ANTI-TRAFFICKING COALITION MARKS ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Awareness, Education, Advocacy for Human Trafficking Survivors

by Ellen Powers, CSJ

The Anti-Trafficking Coalition (ATC) of the Boston Unit of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) is committed to raising awareness and inspiring action that will stop the demand for human trafficking in our neighborhoods and our world.

On October 14, 2017, the Coalition marked its 10th Anniversary by sponsoring its 8th symposium hosted at Saint Joseph Preparatory High School. Over 80 people attended to hear speakers from the Boston Police Department, Attorney General’s Office, and the F.B.I. The message from speakers was well received. A productive question and answer session took place and the attendees heard ways in which they could participate in eradicating human trafficking.

The Coalition was founded in 2006 by the Boston Unit of LCWR, and held its first symposium in 2008. In the early years, symposia focused on educating women religious. Gradually, others who became interested in combating human trafficking began to attend.

Additional events have included: in 2011, the hotel initiative of the CSSJ U.S. Federation collaboration with the Nix Conference and Meeting Management Company, creating agreements for no sex trafficking in hotels; the 2014, Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution (S.O.A.P.); and in 2015, the UN Gift Box, the traveling exhibit. In 2001, Bahkita House, a safe house, was established to provide housing and safety for formerly trafficked women.

Living out of the Gospel call to promote the dignity of persons who are trafficked, ATC continues to educate others, advocate for justice, and pray for victims. The observance of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day will take place on January 7, 2018, at the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston Motherhouse.

Multi-Faith Prayer Vigil at Boston’s ICE Detention Center

This is a moment of heightened turmoil and fear for immigrant communities across Massachusetts. Several Sisters of St. Joseph joined with a group of Boston-area congregations and the Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN) on Sunday, October 15, 2017 for a multi-faith prayer vigil in solidarity with our brothers and sisters detained at Boston’s ICE Detention Center at the South Bay Correctional Facility. Through the power of prayer we came together to make a public statement that people of faith stand up for the rights of undocumented people. Those who gathered prayed, read the names of those who have died in detention in the past few years, and processed to a footbridge where the detainees could see the group and be assured that there are people who choose not to forget them.

LEFT TO RIGHT Sisters Betty Cawley, Carlotta Gilarde, and Mary Black with others on the footbridge near the detention center; a window of the detention center where detainees displayed a thank you sign.
**Becoming Love Walking** by Kathy Teahan, CSJA

On October 14, line by line Julie Fertsch, SSJ Philadelphia, invigorated our understanding of the CSJ Consensus Statement. Beginning with the first word of the Consensus Statement, *Stimulated*, she asked each of us to discern what makes us feel stimulated, energized, fully alive. Julie then remarked that “Knowing your talents enables you to know what God draws you to do with your time and energy.” As unique beings, created of and by God, each person is drawn, sometimes by a whisper and sometimes by a “turbulent twister,” to participate fully in God’s plan. Full participation creates a circular loving energy flow from God through us to the dear neighbor, through the neighbor to other dear neighbors, and back to us and God.

“Be yourself,” Julie advised, “With love and at this moment, do what you can to empower others! Participate without seeking perfection. You make the contribution and God makes the impact.”

Showing a clip from *The Lion King* where Simba doesn’t feel ready to be king, Julie emphasized that we ARE the authentic compassionate presence of God to each other. God lives in each person. Connect with others in the day-to-day, at the grocery store, making phone calls, waiting for a train, at work, ministering in a school or hospital, standing in solidarity with the oppressed. Keep your loving energy charged and flowing with peace and joy. Show up as Love Walking in this Circle of Life!

**An Anniversary & a Dollhouse Evoke Special Memories**

This year is the one hundredth birthday of St. Joseph’s Hall. If the walls could talk, there would be amazing stories. Through the years, this building has transitioned from being the Bethany Infirmary in 1917 and a residence for Bethany nurses and staff until 1961 to the Novitiate in the 1960s and now the newly renovated St. Joseph Hall Sisters’ Residence.

In late September, sisters and associates were invited to an open house — a trip down memory lane. As part of the Celebration, Sister Rose Joseph Murphy, offered to raffle a state-of-the-art doll house she had created. The winner, JoAnn Willcutt Geary, who was a Sister of St. Joseph for several years, delighted in giving the doll house to her granddaughter.

JoAnn commented on traveling to Framingham with her daughter, Ann Marie, to pick up the doll house, “It was so special to visit St. Joseph Hall (The Novitiate) and Bethany today with my daughter. She has always heard me talk about “The Hill”! It was a wonderful time to share my story with her and for her to see how sisters live. She was so impressed. My heart was filled with joy that I could share this part of my with her. I have been truly blessed to have had this wonderful experience in my life and also the experience of marriage, family life, and working for the church.*

Who could have predicted that Sister Rose Joseph’s beautiful creation would widen the circle of memories with our ‘dear neighbors’ in this way!

*JoAnn has worked as business manager in several archdiocesan parishes for 35 years.

**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCT. 28, SAT.</td>
<td>Vigil Liturgy for Sunday — Fontbonne Convent — all welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV. 5, SUN.</td>
<td>Sunday Liturgy — Fontbonne Convent — all welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV. 11, SAT.</td>
<td>Vigil Liturgy for Sunday — Fontbonne Convent — all welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV. 18, SAT.</td>
<td>Associate Gathering — Framingham — call 617.746.1670 for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV. 19, SUN.</td>
<td>Sunday Liturgy — Fontbonne Convent — all welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV. 26, SUN.</td>
<td>Sunday Liturgy — Fontbonne Convent — all welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC. 14, THURS.</td>
<td>Taize Prayer — Motherhouse — all welcome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Oct. 27-29 — Chapter Weekend 2**

Friday 1:00-4:00pm — Sisters Gather for Congregation Financial Report 4:00pm Social
Saturday 8:30am-coffee 9:00am-4:00pm 4:00pm Liturgy
Sunday 8:30am-coffee 9:00am-4:00pm