

Compassion

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

September 2018

SPEAK OUT FOR REFUGEES

The United States president, with input from his administration and in consultation with Congress, will soon set the annual



Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions (PD), determining the target number for refugee arrivals for U.S. resettlement. Standing up for refugees is more crucial than ever. Between 2016 and 2018, the annual target number has gone down from 85,000 to the record low of 45,000.

Meanwhile, on support for refugees overseas, Congress continues to support robust funding while the administration has proposed cutbacks.

Urge a positive commitment to refugees for FY 2019, calling for both U.S. resettlement of 75,000 refugees and robust overseas refugee protection. You can send a letter to your senators and Congressional representative by clicking [here](#).

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICES' BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

Refugee children are five times more likely to be out of school than any other child. Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is working to bridge that educational gap through a campaign to raise awareness about the educational needs of displaced children around the world and provide supplies and support for educating refugee children. Go to www.jrsusa.org/educaterefugees to learn more.

To purchase back-to-school gifts for refugee children, go to www.jrsusa.org/backtoschool. Sample gifts include: a basic school kit (\$10); a year of pre-school education (\$20); a backpack (\$25).

Finally, the start of a new school year is a great time to organize your campus, school or parish community to help refugees. Check out JRS' new [Refugee Action Team Toolkit](#) to learn how.

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS PROGRAM

On the Feast of St. Francis (October 4), the Church recalls the saint who saw all created beings as his brother or sister. Inspired by this example, Catholic Climate Covenant produces a free educational program to help faith communities explore how they can better care for creation and the poor. This year's Feast of St. Francis program – **"Who is my Neighbor in a Climate-Threatened World?"** – focuses on the interconnections between immigration, refugees and climate change. The program includes prayers, readings, a short video, discussion questions and suggested activities. Register to receive your program guide [here](#). Watch the [Feast of St Francis Promo video](#) and start planning your event. Hosting a Feast of St. Francis program is the perfect way to end the Season of Creation with prayer and action!

Statement from the Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology on EPA's Affordable Clean Energy Rule

(Washington, D.C., August 24, 2018) — As the nation and the world suffer unprecedented heatwaves, devastating wildfires, and increasingly severe weather, the Trump administration continues to ignore the reality of climate change.

On Tuesday, Acting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler released a proposal to scrap the Clean Power Plan and replace it with a significantly weaker rule.

The proposed Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule is reportedly meant to reduce carbon emissions from the power sector by allowing states to decide whether and how they want to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

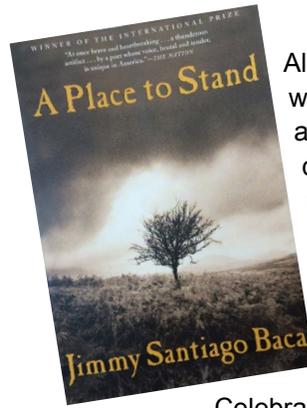
"Addressing climate change is not an optional matter. The EPA has a moral and legal obligation to reduce carbon pollution to protect human health," said Ted Penton, SJ, Secretary of the Office of Justice and Ecology of the Jesuit Conference, the organization that represents the Jesuits in Canada and the United States. "We are deeply disappointed in this inadequate proposal that prioritizes the interests of the fossil fuel industry and threatens human health, particularly those who are most vulnerable and at risk from harmful pollution and an increasingly unstable climate."

According to the EPA's own analysis, more than 1,000 lives could be lost annually by 2030 under this proposal due to the health impacts of exposure to increased air par-

articulates, compared to the Clean Power Plan that would have significantly reduced carbon pollution and saved lives.

We echo Pope Francis' urgent call to hear "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor," by shifting away from an extractive model of development and developing "policies so that ... the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced" (*Laudato Si'*, n.49 and n.26).

We call on the president to work with the administration and Congress to develop and advance bipartisan climate policies that protect our common home and lead us toward a sustainable, clean energy future.



Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. There was such passion around the subject at the end of our first class that we decided to continue to meet and formed the Prison Reform Ministry. We meet monthly except for our six-week classes each fall. We also participate in an annual event in downtown

Albuquerque called Albuquerque Celebrates Recovery, and we are active participants in a local group called Returning Citizens Collaborative. We also have joined a legislative-focused advocacy group called SAFE-NM that is spearheaded by ACLU-NM."

The mission statement of the ministry is "We are an interfaith group based at Immaculate Conception Church, composed of individuals with a passion for supporting and seeking justice for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated persons. We seek to connect with like-minded groups, as we advocate for legislative change, educate, and build awareness in our local communities."



RECONCILIATION IN ACTION

As a way to help bring the GC36 call to reconciliation with God, humanity and creation alive, *Compassion* will occasionally feature examples of how people and ministries in our province are working on reconciliation in practical ways. This month we celebrate the **Prison Reform Ministry of Immaculate Conception Parish in Albuquerque**, whose members are pictured above.

According to Joy Dinero, the parish director of social ministries, "Our first prison reform ministry class was in the fall of 2014 and the first two years (2014 and 2015) we used the JustFaith Prison Reform Module as a model for our class. Since then,

we have chosen different books to use as a focus for the class, including Bryan Stevenson's book *Just Mercy* and Michelle



UCS SOCIAL GRANTS IN ACTION

De Smet Jesuit High School in St. Louis received its first social grant to offer a summer and year-round Saturday enrichment program for students from under-resourced schools and communities, in a simple effort to help bridge racial divides in St. Louis. The first session was this past



summer, and the boys in the program loved it. Thanks to De Smet staff for sending in photos of some of the "Mission DSJ" students who participated

in a Woodworking Engineers Camp. The students built birdhouses under the direction of one of De Smet Jesuit's science teachers and a Jesuit scholar from St. Louis University.