"We are called together as the Mystical Body of Christ, to see and to act on the plight of migrant families and children, and definitely to respond to the cry of First Peoples for climate justice here and now." -Ignatian Solidarity Network (9/30/19)

Focus for 2019 - 2020

This year, challenged, but not discouraged by our chaotic world, we IHMs will focus on two concerns: Immigration and the Care of Our Common Home, as confirmed in the Catholic Social Teaching, "the Dignity of the Human Person."

Education: Since May, 2019, the Social Justice Team reflected prayerfully on the many issues that fragment our world, issues that severely diminish the dignity of the human person. And in the recent readings from Amos, the prophet expressed deep concern with a community that has forgotten their communal, covenantal purpose by failing to live God's love and justice. We also heard the story of Jesus beginning His public ministry by announcing liberation ("the Lord sets captives free.") From Jesus and Amos, then, we hear the connection between salvation and social justice. And so, here and now, in this year of 2019-2020, we IHMs hope to rekindle that connection in any way we can, but especially through ongoing efforts for immigration reform and better stewardship of earth, our common home.

Immigration reform: A lack of humane immigration reform and stewardship of mother earth are closely intertwined, resulting in poverty, hunger, destruction of families, inhumane detention, disease, loss of livelihood, etc. Stewardship: Climate change is the greatest moral challenge humanity has ever faced, according to renowned scientists and people of faith. Therefore, in recognition of the 9/20 global protest by our youth, "we are called to accompany the young in the creation of a hope-filled future. From their perspective, the young can help us understand the epochal changes we are living and the future's hope-filled newness." -ISN

Since facts teach and motivate us, let's look at some facts and figures.

Immigration facts:
1. Inhumane detention: On any given day, ICE holds over 50,000 people in detention.
2. Family separation--Over 1,000 children and parents are separated under Trump's injunction.
3. Asylum--More than 42,000 asylum-seekers are stranded in Mexico. (ACLU (10/3/19))

Climate facts:
1. 25% of children under age 5 die each year because of preventable environmental hazards, with indoor & outdoor air pollution one of the most extreme hazards. (World Health Organization)
2. Over 8 million people die each year from air pollution--more than from smoking. (WHO)
3. On Aug. 2, Greenland lost 12 billion tons of ice to melting, the largest single-day loss in recorded history.
4. It takes about 450 years for a plastic bottle to decompose. (Natl. Geographic) (Smithsonian)

Prayer: God of all creation, move us to be present to the complex beauty of your creation, this common home we share with all your children. Lead us to reflection and action so the entire human family may flourish. Open our hearts and help us to welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity as we act to respond to their needs. Amen.

Action: 1. The Archdiocese of Phila. sponsors a program, The Ministry of Accompaniment, to provide a supportive presence for immigrants at court hearings. Contact Mary Laver for more information (mlaver@powerinterfaith.org) or (610-324-9388) to learn what you, or those with whom you minister, can do w/presence and/or prayer to help immigrants locally. You need only compassion to help.
2. Small efforts for earth: reduce, reuse, repair, recycle ... use of water and electricity... share above facts

"Dying to the old and unneeded is an essential part of living love. So, love suggests we do not resist change." (Nouwen)