

# WE COMMIT OURSELVES:

A social justice newsletter of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order St. Francis



## Special Interest Articles:

- Civility and Non-Violence
- Flyer in support of DACA recipients



## Individual Highlights:

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- The Ford/Kavanaugh Testimonies 3
- Civil Discourse 5

*Sr. Cecilia Marie Morton, Sr. Donna Wilhelm, Sr. Dorothy Pagosa, Jennifer Dillon,  
Sr. Marjorie White, Sr. Rose Grabowski, Sr. Shannon Fox*  
—Social Justice Committee

## Civility and Non-Violence

by Sister Dorothy Pagosa

### We are celebrating the life of St. Francis this month:

"We return to the bishop's palace in Assisi in 1225. We recall Francis' call to the brothers to carry him out on his stretcher to the bishop's court where he could confront the bishop and the mayor, remind them of their fundamental dignity as children of a loving and forgiving God and invite them to take up the way of forgiveness and reconciliation as the way back from a culture of death and towards the renewed culture of life, the life of the new creation in Christ."

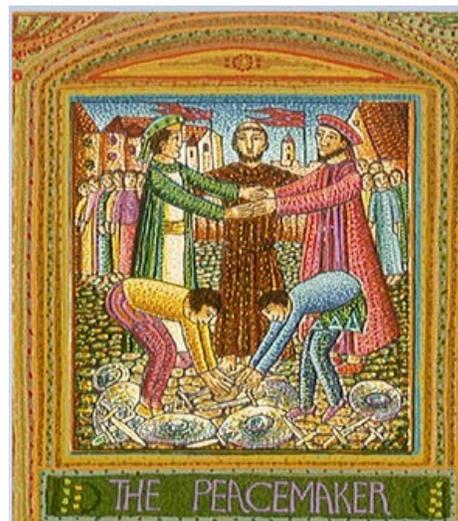
—Anonymous *Transitus Sermon*

"Praised be to You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation. Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned."

—*Canticle of Creatures*  
St. Francis of Assisi

It is said that when the bishop and mayor heard this canticle, they were moved to embrace each other as brothers.

Oh, that this might be the case in our



world today. In this newsletter we will address civil discourse, new issues around immigration, our responsibility to vote, and self-care.

Also included is a flyer for a fundraiser to help raise fees for DACA recipients to extend their eligibility. I, Sister Dorothy, have represented the congregation at planning meetings which included the School Sisters of St. Francis and other interfaith groups in Milwaukee. ■

## LCWR Calls for Protection of Immigrants

The US Department of Homeland Security's proposed changes to the public charge regulation are yet another attempt by President Trump to restrict immigration and punish immigrant families. The new regulation would force parents to make im-

possible choices between the well-being of their families and the prospect of future citizenship.

The rule changes would dramatically increase the barriers to lawful status for low-income immigrants and their families. It could

dissuade parents from obtaining benefits for which their children qualify, out of fear that they may not be able to regularize their immigration status in the future.

Lack of access to public benefits programs will in-

*Continued on p. 2*



*“We embrace our immigrant roots and identify with the struggle of all people to find a home in this world.”*

SSJ-TOSF Congregational Commitments  
26<sup>th</sup> General Chapter

## *LCWR Calls for Protection of Immigrants... continued from p. 1*

crease poverty, hunger, homelessness, and disease, and decrease children’s school attendance and general well-being.

**T**he attempt to target the most vulnerable within the immigrant community violates the tenets of our faith and threatens the values of our nation. We are called by our faith to welcome the stranger and care for the most vulnerable and we are challenged by our national values to promote the welfare of our children and tend the common good. If we want our communities to thrive, all

families in those communities must have access to the care and services they need to which they are entitled. The Trump administration’s proposed changes to the public charge regulation threaten us all.

**T**he Leadership Conference of Women Religious urges all people of faith to call for protection of immigrants, especially those who are most vulnerable, and to register their objections to this unreasonable and mean-spirited proposal during the 60-day comment period.

