

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Displacement

November, 2019
Vol. 5, Number 3



Impelled by the Holy Spirit...we, women of audacious hope...
will boldly address the causes of climate change with others;
work to eliminate violence in all forms;
and, with knowledge of the causes, alleviate displacement and its ill effects.

Chapter 2019 Chapter Direction Statement, Congregation of Bon Secours

One outcome of the recent General Chapter of the Sisters of Bon Secours was a threefold commitment to address climate change, violence and displacement of human and non-human life – one effect of these first two major world issues. Pope Francis reminds us that "everything is connected". Whatever we do to address one of these issues will have a positive effect on eliminating the others. At our recent JPIC Committee meeting Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ, Executive Director of LCWR, challenged us to aim for a transformation of mind, heart and will as we pursue our work for justice. Notice that these transformations are interior ones. What must be transformed in your mind, your heart and your will as we acknowledge our own complicity in climate change, violence and the resulting displacement of so many species, including the millions of human beings who are displaced? As you pray with the images and information in this newsletter over this next month, allow yourself to be transformed.

"Ours is not a vocation for cowards...let us move out of our comfort zones."

Fr. Jose Cristo Rey, CMF (General Chapter, 2019)

November
JPIC Days of Remembrance

November 3
St. Martin de Porres
Patron of Race Relations

November 9
Birthday of Rev. Thomas Berry



November 13
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
Patron of Migrants

November 19
World Day of the Poor

November 25
International Day for
Elimination of Violence
Against Women

November 29
International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People

Uprooted and on the Move

- 70.8 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced; equivalent to one in every 110 people.
- The number of refugees, asylum seekers and people fleeing inside their own country is more than the population of the United Kingdom.
- 3.5 million people are asylum seekers.
- 25.9 million people are refugees, half of whom are children.
- 41.4 million people are internally displaced.
- Almost 70% of the world's refugees come from just five countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.
- New internally displaced people in 2018 included: 2.9 million in Ethiopia, 1.8 in the DRC and 1.6 in Syria. *Source: BBC News*



"The tragedy of forced migration and displacement affects millions, and is fundamentally a crisis of humanity, calling for a response of solidarity, compassion, generosity and an immediate practical commitment of resources."

Pope Francis





This sculpture, "Angels Unaware," by Timothy Schmatz was commissioned by the Vatican and unveiled by Pope Francis on the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (9/29/19). The work depicts 140 migrants and refugees from various historical periods traveling on a boat, and includes indigenous people, the Virgin Mary and Joseph, Jews fleeing Nazi Germany and those from war-torn countries.

Pray with this photo.

**Allow the migrants to speak to your heart.
What can you offer the displaced people in
our world that this sculpture represents?**



"We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; ... The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor is only one cry, and the Church has to hear it and cry with them.

(Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #49)

Causes of Displacement

Conflict and Violence

- In 2018, Syrians were the largest forcibly displaced population. 13 million Syrians driven from their homes due to violence.
- Colombians were the second largest group, with 8 million forcibly displaced while 5.4 million Congolese were also uprooted.
- The Democratic Republic of Congo has the highest number of displaced people on the continent of Africa, with nearly 6 million people forced from their homes by various conflicts.

Climate change and its effects

- Natural disasters caused most new internal displacement cases in 2018, outpacing conflict as the main reason for people fleeing. The number of people uprooted because of natural disasters is expected to rise to 22 million this year.

Imagine

At our recent JPIC Committee meeting Camille Grippon led us in this activity to help us understand the experience of displacement.



Imagine that you need to leave your home right now. What three things would you take with you? Now imagine traveling to safety seeking shelter. While you travel you need to pay your way for transportation, food and other necessities. What item will you give up to pay for these expenses? Finally, imagine that on your journey you meet a child in great need. What item will you give to help this child? With one item left, what actions will you take to survive? **This is the reality for 70 million people right now.**

Migration of other Species

As the planet warms, species are shifting where, when, and how they thrive. They are moving up slopes and toward the poles. That is already altering what people can eat; sparking new disease risks; upending key industries; and changing how entire cultures use the land and sea.

- A record of more than 4,000 species from around the world shows that about half are on the move.
- As mosquitoes migrate to higher elevations due to rising temperatures, malaria now appears higher up mountain slopes in Colombia and Ethiopia.
- Diamondback moths, which ravage the cabbages, kale, and cauliflower grown by poor urban farmers, are spreading in South Africa.
- In Latin America, coffee plant funguses and pests are appearing in new areas, threatening coffee production.
- Steadily rising ocean temperatures are forcing fish to abandon their historic territories and move to cooler waters. The result is that fishermen's livelihoods are being disrupted, as fisheries regulators scramble to incorporate climate change into their planning.
- Everywhere throughout the world, things are happening earlier in the spring—in China, Japan, Korea, across Europe. The time that trees and shrubs bloom in spring determines the entire timing of the growing season. It can completely change the whole ecology of the forest.

Source: National Geographic



The Hidden Faces of Homelessness/Displacement

Women and children are said to be "the hidden faces of homelessness". UNANIMA International wants to give a voice and a face to these hidden families, especially women and girls, who are experiencing homelessness. They are creating an exhibit of faces, voices and experiences of those who have experienced homelessness/displacement to share at the United Nations in February 2020. UNANIMA is reaching out to request videos, stories, voice recordings, art or other multimedia that they can contribute to this exhibit.

- Where is homelessness/displacement present in your geographic area? What do you see?
- Please consider contributing a story for this exhibit. Stories can be sent to: info@unanima-international.org.



International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

- Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Fran Gorsuch, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ Co-chair
- Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Anne Marie Mack, CBS (USA) Chair
- Sr. Noelia Lara Núñez, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Marguerite Provost, CBS (France)
- Sr. Alice Talone, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Yolanda Morales Valiente, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Chris Webb, CBS (USA)