



Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart

CREATING A COMPASSIONATE WORLD

NewsNotes

July 2014

Impacting families at Marguerite's Pantry

The following interview is with a recipient of food from Marguerite's Pantry. Sr. Anne Marie Beirne's niece, Jackie (JKB), conducted the interview during her project focusing on hunger among children in the United States for a course on advocacy in the health services. Sr. Anne Marie stated, "Sisters frequently contribute to and ask about the pantry and this is a profile of a typical woman we serve." Grey Nun Fund for the Poor also helped this family move out of the shelter.

Interviewer JKB: Tell me a little about yourself.

Client MONIQUE:

I am from Africa and came to the United States in 2010. That's when I got pregnant without a job and without speaking English. I went to school to learn English. Back in Africa I went to the university but didn't finish before I came. I was getting paid 5 dollars an hour working while pregnant. My husband was cleaning and dishwashing for minimum wage. We were subletting a space for \$500 a month. All of a sudden I had been evicted. My baby and I waited on the street for my husband to get home from work that night. They gave me an address for a shelter. I was able to take only a few things. The shelter tried to find me another place to stay. We lived in the shelter in Queens for 1 year while I went to school to be a home health aide. My husband found a job for minimum wage and then we were put out of the shelter. Throughout that time, we started going to food pantries to get food and finally got on food stamps. We found an apartment in the Bronx in a five story walk up. I still go to the food pantry in Queens because they cut my food stamps when I started working.

JKB: How did you find out about the WIC Program?

MONIQUE: When I was pregnant I went to the hospital and I saw the social worker there. She asked me if I need WIC and she told me it would help me with food and gave me a letter. So then I went to the program inside the hospital. They approved me and I started getting checks.

JKB: What kinds of things do you receive from the program? How does it help you?

MONIQUE: I can get fresh fruit, vegetables, peas. Once the baby was born I was able to get formula, baby food, and cereal. Up until 6 months I still received checks for myself but after that they cut it off. They also asked me about breastfeeding and recommended that. The program provided a breast pump and was very encouraging. I was still not working but going to school to learn English so I had to use the pump. WIC taught me how to use everything. My husband would watch the baby so I could go to school. In the summer we get coupons for fresh food from open market. I like that because my baby is better eating fresh food than cans.

JKB: What do you think it would have been like without WIC? How would you have managed?

MONIQUE: It would be very hard because I didn't have any income after the baby was born so I think it's very helpful. Without WIC I would be



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hunting for food in food pantries and soup kitchens. I would have to go to the Church and beg.

JKB: What kind of changes would you want to see to the program?

MONIQUE: If they can put more money on the checks - it's not enough to feed my child. Now that she's 3 I'm getting WIC bread, peas, milk, and juice. I have to go to the office every 3 months; every 6 months they check her weight and height. These checks is (sic) only worth 2 weeks of food but is supposed to be one month.

JKB: Do you think it should continue to be funded and why?

MONIQUE: Of course. It has helped so much, otherwise I would be looking for food in pantries and begging because a lot of pantries don't have formula. I don't know how I would have fed my baby. Now since we are both working they cut food stamps so I am back getting food from the pantry. It is still very hard.

THE DEATH PENALTY – A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE (Part 1)

By: Sister Jean Liston, GNSH

Over the next three months we invite you to reflect on the Spiritual implications of the Death Penalty. Following Sr. Jean's introduction, this month, we expand our knowledge. In following months Sr. Jean will lead us to explore Loving and Serving.

If we were created to KNOW, LOVE, and SERVE our Maker and our brothers and sisters, then it is our choice to determine how we will do this. **Knowing** requires an intellectual quest for truth. **Loving** challenges us to act with integrity and compassion in all our relationships. **Serving** necessitates that our motives for acting are based on love, generosity, and self-sacrifice. *"Our Maker created us to know."* Awareness of the injustice of the death penalty is growing in the United States. In the mid 1990s, 80% of the people in our country believed that the use of the

death penalty was an acceptable form of punishment. Today, 60% support this form of punishment. The change in public opinion can be attributed to an increase in knowledge and awareness regarding the inhumanity of the death penalty.

