charity and other groups was successful in abolishing the death penalty in New Jersey in 2007. The federal death penalty applies in all 50 states and U.S. territories but until recently has been used relatively rarely. Under the Trump administration, the federal government began executions after a lapse of nearly two decades. Pope Francis calls the use of the death penalty an attack on the dignity of the human person and deems capital punishment “inadmissible” in all cases. Here are some steps that we can take to renew our commitment to life made in the Public Stand of 1993.

*Educate ourselves individually and communally about the death penalty by joining and collaborating with local and national organizations that oppose the death penalty, such as:

- Catholic Mobilizing Network
<https://catholicmobilizing.org/>
- Campaign to End the Death Penalty
<https://nodeathpenalty.org/>



- Death Penalty Focus <https://deathpenalty.org/>
- National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
<https://www.ncadp.org/>
- *Support these local and national organizations financially as a congregation and individuals.
- *Write letters to our elected officials requesting legislation to abolish the death penalty.
- *Encourage the signing of the “Declaration of Life,” pledging that should we become a victim of a crime, we personally do not want the murderer to receive the death penalty. Templates for a “Declaration of Life” statement are available from <https://quaker.org/legacy/declaration-of-life.html>
- *Attend the virtual prayer vigils of the Catholic Mobilizing Network every time there is an execution
<https://catholicmobilizing.org/virtual-vigils>



Vote with Your Fork: Now that the holiday feasting is over we may want to begin to be more conscientious about our food choices. One of the most significant ways we interact with Earth is by what we put on our plates.

- Give up soda, both regular and diet.
- Give up fast food because it's packed with sugar, fat, salt, and chemicals
- Increase vegetables and fruits to 7-9 servings a day.
- Reduce the amount of meat you eat; even try several meatless meals a week.



January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Unfortunately, traffickers take advantage of times of social chaos like the pandemic so trafficking is on the rise. Here are

some actions you can take to raise awareness.

-Pray the Sister of Charity Prayer For an End to Human Trafficking daily, individually or together with others. Include prayer for victims of trafficking in your faith community. https://0e4f0307-8157-4c79-9229-37922dbe65e9.filesusr.com/ugd/a2bb32_06f4485288844c559b22c14acaa3b9d4.pdf

These cards are available for distribution from tmoran@scnj.org

-Further your education on the issue of trafficking. Some helpful websites:

-The Polaris Project <http://www.polarisproject.org/>

-US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking <https://sistersagainstrafficking.org/>

-Trafficking Resources from the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center

<http://www.ipjc.org/links/trafficking.htm>

-Talk about this issue with others and ask your parish or other community to sponsor a workshop on human trafficking. The Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity can offer trafficking workshops for parishes by ZOOM; contact tmoran@scnj.org

-Change your language – use the term “prostituted woman” instead of “prostitute”

-Purchase handcrafted products made by trafficking survivors:

<https://www.changetheworldbyhowyoushop.com/human-trafficking>

-Enter this number in your cell phone so you can call if you see someone you suspect is a victim of trafficking. The National Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 to report a tip or connect with anti-trafficking resources near you.



Every January, the Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity celebrates National Migration Week with a special prayer service in Holy Family Chapel. For nearly forty years, National Migration Week (NMW) has been celebrated the

week after the Epiphany in January. In 2019, Pope Francis announced that the World Day of Migrants and Refugees would henceforth be celebrated on the last Sunday of September. To maintain the custom of aligning NMW with the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the Catholic Bishops of the United States recently decided to move National Migration Week to the last week in September. The next National Migration Week that we will celebrate will be September 20 - 26, 2021, with the Vatican's World Day of Migrants and Refugees taking place on Sunday the 26th. And we hope it will be safe to celebrate together again by September!



JPIC Dates to Commemorate in January

1 World Day of Peace The grace of God our Father is bestowed as unconditional love. Having received his forgiveness in Christ, we can set out to offer that peace to the men and women of our time. Day by day, the Holy Spirit prompts in us ways of thinking and speaking that can make us artisans of justice and peace. -Pope Francis

4 Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton “The accidents of life separate us from our dearest friends, but let us not despair. God is like a looking glass in which souls see each other. The more we are united to God by love, the nearer we are to those who belong to God.”

11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day To raise awareness of human trafficking, we invite the public to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram – along with our #WearBlueDay hashtag.

21 Martin Luther King Day “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

29 March for Life, Washington, DC “We must keep in mind that the dignity of every human being is equal and inviolable at every stage throughout his or her life.”
-Pope Francis