



Compassion

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

November 2019

Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat Jubilee and New Website

In 1969, Fr. General Pedro Arrupe created the Jesuit Secretariat for Socio-Economic Development. Now called Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES), SJES this year commemorates 50 years of its mission of promoting social justice and reconciliation. A historic moment for the Society of Jesus, this jubilee is a unique opportunity to reinvigorate the social and ecological dimension within the Society of Jesus and Jesuit apostolates.

An international congress will be held Nov. 4 – 8 in Rome with 200 Jesuit and lay delegates representing Jesuit social apostolates around the world. Mary Baudouin, provincial assistant for social ministry, and Fathers Fred Kammer and Tom Greene, will represent the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province at the gathering.

Congress delegates will have the opportunity to commemorate milestones reached and lessons learned from the past 50 years as they work together to strategically plan how to implement the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) of the Society of Jesus. Future issues of *Compassion* will highlight the outcomes and recommendations of the congress.

In time for the congress, SJES launched a [new website](#). With special attention to international networks, the site illustrates a vision of the social apostolate in the world. It also includes testimonies on social commitment in a variety of works, a specific section dedicated to the 50th anniversary and the chance to subscribe to the monthly *Headlines* bulletin and the *Promotio Iustitiae* magazine, the latest issue of which focuses on integral ecology and indigenous peoples in the context of the Synod on Amazonia.

Pastoral Letter from Bishop of El Paso

Bishop Mark J. Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso recently released a pastoral letter, [Night Will Be No More](#). The letter responds to the racism, xenophobia, hatred and white supremacy that the United States faces, both in the borderland community and across the nation. This violence of division is particularly felt in wake of the [massacre](#) at a Walmart in El Paso that left 22 people dead and many more injured on Aug. 3, 2019.

“Hate visited our community and Latino blood was spilled in sacrifice to the false god of white supremacy,” Bishop Seitz wrote. He describes the impact of the border wall that divides the City of El Paso and the United States from Mexico: “The wall is a powerful symbol in the story of race. It is a destructive force on the environment. The wall kills families and children. There will be a day when after this wall has come crumbling down we will look back and remember the wall as a monument to hate.”

Catholic Climate Covenant Webinars

The [Catholic Climate Covenant website](#) hosts many resources for educating, praying and preaching about environmental justice, including homily helps, prayer and worship aids, videos, ideas for reducing your carbon footprint and webinars.

An October 24 webinar presented “How Our Food Choices Can Save the Planet,” an especially timely topic as we approach the holiday season’s many food-centered celebrations. The webinar focused on how our food system – the way we produce, transport and consume food – is responsible for over a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions, and how individuals and Catholic communities can reduce the damaging “foodprints” on our common home.



Prayers of Hope: Defend DACA

Beginning Nov. 12, the Supreme Court of the United States will hear oral arguments on the legality of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. By the summer of 2020, the Supreme Court will announce its ruling.

The Ignatian Solidarity Network has launched a campaign, [Prayers of Hope: Defend DACA](#). The campaign's site includes resources for hosting a vigil in your school, parish or community, as well as social media tools to promote your vigil.

Mass petitions, advocacy alerts, and other action resources are also available on the site, as well as a link to resources for individuals in the DACA program for [renewing their status](#). Join in praying the Prayer of Hope in Defense of DACA printed on the right and [download a PDF](#).



Prayer of Hope in Defense of DACA

*We pray for DACA recipients,
For their protection, their dignity, their hope.
And for ourselves, as allies,
That we may boldly lift our voices
Again and again as advocates.
That we may remember our own times of uncertainty and fear,
And authentically stand in solidarity
With those for whom DACA has brought light and hope.*

*And, as those directly affected by migration and inhumane policies,
We pray for our community—
people of undocumented, DACA, migrant, refugee, mixed-status;
For our families, our homes, and our dreams.
Sustain our vision, strength, and ongoing action for justice, oh
God,
That we may maintain hope
And find light, as we live our days with the
Constant backdrop of uncertainty.*

*And we pray for the policy makers—
All those in positions of power in our government and courts.
May the United States Supreme Court,
The President of the United States,
And all elected and appointed officials
Have the wisdom to see
And uphold the dignity of all people,
Regardless of immigration status.*

Amen.