

# JPIC Focus News

## The Newsletter of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Network

Issue #1. Vol. 21 2017

Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, OH

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*"Integrity is often a willingness to hold the dark side of things instead of reacting against them, denying them, or projecting our anxiety elsewhere."*

Richard Rohr, OFM, Eager to Love

## Everyone Can Be an Artisan of Peace

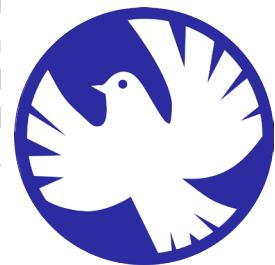
Sharon Havelak, OSF

2017 is looking to be a bad time to be poor, an immigrant, a refugee, a woman, a welfare recipient, on social security, or in trouble in any way. The campaign rhetoric of the past two years has become a reality – and people are taking to the streets. What's a Christian to do?

Amazingly, there are some pretty clear answers.

In his 2017 World Day of Peace message, Pope Francis began with his prayer that “the image and likeness of God in each person will enable us to acknowledge one another as sacred gifts endowed with immense dignity.” He called all to actively pursue nonviolence as a way of life. Many of us, he noted, will do it through small acts and gestures that form relationships and bring peace.

In April, 2016, a group of people from around the world gathered in Rome for a Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference: they were from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Oceania and included lay people,



theologians, members of religious congregations, priests, and bishops. They noted in their concluding document that this is “a time of tremendous suffering, widespread trauma and fear linked to militarization, economic injustice, climate change, and a myriad of other specific forms of violence.” Their lived experience in their homelands called them to embrace nonviolence, which,

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## Artisan of Peace

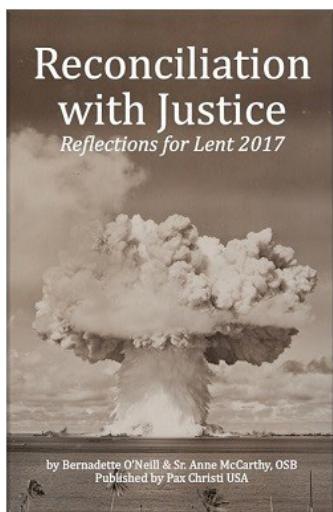
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they noted, was often a more effective means of ending violence than violent methods. They called the Church “to recognize the centrality of active nonviolence to the vision and message of Jesus; to the life and practice of the Catholic Church; and to our long-term vocation of healing and reconciling both people and the planet.”



As Sylvania Franciscans, we have a long tradition of embracing nonviolence. We have gathered yearly for peace each January, praying together and signing an annual Peacemaker’s Pledge or committing ourselves to actions that would bring peace. We offered monthly peace prayers during the Iraq War. Our Peace Pole still stands very visible on our grounds. The statement that the Leadership Team issued recently on the current immigration policies and refugee resettlement ban is another example of our commitment to building a just and peaceful world.

Pope Francis ended his Peace message with the hope that “In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to becoming nonviolent people and to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home.” He noted that “Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer. Everyone can be an artisan of peace.”



### LENTEN RESOURCE

“Reconciliation with Justice, Reflections for Lent 2017” is available through Pax Christi USA. There is a single use, e-version available for \$3.50. Go to <https://paxchristiusa.org> to order your copy.



*Corine Dehabey from US Together.*



## Speaker for our Spring LCC

We are happy that most of us will be able to meet and hear Corine Dehabey from US Together at our Spring LCC on March 11. Corine came to the January 10, 2017 Refugee Initiative meeting and all the members learned a lot and found her very helpful in assisting us to understand the plight of refugees.

Here's the US Together mission statement from their website, [www.ustogther.us](http://www.ustogther.us). "To coordinate, organize, and initiate services to immigrants and refugees through education, advocacy, support services, information, referrals, and networking opportunities in order to strengthen the community that we live in. US Together, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501© (3) mutual assistance agency founded in 2003 as a response to the needs of refugees and immigrants in central Ohio. As a Refugee Resettlement Agency and an affiliate of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, we accept cases from all over the world that are forced to seek refuge in another country due to the inability to stay in their native country. Services are provided through our Columbus, Cleveland and Toledo offices to hundreds of nationalities that are starting their new lives in the United States. Through all interaction we strive to keep in accordance with our mission."

