

# Justice Memo



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

+ *Right relationship* + *Courageous risk-taking* +

## Prophetic Hope: Imagine the Possibilities

Preparation for the Fall Assembly

“Thriving religious orders have a dual formula of both a high cost for membership and high commitment to rituals and practices to differentiate this group from any other. Until religious orders again understand the dynamics of commitment to prophetic and mystical witness, they are not likely to see dramatic increases in membership. Clear boundaries, high costs and distinct identity are the expectations of new members joining religious life.” (Can We Allow a New Generation to Shape Religious Life, Laurie Brink, OP)

+ *Contemplative life stance* +

+ *Self-emptying, inclusive love* +

+ *How do we dare to live these SSJ values?* +

**Prophetic Witness - LCWR Pax Christi Award:** At this year’s National Catholic Conference on Peacemaking, Pax Christi USA will recognize the significant contributions of women religious by honoring the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) with the Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award. “Everyone in Pax Christi USA knows and recognizes that women religious are the backbone of the Catholic peace and justice movement,” stated Dave Robinson, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA. “These strong, prophetic and compassionate women are always on the frontlines where the weak and most vulnerable suffer at the hands of violent and unjust power. For everything these women do, from their visionary leadership to their personal integrity, we felt this moment to be the opportune time to honor them.” The award, first instituted in 2007, will be presented in Chicago at the closing plenary session of the national conference, Sunday, July 18. Pax Christi will have a “wall of thanks” set up in the main plenary space to post photos of women religious who have inspired you in your commitment to peace and justice. If you would like to send a photo or a note of thanks to be included on the wall, please send them as attachments [beth@paxchristiusa.org](mailto:beth@paxchristiusa.org). Pax Christi will include as many as they can!

## Prophetic Witness: Implementing Our Corporate Stand Against Human Trafficking

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

Throughout the past year we continued to implement our Corporate Stand Against Human Trafficking in a variety of ways.



- Dawn’s Place was one of the recipients of our Congregational Christmas gift and many local communities provided financial support throughout the year
- Some of our sisters/associates continue to volunteer at Dawn’s Place
- Our Congregation signed on to two letters regarding human trafficking and the World Cup
- We participated in a panel on Human Trafficking at St. Joseph University
- We lobbied in Harrisburg and through electronic email for two pieces of human trafficking legislation
- We raised awareness of human trafficking in various venues: parishes, associate groups, and other groups.
- Donations from over thirty local communities, associates, and friends enabled us to continue our sponsorship of the Stop Trafficking Newsletter

## Immigration

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

**Prophetic Witness:** Humane immigration reform continues to be a key issue for us as Sisters of Saint Joseph. The Welcome Center, one of our sponsored works, ministers to an immigrant population, many of whom are undocumented. Many of our sisters work with immigrants, some of whom are undocumented. All of us depend on the services of immigrants...in the agricultural, textile, hotel and restaurant industries...many of whom are undocumented. During the past year the Immigration Committee has provided abundant resources to assist us in engaging the immigration issue (See: <http://ssjphila.org/Immigration.html>). The newest resource you can access, *Engaging Impasse on Immigration*, was prepared by NETWORK in an attempt to try something new to break through the impasse on immigration. Through reflection, role playing, and discussion, participants can explore various feelings and fears surrounding immigration reform and ways to find common ground. The resource uses biographies to explore the experience of individuals who live the reality of the intersection of immigration and our current failed system.

**NETWORK:** Each local community is encouraged to become a member of NETWORK. Founded by 47 Catholic sisters in 1971, NETWORK a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace, educates, lobbies and organizes for economic and social transformation. The annual membership fee is \$50.00 but many of our local communities can take advantage of the \$20.00 retiree fee (even though we may not be officially “retired”). Join today! [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)



## Earth Matters

***“We treasure our covenant relationship with the Community of Earth.”*** (Strategic Plan)



**Change for Global Change:** We are grateful to all those who have supported Change for Global Change during this 4<sup>th</sup> year Collection Campaign. Donations continue to arrive daily from local communities, parishes & schools where we minister, individual donors, and Congregations in the Federation. To date our bank account balance is \$24,396.77. Grant applications are available on our website.

**Food:** How much do we really know about the food we buy in our local supermarkets and serve to our families? Did you know that our nation's food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment? **Food, Inc.**, a DVD produced by Robert Kenner, reveals surprising—and often shocking truths—about what we eat and how it's produced. To view the trailer go to: <http://www.foodincmovie.com/about-the-film.php>. The DVD is available in the Justice Resource Room.

### *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- July: Highlights portions of the 10th US State Department Report on Global Trafficking

**ENVIRONMENT:** Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill: A Catholic Social Teaching Perspective (Education for Justice)

**IMMIGRATION:** Engaging Impasse on Immigration (NETWORK)