■ *Leadership Council of Women Religious*

### **PUBLIC CHARGE RULE**

#### **LCWR Continues:**

#### **What Does This Proposed Rule Do?**

The proposed Public Charge rule would punish immigrants going through official immigration processes and their families for applying for or receiving benefits for themselves or their family.

This would mean the use of Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicare Part D, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program or Public Housing, could render a family member ineligible for a green card or unable to keep their family together.

The rule also raises the option of including the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) among benefits programs included and describes a series of other factors that would make someone more likely to be considered a public charge, including family size, English language ability, income, education and ability to pay for private health insurance

■ *Leadership Council of Women Religious*

## **YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

### **VOTING: A Citizen’s Right and Responsibility**

#### **Facts and Figures**

As we approach the mid-term elections next month, here is some data about the state of our democracy.

- 61% of the eligible voters in the U.S. participated in the recent Presidential elections.
- The U.S. Ranks 26<sup>th</sup> out of the 35 democracies in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.  
– *The Pew Research Center*
- The Constitution does not guarantee the right to vote and 34 states have

voter ID laws requiring some form of government-issued identification at the polls.

– *Southern Poverty Law Center*

- A recent study found that strict voter ID laws significantly increased the turnout gap between white voters and Latino, African-American and multi-racial voters.  
– *Southern Poverty Law Center*
- A U.S. resident is more likely to be hit by lightning than to commit voter ID fraud.  
– *The Brennan Center for Justice*

**Continued on p. 3**

## The Ford/Kavanaugh Testimonies



**Many people** throughout the U.S. and beyond were riveted to the recent testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, one in three women and one in six men experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime.

One in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives.

During Dr. Ford's testimony, the calls to the National Sexual Assault Hotline increased by 205% as women faced their own abuse.

If any of you have been activated by the testimony to deal with

your own sexual assault, please take care of yourself through finding a counselor who deals with these issues.

You can also call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at **1-800-656-4673** at any time.

You are not alone.

During these hard times, we need to take care of ourselves in order to take care of others. ■



## VOTING: A Citizen's Right and Responsibility... continued from p. 2

### More Facts and Figures

- Around 4 million U.S. citizens living in Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico are not allowed to vote for president unless they move to the mainland.  
– *The U.S. Census Bureau*
- 15 states offer election-day voter registration and voter turnout in these states was 7% higher than in states without.  
– *Southern Poverty Law Center*

- The 19<sup>th</sup> amendment guarantees all American women the right to vote. It was ratified on August 18, 1920.  
– *OurDocuments.gov*

**November 6, 2018 is the date for the U.S. mid-term elections.**

**Please, use your right and your responsibility —**

**Vote on November 6<sup>th</sup>!**



*"We continue to influence our public officials to pass legislation that supports the human rights of all through email campaigns, public meetings, letter writing, phone calls, etc."*

SSJ-TOSF Congregational Commitments  
26<sup>th</sup> General Chapter



Keep Our  
Dream

*Alive*

**A benefit concert in support of Milwaukee area DACA recipients**

**Sunday, October 21**

**2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**St. Joseph Chapel**

**Featuring the Latino Arts**

**Mariachi Juvenil and Infantil**

**Dinorah Marquez, founder and director**

**Refreshments following the concert**

**Tickets \$20 in advance or at the door**

**Presented by these Faith Alliance partners:**

Archdiocese of Milwaukee ~ Ascension Lutheran Church  
Carmen Schools of Science & Technology ~ Congregation of  
the Sisters of St. Agnes ~ Dominicans of Adrian  
Dominicans of Sinsinawa ~ Priests of the Sacred Heart,  
U.S. Province ~ Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order  
School Sisters of St. Francis ~ Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi  
School Sisters of Notre Dame ~ Sisters of St. Joseph of the  
Third Order of St. Francis ~ St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
Midwest Jesuits ~ New Sanctuary Movement  
Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES)



**1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee**  
**Free parking in the St. Joseph Center lot**  
**29th St. & Orchard St.**

**Tickets/Info:**  
**Contact Sister Dusty**  
**dfarnan@sssf.org ~ 414-385-5261**

