



## IHM Justice, Peace and Sustainability Recent Highlights Based upon our 2021/2022 Goals and Objectives

October 4, 2021

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### **Collaborate with and support the IHM Healing Racism Committee in their ongoing work to deepen the IHM Community's understanding of systemic racism.**

- Barb deepened her understanding of broad aspects of racism by joining a WILPF book study of Paul Kivel's *Uprooting Racism* and participating with them and other groups (People's Water Board's Board Anti-Racism Committee and Interfaith Justice Committee) in addressing racism internally. She also participated in a WILPF webinar, "Racism not Race" and a 10 day "Collective Trauma Summit." She had an initial conversation with Pat Rourke exploring future use of materials on generational violence/domination and healing.
- Barb and Sarah participated in the IHM Healing Racism Committee's June, August and September meetings. They volunteered (along with Margaret Alandt and Alice Baker) to be part of a planning sub-committee for the Nov. Coordinating Council stretching exercise on anti-racism which will focus on white dominant culture and how it contributes to systemic racism.
- Sarah and Barbara participated in the OSP/IHM Doctrine of Discovery ZOOM series. JPSO is participating in and promoting the "Truth and Healing" virtual webinar series for Catholic religious on Native American boarding schools in Oct. and Nov. It is designed to help religious explore Indian Boarding School policy; how boarding schools were harmful to Native people; the role the Church played; how religious communities were involved, and the responsibility we have to contribute to a process of truth and healing.
- Sarah gave a presentation to the Stardust Mission Circle on Sept. 11th on implicit bias.
- At IHM meetings where examples of racism were discussed, Elizabeth always tried to identify two examples (one systemic and the other personal) to help participants know the difference. She is doing this because the wonderful folks she works with and accompanies often share that they believe that systemic racism will never end without transformation of the heart.
- JPSO participated in IHM 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events and reflections on systemic racism.

### **Cultivate and deepen our partnership with NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby in their legislative advocacy efforts with the 117th Congress and the new administration.**

- JPSO collaborated with NETWORK to host a "Transformative Conversations to Bridge Divides" ZOOM workshop on June 9 with 25 participants. NETWORK shared about the origins of polarization in our nation and how we can be both bridge builders and justice seekers at the same time.

- Elizabeth gave a ZOOM presentation to St. Mary in the Hills Episcopal Church on June 13 using notes from above meeting (15 participants) and on July 15 to St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor (18 participants).
- Elizabeth and Sarah collaborated with NETWORK, the Stronger Together Huddle and Common Cause, to plan, organize and facilitate a “For the People Act Prayer Vigil” on Friday Aug. 6 with 57 participants on the IHM front property. We also co-sponsored the “Relay to the Ballot Box” with between 88 and 100 participants on Sunday, Aug. 8th. JPSO then collaborated with a group of Motherhouse residents to plan three more “For the People Act Prayer vigils in September of 2021. Between 30 and 40 IHM Sisters, Associates and friends of the community attended these vigils each week and many more joined in prayer from their rooms. We also reached neighbors and passers-by through our visible presence and articles in the Monroe News. The purpose of these actions was to urge Congress to pass federal legislation (specifically the “For the People Act”) to protect voting rights even as state legislatures (including the Michigan legislation) are advancing bills that would restrict voters’ access to the ballot. Focus has now shifted to support for the “Freedom to Vote” Act a pared down piece of legislation which includes the key elements of the For the People Act.

**Coordinate and facilitate IHM engagement with the Vatican’s seven-year Laudato Si Action Platform.**

- Sarah participated in an initial meeting with the IHM Leadership Council about the launch of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform. She and attends regular ZOOM updates on the LSAP. The Leadership has issued a statement in pledging commitment to the Laudato Si’ Action platform. JPSO is convening Laudato Si’ Animating Task force to create opportunities to bring the Laudato Si’ Action Platform to life in the minds and hearts of the IHM Community.
- Sarah joined a group of representatives of Michigan religious congregations (initiated by Lonnie Ellis of the Catholic Climate Covenant Campaign and Bill O’Brien of Strangers No Longer) to strategize how to collaborate around legislative advocacy related to the Laudato Si’ Action Platform. The group is planning two upcoming town halls with Michigan Congresswomen (Haley Stevens and Elissa Slotkin) in the fall on addressing the climate crisis.
- The LCWR Region VII (Indiana/Michigan) Justice Promoters have made collaboration around the Laudato Si’ Action Platform one of the main foci of their work for this year.
- Sarah partnered with Mary Ann Bredice, Rob Carroll and Paula Cooney to plan IHM participation in this year’s “Season of Creation” (Sept. 1-Oct. 4) events.
- As part of the Stronger Together Huddle’s writers’ series, Sarah wrote an Op-Ed for the Monroe News in June about the launch of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform and Catholic support for addressing the climate crisis.
- Barb is collaborating with the South Oakland County Vicariate Peace & Justice. Committee’s Fall Event Planning Subcommittee to focus on Climate Crisis conference.