We know you will find Corine very helpful. We look forward to her being with us.

# Human Trafficking

One of the great resources to assist those who are/have been trafficked is the toll free hotline number, 1-888-373-7888 or the BeFree text line, 233733.

Both are also available to report tips.

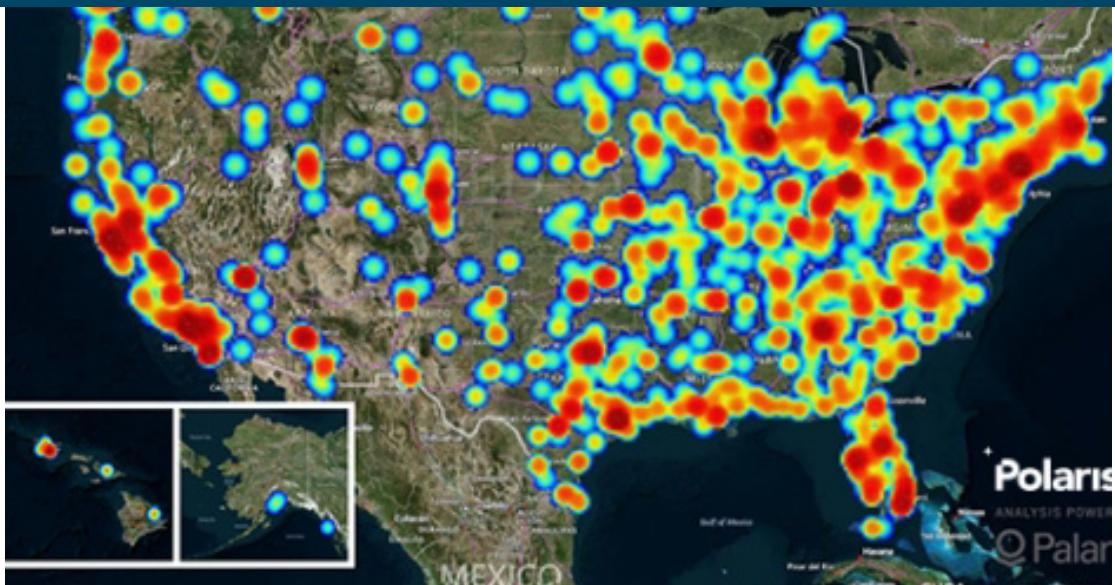
This is what the toll free number and textline has accomplished thus far:

“More than 31,600 total cases of human trafficking have been reported to the Hotline in the last eight years.

- The Hotline annually receives multiple reports of human trafficking cases in each of the 50 states and D.C.
- The number of human trafficking cases that Polaris learns about in the U.S. increases every year.
- 23% of texting conversations on the Polaris BeFree Textline were from survivors of human trafficking compared to 11% of phone calls on the Hotline.
- The Hotline receives an average of 100 calls per day.

Currently the Polaris organization in Washington D.C. holds the contract for servicing the toll free number and BeFree text line. More details to the above stats are available at [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPENS IN ALL 50 STATES



**RECONSIDER**

How would one million unsolicited AOL CDs stack up against the Empire State Building?



The EcoQuiz Deck

**REDUCE:**

True or False:

During rainstorms, a parking lot sheds ten times more water than does a meadow

**FALSE.** Runoff from paved surfaces, such as parking lots, is about 16 times greater than that of meadows. Our homes are part of the problem, too, since we are fond of watertight roofs, pavements, and driveways. In rainy Seattle, the average single-family home accounts for about nine inches of runoff each year, compared to one inch for an equivalent forested area. What to do? If you need to cover a large area, consider permeable paving materials instead of asphalt or concrete. Pervious concrete, for example, can absorb three to five gallons per minutes and prevent runoff in all but the worst downpours. Stricter local regulations have forbidden new construction from increasing storm runoff.

*Text Courtesy of © Pomegranate Communications, Inc. from  
The EcoQuiz Deck of Knowledge Cards®.*

[www.pomegranate.com](http://www.pomegranate.com).

