

**Info Alert 143**

**April 17, 2018**

*"True justice comes about in people's lives when they themselves are just in their decisions; it is expressed in their pursuit of justice for the poor and the weak." -Pope Francis*

**Education: Action Confirmed . . .Earth Day 2018 (Prayer and Action below)**

During these many years of learning from the Education section of the Info Alerts, we IHM's have been encouraged to **Pray** and take **Action** on a number of critical issues that threaten the basic premise of Catholic Social Teaching; namely, the *dignity of the human person*. These issues have profoundly affected our awareness and involvement in our responsibility to work for social justice: racism, immigration, poverty, hunger, trafficking, abortion, domestic abuse, pay inequities, responsible citizenship, homelessness, etc. Immoral and grave injustices have frequently moved our sisters to respond in powerful ways, such as collections, contacting government officials, signing petitions, writing letters, visiting sites of known trafficking, Dawn's Place, Covenant House, joining the Philadelphia Diocesan Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. We are eager to learn and to pray and to do.

**A group that has galvanized IHM action to an amazing degree has been our Camilla sisters.** It seems appropriate at this time to recognize and share their many efforts with our entire community. Again and again, their action has creatively addressed issues affectively and effectively, far beyond our suggestions. When a natural disaster strikes a region, Camilla collects donations to help in recovery efforts. Food for the poor is gathered weekly by teams of residents and delivered to nearby food cupboards. A recent monthly project for Camilla was the "letter campaign" done by individual sisters to various civic and church leaders assuring them of our IHM prayer and support as they serve others. Recipients included leaders such as the Mayor of Philadelphia, the Police Chief, Head of the Fire Department, Workers in Human Services, Superintendent of Schools. A member of the diocesan Human Services area, Amy Stoner, was so touched by the letter she received that she traveled to Camilla (with candy in hand) to see and thank the IHM's who had promised prayer and support for her work with refugees.

**Education, when authentic, is the highest form of justice.** It motivates and inspires the learner to grow, to act, to work for change that moves us toward God's plan for us and for all of creation. Through this education piece, we acknowledge how well our Camilla sisters inspire all of us to do justice in small or larger, but definitely consistent ways.

**Prayer: We pray on Earth Day 2018 (4/22/18) reflecting on the theme, "Beyond a Throwaway Culture: Reduce Waste--Grow Community."** With Oscar Romero, we realize that "The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Although our work may be incomplete, it is a step along the way." We are workers, individually and communally, eager to embrace the challenge of assuming deeper responsibility for our care of creation. With Pope Francis, we pray that we may be better stewards of planet earth, our home. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Action:** Suggested individual actions to counteract our "throwaway culture:"

1. Say NO disposable plastic whenever and wherever possible.
2. Recycle what you can't refuse, reduce, or reuse.
3. Participate in a river, park, road cleanup. (Perhaps arrange this in your ministry, parish, etc.)

(For helpful information for Earth Day 2018, go to: [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org))