**Continue to collaborate with key partners including the Indiana/Michigan Justice Promoters, Monroe County Positive Action Network, Stronger Together Huddle, Detroit-Hamtramck Coalition to Strengthen a Healthy Environment, Faith in Detroit, Detroit/Marygrove Pax Christi, Detroit Friends of Immigrants, USCSAHT, etc.**

- Barb attended regular meetings of the Detroit-Hamtramck Coalition to Strengthen a Healthy Environment, Hamtramck Community Initiative, and Faith in Detroit. Marygrove Pax Christi hasn’t met since COVID--two of our IHM members have moved or will move to Monroe.

- Sarah continues to chair monthly meetings of the USCSAHT Advocacy Work Group.
- Sarah and Barbara Bacci-Yugovich attended the DTE Energy Community Partners meeting in June. The DTE Subcommittee of the Responsible Investment Committee drafted a letter to DTE executive leadership in support of convening a community leader work group advocating for access to and affordability of renewable energy.

**Intensify the efforts of the IHM Monthly Mobilization to Prevent Gun Violence to address increasing armed white supremacist violence and capitalize on the momentum of a new Congress and Administration and in order to pass meaningful gun violence prevention legislation.**

- Elizabeth participated in four sessions of Newtown Action Alliance's weekly (Mondays from Noon to 2:00 p.m.) "Lunch and Lobby" sessions, to work to end Senate inaction on bills that have passed the House. Participants called Senators and met to debrief. Newtown wants to end the filibuster.
- Elizabeth participated in the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence board meeting on 5-17-21. MCPGV wants to end the filibuster.
- Elizabeth shared information with the Board of Trustees of MCPGV regarding Democracy Now's interview with Carol Anderson, author of "The Second," a book on the racist history behind the constitutional right to bear arms.

**Working with our partners, advocate for the passage of just and comprehensive immigration reform legislation including a permanent DACA program.**

- From mid-May through mid-July, a group of six IHM Sisters, Associates and friends of the community volunteered with Catholic Charities USA in El Centro, California providing hospitality to asylum seekers at the southern border. At the same time, Sarah (as part of her externship with the University of Toledo College of Law) volunteered 8-10 hours/week with Attracta Kelly, OP in the Adrian Dominican Sisters Immigration Assistance Office learning about and assisting with asylum, DACA and TPS applications. JPSO is tracking immigration legislation as it proceeds through the 117th Congress for advocacy opportunities.

**Deepen IHM Justice Peace and Sustainability presence at Marygrove through our ongoing physical presence on the campus as well as collaboration with the other affiliated organizations and partners (The Marygrove Conservancy, The School at Marygrove, Social Justice Master's Program Alumni etc.).**

- Barb brainstormed possible collaborations with Gloria Rivera. She requested an appointment with the School at Marygrove's principal but received no response. She shared ideas with Chef Phil who requested that Gloria bless the fundraising dinner. (Barbara will attend). She assisted in the planning and implementation of monthly IHM Masses for Peace and Justice with Dignity and provided pastoral support for Dignity members and potential members. Barb attempted to work with Community Involvement chair whose tenure on Council was short-lived. She spoke with Cristo Rey campus minister to discuss service-learning materials. Barb participated in two visits to Freedom Freedom Growers' events and had multiple conversations with their coordinator.
- Barb shared ideas regarding Marygrove Social Justice Master's Program alumni with Brenda Bryant and broadened the Facebook circle to include more Marygrove friends. Barb attended the memorial gathering for Ellen Duncan, a former faculty member. She attended June Conservancy tenants meeting and shared notes with JPSO and Mission Integration. Explored possible IHM donation ideas with Gloria and made attempts to secure a meeting Interim House director. On hold.

- All attended meetings regarding the Marygrove Office.
- Elizabeth worked at the Marygrove Office nine times between May 4-June 13.
- Elizabeth attended the Marygrove Conservancy May Tenants Meeting and sent reports to Barbara and Gloria.

**Create opportunities for IHM engagement with Braver Angels or other organizations who are working to depolarize and bridge the partisan divide.**

- See # 2 above regarding our partnership with NETWORK to host a “Transformative Conversations to Bridge Divides” workshop.

**Promote the spirituality of nonviolence and activate peace:**

- Elizabeth participated in phone conversations, emails, and five ZOOM meetings regarding ending the assault on Palestine and bombs into Israel. She joined follow-up efforts. She also wrote an essay regarding her experiences in Gaza for the Storykeepers Mission Circle. She sponsored four coffee and conversations on this topic with Holy Cross Episcopal Church (12 participants), staff of Crossroads (8 participants), staff of Detroit Cristo Rey (five participants) and North Congregational (19 participants). She used Dom Helder’s Spiral of Violence teachings.
- Elizabeth continued promoting Advancing Nonviolence and Just Peace in the Church and the World, edited by Rose Marie Berger, Ken Butigan, Judy Coode and Marie Dennis, published by Pax Christi International.