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Compassion

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

April 2018

Reconciliation Gathering - Register Now!

If you haven't yet registered for this summer's exciting UCS Province Gathering on Reconciliation, now is the time to do so! Join your colleagues working in social ministry, pastoral ministry, higher education, and secondary and pre-secondary education to explore how we work in our respective ministries to promote reconciliation with God, with humanity and with creation. The gathering will be June 18-21, 2018 at Regis University in Denver. In addition to keynote addresses on the major themes, here's a sampling of the breakout sessions that will be offered:

- Incorporating Reconciliation into Preaching & Spiritual Direction
- Confronting the Sin of Entitlement
- Incorporating the Pastoral Circle into Service & Education
- Paradigms for Addressing Racial Justice
- Environmental Education Programs
- Elements of Reconciliation in the Spiritual Exercises
- Becoming Hospitable Communities for and with Immigrants
- The Effectiveness of Mission Trips and Immersion Experiences on Transforming Thinking and Acting
- The Impact of Environmental Degradation on the Poor and People of Color

The cost of the conference is \$425/participant staying in Regis Housing and \$315 for commuters. All meals and materials are included in this fee, but travel to Denver is not. The informational flyer can be found [here](#) and you can register [here](#) – click on those links now!

Jesuit Parish Justice Summit

For those of you from parishes who are attending the Reconciliation Gathering at Regis Denver ... you might want to come a few days earlier (June 17 – 18) for the Ignatian Solidarity Network's second tri-ennial gathering of parish justice leaders. This training and networking event will focus on helping participants develop organizing skills at the parish and community level. It will also explore the connections between the Ignatian charism and the call to work for justice. Participants will be given ample time to create new connections, with a large portion of the summit dedicated to inviting

parishes into a new framework to promote more collaboration and share Jesuit parish best practices year-round. Registration fees are \$200 for ISN members and \$225 for non-members and include single dorm rooms, materials and meals. Go to <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/jesuit-parish-justice-summit> to get more information and to register.

Earth Day Is April 22, 2018

For this year's commemoration, the Catholic Climate Covenant will focus on how the overuse of single-use disposable plastics contributes to what Pope Francis calls "the throwaway culture." From contributing to land and marine pollution to increasing the use of carbon-producing fuels, the reliance on single-use plastics has a devastating impact on God's creation. A one-hour program focusing on how we can address, both individually and collectively, the growing problem of single-use plastic is available online. It includes prayers, readings, actions and a video. The program may be used by a parish, school, youth group, university, religious community or other group that is interested in exploring how Catholics can work individually and collectively to move beyond a throwaway culture. To access the program and other resources click [here](#).



Promotio Iustitiae

The latest publication of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES) at the General Curia of the Society of Jesus (Rome) focuses on *Leadership and Governance: A Call to Reconcile and Recreate*.

The last two General Congregations expressed the importance of leadership and 'governance at the service of universal mission' (GC 35, D 5). In this issue, the authors approach and reflect on leadership for reconciliation from the viewpoints of Jesus, scripture, theology, Ignatian spirituality and the Society's apostolic orientation and mission. The authors give valuable suggestions for the leadership and governance to become "personal, spiritual and apostolic." [Download PDF](#) here.

Racial Healing Resources from USCCB Racial Justice Resources

Several new USCCB resources are now available assist Catholics to pray and act for racial healing. [A Prayer Service for Racial Healing in Our Land](#) (also in [Spanish](#)) includes Scripture, reflection and an examination of conscience to help Catholics call on Christ to heal the wounds of racism throughout our land. Two new prayers are also available: [Prayer to Address the Sin of Racism](#) (also in [Spanish](#)) and [Prayer to Heal Racial Division](#) (also in [Spanish](#)). Other racial justice resources can be found at usccb.org/racism.

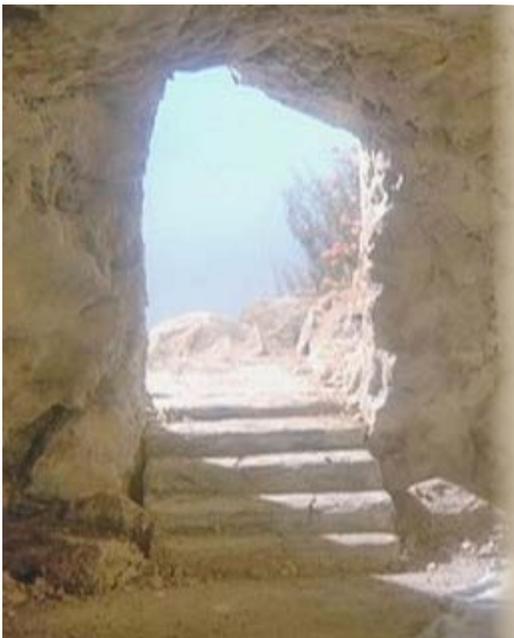
Social Grants Highlight: Belize Prison Ministry

The Jesuits in Belize have used a very modest social grant to minister to over 1,500 men, women and juveniles who are in prison in Belize. Father Bill Snyders teaches a unit of the 12-Step Program for those in the prison's Addiction and Recovery Center and the Jesuit Community of Belize assist with the "5th Step" listening sessions for those in recovery. Fathers Snyders, Tom Greene and Brian Christopher also celebrate one Sunday Mass and one weekday Mass each month for a "packed" chapel, with at least 150 inmates in attendance. Novices who are working in Belize as part of their "long experiments" offer literacy training and spiritual development ministry for youth incarcerated at the Belize Prison. The Jesuits have a long history of working at the prison, and are considered by the prison director and staff to be a key component of the prison's programming.



Connecting across the Border

During the recent JSRI/UCS Province-sponsored Border Immersion Trip to El Paso, participants visited a section of the border fence between El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. They casually interacted with young children just on the other side of "the wall," close enough that they could touch hands and share smiles. These children or their parents will probably never have the opportunity to enter the United States legally.



BREAK OPEN THE TOMB

Lord of Easter's Promise,
I live in the faith of the Resurrection
but such is the nature of my faith
that so much of me remains entombed
Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my compassion, break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my sense of mercy, break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my humility, break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my sense of joy, break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my willingness to reconcile, break open the tomb.

Lord, in you I've found a Savior no grave can withstand.
Help me to roll away this stone
And find the miracle of new life
That I may live more fully in your saving grace.

(adapted from a prayer offered by Catholic Relief Services)