

Suggested Links for our Social Justice & Peace Issues for Province Web page

Human Trafficking

Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking
www.usccb.org

Polaris Project

Polaris Project is a leading organizations in the global fight against human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

www.polarisproject.org

www.unicefusa.org/work/protection/child-trafficking

<http://www.stopenslavement.org> (A newsletter for and by Catholic Sisters)

Not For Sale

www.notforsalecampaign.org

Death Penalty

www.ejusa.org (Equal Justice USA)

www.ncadp.org (National Coalition to Abolish the death Penalty)

www.usccb.org/deathpenalty (USCCB - The Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty)

www.antideathpenalty.org

www.mvfr.org (Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation)

www.dmwplay.org (Dead Man Walking Theatre Project)

Healthcare

www.usccb.org/healthcare

www.networklobby.org/issues

Immigration Reform

www.usccb.org/immigration

www.lcwr.org/immigration

www.networklobby.org

www.miracoalition.org (Massachusetts)

Ecology and the Environment

www.usccb.org/ecology/environment

www.ene.com (Ecology and Environment, Inc)

www.earthsource.org

www.crystalspring.org (Massachusetts)

www.sierraclub.org

www.foodandwaterwatch.org

www.agapecommunity.org (Massachusetts)

Poverty

www.feedingamerica.org

www.measureofamerica.org

www.savethechildren.org

www.lcwr.org/poverty

www.catholicworker.org

www.usccb.org/poverty

Poverty (Massachusetts)

www.kidscount.org/datacenter

www.massbudget.org

www.mahomeless.org

Nonviolence and Peace

www.johndear.org

www.paceebene.org

www.usccb.org/nuclearweapons

www.soawatch.org (Close the School of the Americas)

www.paxchristiusa.org

www.paxchristima.org (Massachusetts)

www.agapecommunity.org (Massachusetts)

SSA Corporate Stances

Death Penalty

Compelled by the Gospel message and challenged by our foundress Marie Esther Blondin, whose vision mandates us to bring all to the fullness of life, we, the Sisters of Saint Anne of the United States oppose the death penalty.

On **March 12, 1989**, we assembled as a community to finalize a corporate stance on this issue. In the context of prayer and dialogue, it became evident to us that the death penalty violates the teaching and spirit of Jesus Christ.

We recognize capital punishment as inhumane, irreversible, and inequitable. It is a violent and superficial solution to complex social problems. In its place we affirm restitution, reconciliation, nonviolence, aid to victims' families, and improvement of social conditions.

Human Trafficking

Challenged to be prophetic witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and committed to the vision of our Congregation which call us to strive to transform "... all that threatens life in order to create a more just and caring world," we, the Sisters of Saint Anne, St Marie province, United States, Canada and Chile, denounce the trafficking of human persons and stand in solidarity with all those who oppose human trafficking.
(February 2008)

CORPORATE STAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

St. Marie Province

April 8, 2009

Province Leaders have received a request from the National Low Income Housing Coalition via NETWORK and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). We are being asked, as a Province, to sign a letter to the Administration and Congress calling for dedicated sources of funding for the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) sufficient to produce or preserve, over the next ten years, 1.5 million homes affordable to people with *extremely low incomes*, and for 200,000 new vouchers each year for ten years.

Province Leaders are recommending that we sign this letter as a Province, but first we need feedback from the Sisters. If, **by APRIL 16**, we do not receive objections from more than a third of the Sisters of the Province, we will proceed with adding our Province name to the list of signers of the Open Letter to Congress and the Administration. If you have no objections to our signing the letter, you need do nothing. Please add your prayers to this action.

St. Marie Province Leaders signed this letter to the Administration and Congress. No objection was voiced.

Full text of letter below (Have as a link)

**What We Mean By Housing:
An Open Letter to Congress and the Administration
April 2009**

The economic crisis that has beset the United States is rooted in excesses in the home ownership housing market that must be corrected for our economy to recover. But housing is much more than the private market home ownership. The undersigned organizations want to call attention to what *we* mean by housing. We mean enough homes renting at affordable prices so that our nation's lowest income families and individuals are assured of safe and decent places to live.

As the Administration and Congress consider action to stem housing foreclosures and to reform the housing finance system, equal attention must be paid to the long-standing and unmet need for decent, affordable homes for households with the lowest incomes. Despite the surplus of single family homes for sale today, the shortage of rental homes that extremely low income households can afford continues unabated.

Nationwide, 9 million extremely low income renter households compete for only 6.2 million rental homes they can afford. Today, hundreds of thousands of people are on waiting lists for rental assistance, which are only getting longer as unemployment and foreclosures grow. Tonight, more than 745,000 people are homeless.

As the recession progresses, the number of people losing their jobs and subsequently falling below the poverty line is projected to increase by 10 million people over the next two to three years.

A particularly tragic result of increased poverty is increased homelessness. One in 10 people living below the federal poverty level will become homeless at some point

over the course of a year. We project at least 800,000 new homeless people, including children, seniors, and veterans, this year unless action is taken now. School districts across the country are already seeing sharp increases in the number of homeless children and youth.

In any recent year, the funds provided for low income housing in the just enacted economic recovery bill would represent significant resources to HUD programs, and we are very grateful for these new investments. We are also quite pleased with President Obama's proposal for \$1 billion to capitalize the National Housing Trust Fund. But much more must be done to prevent a surge in homelessness and help the unemployed, low wage workers, low income seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans who are experiencing severe housing affordability challenges.

When we compare the unprecedented attention paid to homeownership and the investment the federal government will make to shore up troubled mortgages to the resources for programs serving the nation's most vulnerable people, we are dismayed and disappointed that those households for whom stable homes are most threatened in today's economy are once again being shortchanged.

The solutions to the housing crisis of the lowest income renters are simpler and less expensive than what is needed to repair the home ownership market. We know what to do: preserve and expand the supply of rental homes that these members of our communities can afford. To do so, we call for dedicated sources of funding for the National Housing Trust Fund that will generate the necessary revenue to produce or preserve 1.5 million homes in the next ten years and 200,000 new housing choice vouchers a year for ten years.