

Sisters of Social Service

Rooted in the social teachings of the Church, we are sent to be pioneers



**Celebrating 88 years
of inspiring change and
transforming our
world through social
services and advocacy.**

Celebrating Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS Golden Jubilarian – Pentecost 2014 Written by: Jamey Fitzpatrick

This Pentecost, we are delighted to honor Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS, for 50 years of dedication and service. Sr. Simone entered the SSS in 1964 with a passion to work on civil rights inspired by the Gospel, and her early work took her from Beverly Hills to Portland, Oregon where she also got involved in community organizing. The problems of chronic poverty she encountered were complex and nuanced, and she wanted to be able to address the long-term, systemic issues that people faced. Sr. Simone went on to earn her law degree at the University of California, Davis in 1977.



Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS

In 1978, she began the **Community Law Center** in Oakland, and spent more than 18 years there as lead attorney representing clients in the family law and probate courts of Alameda County. From 1995 to 2000, Sr. Simone was the General Director of the SSS, overseeing our ministries in the U.S., Mexico, Taiwan, and the Philippines. She then served at the state level as Executive Director of **JERICHO**, the California interfaith public policy organization which protects the interests of people living in poverty.



**NETWORK staff at a congressional
briefing during the
2013 Nuns on the Bus tour.**

Since 2004, Sr. Simone is best known for championing the stories and realities of those on the margins through her work as Executive Director of **NETWORK** — a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby. In Washington D.C., she helps shape federal policy by advocating for the rights and needs of our most vulnerable neighbors. Whether the issue is one of peace-building, immigration reform, healthcare or economic justice, Sr. Simone educates our leaders and policy makers. With more informed views on such critical issues, the policies we enact can then create both immediate and long-lasting positive changes for those immersed in poverty.

After courageously working on Capitol Hill with other faith leaders on the Affordable Care Act, she toured the U.S. in the *Nuns on the Bus* campaign. In 2012, the tour sought to educate Congressional representatives and everyday people about the harsh realities of proposed budget cuts on those already struggling to survive in our country. In 2013, 40 Sisters covered more than 6,500 miles focusing on the imperative need for comprehensive immigration reform. Sr. Simone has also been involved with other religious and through Catholic Relief Services with

international matters such as family reunification, peace efforts, and international refugee studies.



A warm welcome from other Sisters of Social Service before the 2013 *Nuns on the Bus* tour leaves Mercado La Paloma in Los Angeles.



Sisters Diane Donoghue and Simone Campbell at the Nuns on the Bus stop at Mercado La Paloma in Los Angeles.



The Nuns on the Bus outreach mission touched millions of people's hearts and minds conveying the critical realities of those living in poverty, and underscoring the imperative need for comprehensive immigration reform.

Sr. Simone has humbly accepted both national and international recognition, and has seen this publicity as a gift from the Holy Spirit - bringing greater visibility to the struggles of those living in poverty and those who serve them. Recently, she received the ***Defender of Democracy Award*** from the Parliamentarians for Global Action and the ***Freedom of Religion Medal*** from the Franklin Roosevelt Institute (FDR's Presidential Library in New York City). She holds honorary doctorates from the ***Church Divinity School of the Pacific*** and ***Trinity University***, and spoke at the 2012 ***National Democratic Convention***. We look forward to celebrating Sr. Simone's 50 years of service championing the needs and voicing the stories of those on the margins, and enfoldng others in our shared work toward real social justice and true equality.



(Above) Sr. Simone speaks during the Interfaith Service of Witness and Prayer for Health Care at Freedom Plaza in Washington, D.C. June, 2009.

Sr. Simone and other religious leaders speak at the Poverty Prayer in Washington D.C., 2012.
(Fr. Larry Snyder at the microphone, head of Catholic Charities)



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