

Compassion

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

November 2018

Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice 2018 Livestream

If you aren't already going to the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, or just want to see what this gathering is all about, you can watch the happenings **Nov. 3 and 4**.

The Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice (IFTJ) is an annual assembly for members of the Ignatian family (Jesuit institutions and larger church) to come together in the context of social justice and solidarity to learn, reflect, pray, network and advocate together. Now in its 21st year, IFTJ has a rich history rooted in honoring the [Jesuits and their companions](#) who were martyred in El Salvador in 1989. IFTJ is a program of the [Ignatian Solidarity Network](#).

This year's IFTJ "sold out" in June, so more than 2,000 members of the Jesuit family will be present in Washington, D.C. *America Media is making the event available via free livestream, but you have to register by Friday at <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/iftj/iftj-2018-livestream/>*



Register by
Friday, Nov. 2
for **FREE**
livestream.

Some of the presenters to be livestreamed include:

- Keynote address by Bishop George Murry, SJ, Former Chair of the USCCB Committee Against Racism
- Keynote address by Nichole Flores, PhD, Theologian, University of Virginia
- The Peace Poets Artists Collective
- Panels on Addressing Racial Justice, Action for Climate Change, Combatting Gun Violence, Reaching out to LGBT Catholics, Mass Incarceration and Migration.

Urgent Action Needed to Protect Immigrant Families

The Trump Administration recently established a rule that will make it much more difficult for documented and undocumented immigrants to apply for changes to their legal immigration status. The rule expands the meaning of "public charge" in a manner that could prevent immigrants from maintaining or obtaining legal immigration status.

Under the current rule, immigrants can be denied status if they are likely to depend on cash assistance or need long-term medical care at the government's expense. Under the

new proposed rule, immigrants could be denied legal status or changes in their legal status if any of their non-citizen dependents use public benefits such as food stamps (SNAP), Medicare or Federal



public housing assistance. By depriving families of necessities like food and medical care, the rule seeks to shut the doors of the United States to all but the affluent.

By increasing the number of people denied legal status, this rule will have the same impact on families as separating them at the border. Many more would be at risk of deportation – tearing families apart by forcing children to choose between staying in the U.S., where they are citizens, or going with their parents to a country they have never known.

The Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology is urging the Ignatian family **to tell the Administration that, as Catholics, we demand a system that protects the poor and marginalized and doesn't actively seek to exclude them**. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has opened a 60-day public comment period during which members of the public can express their opinion about the published rule. DHS must respond to each comment individually, so take a moment to write a comment expressing your disapproval of the proposed rule. Unique comments carry more weight because they require DHS to take more time to respond to them. Follow this link to make your comment: [Take Action](#).

PROMOTIO IUSTITIAE (PJ) is published by the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES) at the General Curia of the Society of Jesus (Rome) in English, French, Italian and Spanish. PJ is available electronically at <http://www.sjweb.info/sjs/>. You can access all issues dating back to #49, March 1992. The most recent issue, #126, focuses on "Fundamentalism: The Role of Religions for Reconciliation." The last three General Congregations have raised an alarm over the rise of "aggressive fundamentalism" (GC 34, D2, #12) and "increased level of conflict and polarization ... motivated and justified by distorted religious convictions" (GC36, D1, #28).

GC 35 emphasized, “Faith in God is increasingly being used by some to divide people and communities, to create polarities and tensions which tear at the very fabric of common social life” (D3, #22). “Lack of moral and spiritual basis,” as GC 34 wrote, “results [in] conflicting ideologies of hatreds which provoke nationalistic, racial, economic and sexual violence,” multiplies “the abuses that breed resentment and conflict,” and tries to “homogenize cultures” (GC 35). “Society then falls prey to the powerful and the manipulative, the demagogue and the liar; it becomes the center of social and moral corruption.” (GC 34, D2, #12).

The articles in this issue present a disturbing view of the influence of religious fanatics, but they also highlight ways to work toward building a harmonious community based on dialogue with religions and cultures. They invite us to reflect on our own attitudes to other religions and cultures, while remaining true to the message of love and compassion in the Gospels. You can [download](#) the latest edition.

Emergency Appeal for Student Scholarships to UCA

The people of Nicaragua have been suffering under a growing crisis since April, as government repression led to more than 500 deaths and over 4,000 injured. The Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology and the Ignatian Solidarity Network recently issued a statement of continued solidarity with the people of Nicaragua on the six-month anniversary of nonviolent protests that led to the deaths of at least 300 civilians at the hands of police and government-sponsored paramilitary groups; the full statement is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

University students, including students at the Jesuit Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), have been particularly vulnerable, and the extended family of Jesuit institutions led by Seattle University have rallied in their expressions of support. Since July, there have been cuts and delays in Nicaraguan government financial aid, making scholarship assistance even more necessary. The U.S. Central and Southern Province is currently accepting donations to assist students with continuing their education at the UCA. A donation page has been set up on the Province website: <https://connect.jesuitscentralsouthern.org/UCAScholarships>.



Climate Change and Extractive Industries Webinar

Earlier this week, the Inter-religious Working Group on Extractive Industries and Catholic Climate Covenant hosted an informative one-hour webinar on the root causes of climate change. It explored how a faithful and just response to climate change must address the extraction and exploitation of natural resources such as coal, oil and gas. The speakers, Marianne Comfort (Sisters of Mercy of the Americas), Sr. Joan Brown (Director, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light) and Fr. Peter Hughes (Missionary Society of St. Columban), shared how extractive industries negatively affect their communities in the southwestern United States and the Peruvian Amazon, as well as the impacts of this extractive model more broadly. As part of the webinar, the Ignatian Ecological Examen was used to reflect on how we can stand in solidarity with these communities bearing the brunt of environmental and human rights abuses as a result of extractive industries by reducing our consumption and shifting toward a renewable energy future. To view a recording of the webinar, go to Catholic Climate Covenant website: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=18> or YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9BbDIrf07gipbLGS4MfSjQ>.