Knowledge and awareness of an issue require education. To this end, numerous organizations have been formed whose major goal is to end this practice in the United States.

The Death Penalty Information Center (www.deathpenalty.org) reports that 18 states have abolished the use of the death penalty and have replaced it with life in prison without parole. However, the death penalty continues to be an acceptable mode of punishment in 32 states. Several states continue to study the issue. In Pennsylvania, a task force has been grappling with the matter

for more than two years. We await the conclusion of the task force's work.

RESOURCES

To grow in knowledge of the death penalty, please refer to the following websites:

www.deathpenalty.org

Death Penalty Information Center

www.ncadp.org

National Coalition Against the Death Penalty

www.pfadp.org

People of Faith Against the Death Penalty

www.aclu.org/capital-punishment

American Civil Liberties Union

www.sisterhelen.org

Sister Helen Prejean

"Our Maker created us to love!"

Next Month: **Loving**

ECOLOGY SPIRITUALITY GROUP

The annual gathering in Clarks Summit was held June 21-22. Sisters and Grey Nun Associates met to learn about and discuss climate change/global warming. After morning prayer led by Sr. Donna Lord, the participants divided into 6 groups. Three movements guided the conversations: contemplation; asceticism; and prophetic stance; i.e. taking a good long look at what is the reality; reflecting on what to let go of or sacrifice in order to help our world heal and be whole and holy; and considering specific actions our hearts and prayers call us to say and do.

Afterwards, a film entitled "Too Hot Not to Handle" was viewed. Filmmakers Maryann DeLeo and Ellen Goosenberg Kent offer a thoughtful medi-

tation on global warming along with various suggestions on what can be done to heal the planet and avoid causing further damage to our home, planet Earth.

After the film the small groups regrouped to think together about reactions and responses. Time for contemplative silence, opportunities to enjoy the natural surroundings at the monastery, and a chance to continue conversations with friends new and old were provided throughout the schedule.

Sister Pat Watkins presented, "Walking through the Obstacles" which reviewed the position of people who are NOT convinced that humans have any responsibility for the climate change phenomenon that we are experiencing.

In the evening, there was a

sharing of poetry, music, theatre, photos, and reflection – all connected with appreciation and gratitude for the diversity of creation, the immensity of the cosmos, etc. Some of the sharing was serious or meditative; other sharing was hilarious and all was good fun.

Sunday morning Lucia offered an optional yoga-based meditation. Sunday morning participants spoke of their own individual experience of the weekend and how one's greater awareness of the seriousness of climate change and humanity's impact on it might lead to a specific sacrifice, transformation, and/or action.

**Next Gathering:
June 26-28, 2015**



DID YOU KNOW?

The world spent **\$1735 BILLION** on war in 2012. It would take approximately **\$135 BILLION** to totally eradicate poverty.

Shared Commitments from the Gathering:

- Pray daily for healing of the Earth
- Educate others about Climate change/global warming.
- Suggested Resources: **Too Hot Not to Handle** (film). **Cosmos** TV series by Neil DeGrasse Tyson.*
- Motherhouse Presentation- on the topic, open to all.
- Continued advocacy with public officials and businesses on issues affecting climate, e.g. *fracking, renewable energy, and fuel emission standards.*

Corner on Vocations

During 2015 the worldwide Church will focus on Consecrated Life. The year will begin on November 21, 2014. The events will conclude on the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Second Vatican Council decree "Perfectae Caritatis" on the renewal of religious life.

"We are convinced that the council represented the breath of the Holy Spirit not only for the entire church, but in a particular way for consecrated life," Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz said. He also noted that, "a key challenge of being Christian and being a religious is looking toward the future with hope."

Vocation ministers and their communities are invited to use a special Year of Consecrated Life logo developed by National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) and VISION Vocation Guide on websites, blogs,



print materials, etc.