## Clare's Pence Fund

During 2016 we were able to assist seven women with grants totaling \$3,300.00

None of that would have been possible without the generous donations of Sisters, Associates and friends of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio.

When a grantee sends a thank you note it is often mentioned that the person saw the grant as a gift from God. Indeed you are an “instrument of peace” through your faithful generous donation. Thank you!





In their "Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty, announced March 2006, the Bishops asked us to pray for the victims of crime and their families, those who have been wrongly convicted and those awaiting execution. The following prisoners are on death row, awaiting execution soon. Please keep them in prayer, as well as their families, their victims and the victims' families. Also, please continue to pray for healing in our country that the spirit of peace and reconciliation, rather than violence and revenge, may prevail.

April 2017	May 2017	June 2017
12 Raymond Tibbetts, OH 12 Paul Storey, TX	10 Alva Campbell, Jr., OH	13 William Montgomery, OH 28 Steven Long, TX

Executions in 2017: 4

Executions since the ban was lifted in 1976: 1,446

Sources for information: Death Penalty Information Center ([www.deathpenaltyinfo.org](http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org)).

Numbers are accurate as of February 4, 2017

# The Co\$t of War

Estimated cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to date:

Iraq	\$ 820,206,659,763 (every hour: \$117,035)
Afghanistan	\$ 762,143,858,300 (every hour: \$4 million)
Military Action against ISIS	\$ 13,517,160,229 (every hour: \$615,482)
<b>Total</b>	\$1,720,517,928,941 (every hour: \$8.36 million)

*For Predator and Reaper Drones, taxpayers in the United States are paying \$1.56 billion, not including the cost of war. Here's what those tax dollars could have paid for instead:*

- 19,258 Elementary School Teachers for 1 year, or
- 21,012 Clean Energy Jobs created for 1 year, or
- 656,557 Children Receiving Low-Income Healthcare for 1 year, or
- 66,917 Students Receiving Pell Grants of \$5,815 for 4 years, or
- 21,016 Infrastructure Jobs created for 1 year

US Military Deaths: 6,907 (Iraq: 4,515 Afghanistan: 2,392)

Iraqi civilians killed: 170,447 – 189,949

Sources for information: The National Priorities Project ([www.nationalpriorities.org/costofwar](http://www.nationalpriorities.org/costofwar)), the Iraq Coalition Causality Count (<http://icausalities.org/>) and Iraq Body Count ([www.iraqbodycount.org](http://www.iraqbodycount.org)). Numbers are accurate as of February 4, 2017.

## US Gun Violence Statistics: 2016-17

	2016	2017
Total Incidents of Gun Violence in the US	58,178	5,533
Total Deaths by Gun Violence in the US	15,013	1,457
Total Injuries by Gun Violence in the US	30,600	2,795
Children (0 -11) injured or killed	670	62
Teens (12 -17) injured or killed	3,114	293
Mass Shootings	385	30
Accidental Shootings	2,191	200
Officer Involved Shootings		
Suspect Shot/Killed	1,914	210
Officer Shot/Killed	322	23

Source of information: Gun Violence Archive, [www.gunviolencearchive.org](http://www.gunviolencearchive.org). Numbers are accurate as of February 4, 2017.





### RECONSIDER:

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How would one million unsolicited AOL CDs stack up against the Empire State Building?

The EcoQuiz Deck



One million AOL CDs (or one million of any CDs) would be as tall as three Empire State Buildings! We're picking on AOL here because the company has sent out hundreds of millions of free CDs, most of which have ended up as landfill. So relentless has its marketing been that it has been targeted by an activist campaign that hopes to dump a million AOL CDs at company headquarters ([nomoreaolcds.com](http://nomoreaolcds.com)), and the company faces legislation that would force it to take back unwanted discs and pay for postage. CDs can last up to 400 years in a landfill. Music CDs are part of this waste problem—try to download music rather than buying CDs. If you find yourself with CDs or DVDs you don't know what to do with, you could send them to ECO Encore, a Seattle-based group that raises funds for environmental organizations in the Pacific Northwest through the online resale of donated books, CDs, DVDs, and software.

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