

# Compassion

Faith doing justice in the Central and Southern Province...and beyond

March 2018

## GUN VIOLENCE

We are saddened and shocked by the continuing escalation of violence and murder as a result of gun violence, and we embrace with our prayers and concern those who died, those who were injured and those who are traumatized by the Valentine's Day shooting in Parkland, Florida. The Ignatian Solidarity Network has gathered together resources to help us reflect and act for peace and justice at this time. The entire list can be found on their [website](#), but here are some links that may be especially helpful right now:

- Letters from Jesuits Schools Network dated Feb. 21, 2018, to [Congress](#) and [President Trump](#), calling for a ban on the sale of assault weapons and high capacity ammunition and the requirement of background checks for gun sales
- [Letter from Fr. Scott Santarosa, SJ](#), (provincial of the Jesuit West Province) dated Feb. 18, 2018, to Jesuit school leaders in the province encouraging them to listen to their students' reflections on gun violence
- USCCB president's [statement on the shooting](#)
- Xavier College Preparatory School "Summit on Human Dignity: Reloading Faith" Resources – In Spring 2017, Xavier hosted their yearly summit on the topic of gun violence. They have shared three collection of slides ([Set #1](#), [Set #2](#), [Set #3](#)) describing the ways they engaged in prayer, learning, and action throughout the week.
- [Catholic Bishops Favor Gun Control but Who Knows It?](#) (National Catholic Reporter, 1/11/11)
- [The spiritual lessons of a school shooting on Ash Wednesday](#) (America)
- [Sad, Tired and Angry: A Prayer in the Face of Gun Violence](#) (America Magazine, 2017)
- [Gun Control is a Pro-Life Issue](#) (America Magazine, 2012)

## LENTEN PRAYER AND REFLECTION

The Ignatian Solidarity Network's 2018 Lenten series, "Break Forth: A Lenten Call to Solidarity," calls us to act with justice through the words of Isaiah — to let our light "break forth like the dawn" by being the best versions of ourselves

— working together to build a world in which the dignity of all people is upheld. Voices from the Jesuit network engaged in work for immigration advocacy, racial equality, criminal justice reform, alleviation of poverty and environmental justice



offer reflections through the lens of daily readings and Ignatian spirituality. Even though we are well into Lent, it's not too late to subscribe at: <http://igsol.net/lent-2018>.

## SOCIAL GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 30

The application deadline for a province social grant is March 30, 2018. Grant guidelines and applications can be found online at <https://connect.jesuitscentralsouthern.org/socialgrants>. The primary purpose of a Social Grant is to *encourage Jesuit solidarity with poor and marginalized people* in the UCS province. All applications must be sponsored and signed by a Jesuit of the UCS Province. Grants are very modest, most often ranging from \$1,000 - \$6,000. If you have ANY questions about eligible projects or difficulty accessing the online social grants materials, please call or e-mail Mary Baudouin [mbaudouin@jesuits.org](mailto:mbaudouin@jesuits.org) or 504-655-6574.

## RECONCILIATION GATHERING REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Be in Denver this summer – June 18–21 – as colleagues from across the UCS province gather to explore God's invitation to reconciliation and come together to respond to God, commit to justice, and care for our environment. This will be an unprecedented opportunity for us to explore more deeply how we promote and integrate reconciliation into our social, educational, pastoral, preaching and spiritual ministries. The informational flyer can be found [here](#). You can register [here](#).

## SOCIAL GRANTS HIGHLIGHT: VILLE COLLABORATIVE UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

With the little bit of help from a social grant, and a lot of help from parish, neighborhood and student volunteers, children in the Ville neighborhood of St. Louis had the opportunity last summer to experience science up close. During a four-week summer camp, neighborhood children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades worked in The Ville Family Gardens, operated a flight simulator, made nutritious food, built robots and model rockets, and went on weekly field trips.

The summer program was so successful that it has continued into the school year. Students meet twice a month on Saturday mornings at Claver House near St. Matthew's church to read, explore science and have a nutritious breakfast. Two rooms in Claver House are set up as mini-libraries where students can enjoy the pleasure of reading through St. Matthew's "Read and Feed" program. Other rooms include stations for building with Legos and magnetic tiles and other STEM-related activities, and two aviation-simulation stations, run by Stephen Belt, an assistant professor of aviation science at Parks College at Saint Louis University.



A LENTEN REFLECTION:

### A DIFFERENT KIND OF FEASTING AND FASTING

During this holy season, help us to...

Fast from judging others; **feast on Christ dwelling in them.**

Fast from words that pollute; **feast on speech that purifies.**

Fast from discontent; **feast on gratitude.**

Fast from anger; **feast on patience.**

Fast from pessimism; **feast on hope.**

Fast from negatives; **feast on encouragement.**

Fast from bitterness; **feast on forgiveness.**

Fast from self-concern; **feast on compassion.**

Fast from suspicion; **feast on truth.**

Fast from gossip; **feast on purposeful silence.**

Fast from problems that overwhelm; **feast on prayer that sustains.**

Fast from anxiety; **feast on faith.**