With the theme of "Wake up the world!"—inspired by Pope Francis' call to action to men and women religious—the logo celebrates and promotes consecrated life. In addition to the logo, VISION and NRVC are developing other free resources for the Year of

Consecrated Life to be announced as they become available.

The Year of Consecrated Life will focus on:

- renewal for men and women in consecrated life,
- thanksgiving among the faithful for the service of sisters, brothers, priests, and nuns,
- invitation to young Catholics to consider a religious vocation.

The GNSH will be celebrating this special year in various ways both as a Congregation and in collaboration with others. Creative suggestions are welcome!

Year of Consecrated Life events (tentative dates):

11/29/2014: Opening Prayer Vigil
11/30/2014: Opening Mass with Pope Francis

1/22-24/2015: Meeting of Catholic consecrated men and women and consecrated religious from other Christian traditions (to be held during the week of Christian unity)

Second week of April, 2015: Conference on religious formation around the world

9/23-26/2015: Event for young men and women in discernment and in the process of joining religious orders

12/18-21/2015: Separate meetings for members of monastic orders and of secular institutes of consecrated life

1/28 - 2/1/2016: Theological symposium on religious life

2/2/2016: Closing Mass with Pope Francis on World Day of Consecrated Life

Every entity is different but every entity is operating with the others to make a whole.

The New Cosmology and the Christian Faith Donnal Geernaert, SC Sisters of Charity--Halifax

Opening Doors: Four become one!



The consolidation of four Parishes in Malone, NY into St. Andre Bessette parish was formalized the last weekend of June. Shown in the picture is Bishop Terry La Valley of Ogdensburg carrying the Eucharistic Lord through the streets of Malone, marking the event. The faithful walked ten miles down the mountain!

There were 80-year olds down to tots under 5 years old, and a

lot of folks in between. GNSH Sisters Rita Frances Brady, Barbara Schiavoni and Mary Elizabeth Looby cheered the walkers on.



Therefore, I will allure her now;
I will lead her into the wilderness
and speak persuasively to her. Then I will give her the vineyards she had, and the valley of Achor- as a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as on the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.
I will make a covenant for them on that day, with the wild animals, With the



birds of the air, and with the things that crawl on the ground. Bow and sword and warfare I will destroy from the land, and I will give them rest in safety. I will betroth you to me forever: I will betroth you to me with justice and with judgment, with loyalty and with compassion; I will betroth you to me with fidelity, and you shall know the LORD.

Hosea

Communications Committee

As part of the re-visioning of our website, we are inviting your participation. Cards have been left in the Motherhouse dining room inviting Sisters to share a sentence, word or phrase that captures the essence and spirit of who the GNSH are TODAY and hope to be for the FUTURE. We use the phrase *Creating a Compassionate World*, but are in need of other such phrases that ring true through your lives and ministries as they are in the present. We are grateful to

those who have already participated! Sisters not at the Motherhouse are welcome to email their responses to Eileen at EDickerson@greynun.org. In the next phase, we will invite your further insight into the phrases which emerge.

Over the next few months we'll be providing you with updates to our website. Please let us know of areas of our current site that you like, and those that you feel need help.

New *Memories of Ministry* have been posted as well as some photos!

Pray for an end to the death penalty, for those scheduled for execution, for the victims of these crimes and all whose lives have been impacted by violence.



July 10: Eddie Davis, Florida

July 16: John Middleton, Missouri

July 23: Joseph Wood, Arizona

August 4: William Montgomery, Ohio

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart

Creating a Compassionate World

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CALENDAR

July 4: Independence Day

August 11-16: LCWR National Conference in Nashville, TN

September 11th: HOH committee meeting, Yardley, PA

Sept. 19-20: Come and See Weekend, Yardley

Sept 17-19 & Sept .25th: Leadership meetings:

Sept 26-28th: Derby Meeting

Oct. 11-12th: Congregational Meeting

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