

Dominican Call to Justice

Justice Promoters of North America: 2011-2013

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Action on behalf of justice is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel. Justice in the World, 1971

The Dominican Justice Promoters of North America responding to the call for justice in our world today commit ourselves to study, advocacy and action in the following areas:

Peace and Human Security

Migration/Immigration

Human Trafficking

Economic Justice

Care of Creation

We are a network of sisters and brothers in North America committed to preach justice in our world.

We are members of the world-wide Dominican Family who advocate for justice through our ministries and through our presence at the United Nations.

We will collaborate with all who seek a more just and sustainable world.

Peace and Human Security

In a violent world obsessed with security, we hear the Gospel call to non-violence and peace. In particular, we commit ourselves to the abolition of the Death Penalty and of Nuclear Weapons as well as advocacy for people and land occupied unjustly and illegally.

Actions

We commit to:

- Educating ourselves to redefine our understanding of human security;
- Advocating for federal and state abolition of the Death Penalty;
- Working toward eradicating torture through letter writing campaigns;
- Joining networks and groups that advocate for the eradication of nuclear weapons;

- Promoting legislative action for those who live on land occupied by dominant groups who oppress and limit the freedom to own and live fully on this land possessed by others.

Resources

ncadp.org, (National Coalition Against the Death Penalty)

endtheoccupation.org, (Endtheoccupation.org)

catholicismobilizing.org, (Catholics Mobilizing Network)

paxchristi.net, (Pax Christi)

fcn1.org, (Friends Committee National Legislation)

Migration and Immigration

We support a compassionate and comprehensive immigration law that provides the processes for undocumented persons to achieve permanent residency and citizenship without leaving the United States; creates legal avenues for migration; assures family unity for immigrant families; provides guaranteed human rights and labor protections for undocumented workers—and all workers; and addresses the root-causes of migration by protecting the human rights of workers internationally.

Actions

We commit to:

- Publishing our corporate stances in the media;
- Educating ourselves by staying informed of developments in immigration legislation;
- Continuing to educate and advocate for immigration reform in our parishes and with other concerned groups;
- Contacting local and federal legislators to support the issue of a just reform of immigration laws.

Resources

www.justiceforimmigrants.org (US Bishops Campaign)

www.osjpm.org/catholic_Social_teaching.aspx, (Catholic Charities, St. Paul and Minneapolis, MN)

www.lcwr.org/lewrsocialjustice/issues.htm, (Leadership Conference of Women Religious)

www.networklobby.org/issues/comprehensive-immigration-reform, (Network Lobby)

www.cliniclegal.org, (Catholic Immigration Network)

<http://media@immigrationforum.org>, (National Immigration Forum)

news@immigrationadvocates.org, (Immigration Advocates Network)

groups.yahoo.com/group/interfaith_Immigration, (Interfaith Immigration List serve)

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Called by the Gospel mandate and our Catholic social teaching on the dignity of all persons, we are compelled to take action against human trafficking, modern day slavery.

Actions

We commit to:

- Educating ourselves and tell others by exposing the truth about modern-day slavery;
- Advocating for change by writing our elected officials and demanding protection for the victims in all our legislative actions;
- Encouraging education of hotel and airline personnel in order to identify those who may be victims of trafficking and providing safe release of those who are victimized.

Resources

www.state.gov/tip, (US State Department Trafficking in Persons, yearly report)

www.notforsalecampaign.org, (Not for Sale Campaign)

<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptraffic/index.html>,

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking, (UN on Human Trafficking-GIFT)

www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking, (US Catholic Conference of Bishops)

www.unanima-international.org/welcome.php, (Stop the Demand Campaign)

Economic Justice

The human person has a right to a sustainable living including nutritional food, clothing, shelter, jobs, healthcare and education. Workers have the basis right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to private property and to economic initiative. (USCCB)

Actions

We commit to:

- Collaborating to support both an analysis and transformation of the current system which is both complex and global;
- Giving priority to the needs and rights of the excluded and marginalized;
- Educating ourselves as to the current problems and solutions;
- Informing others by preaching, teaching and action;
- Speaking for those whose voices have been denied or ignored;
- Advocating for policy changes that impact employment and the economy.

Resources

www.catholicsinalliance.org (Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good)

www.iwj.org/template/index.cfm (Interfaith Worker Justice)

<http://www.networklobby.org/> (Network: A National Catholic Justice Lobby)

www.usccb.org (US Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops)

www.catholicsscholarsforworkerjustice.org (Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice)

Care of Creation

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace. It is imperative that we declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life—especially those who are poor and vulnerable and to future generations. (adapted from the *Earth Charter*)

Actions

We commit to:

- Choosing one new, specific lifestyle choice to change and learn how that change impacts the Earth community, i.e. driving less, using less electricity, finding alternative renewal resources, and setting thermostats lower;
- Cutting in half the use of plastics each month;
- Re-familiarizing ourselves with the Earth Charter and how it is being utilized to promote change;
- Educating one's self on an issue and advocating for Catholic Social Justice Principles relating to it i.e. emissions, drilling, mining, fracking, tar sands, land grabbing, food production, water contamination and privatization, fuel standards, fossil fuels, environmental toxins and climate change.

Resources

www.earthcharteraction.org, (Earth Charter Initiative)

www.catholicclimatecovenant.org, (Catholic Climate Covenant)

www.uncsd212.org, (UN Conference on Sustainable Development)