

Compassion

Faith doing justice in the Central and Southern Province...and beyond

December 2017

ACTION ALERT: PROTECT DACA

Early December is a key time to advocate for the passage of Dream Act legislation which would provide protection and a path to citizenship for undocumented young people, including DACA recipients. Some members of Congress have expressed an interest in addressing the situation of these young people, possibly by December 6th. While timing is not certain, it is important to send a message to Congress that we want these protections, we want them now, and we do not want them to be tied to detention or border enforcement legislation. The Ignatian Solidarity Network and the Jesuit Conference's Office of Justice and Ecology have developed a [letter](#) to be utilized by schools, churches and other groups. They are hoping that institutions or groups can commit to hand-delivering signed letters to district/state offices of members of the U.S. House and Senate by December 6th. Here is the information you need to begin taking action:

[The Letter](#) (PDF)

[Tips on How To Utilize the Letter](#) (PDF)

If you want to write to U.S. Representatives or U.S. Senators outside of your geographical area, or if you want to sign as an individual, you can send scanned copies of the letter to info@ignatiansolidarity.net and they will send them electronically to that member of Congress.

CAMPAIGN FOR HOSPITALITY

Want to learn more about how to become involved in this international effort of the Jesuits and lay partners to promote a culture of hospitality toward those who migrate? (We hope that your answer is an enthusiastic YES!) Join the Ignatian Solidarity Network for a virtual information session on *Tuesday, Dec., 5 from 2 – 3 p.m. (EST)*. Staff will present an overview of the Campaign, discuss how institutions and groups can get involved, and share already existing efforts. Register for the information session at: <http://igsol.net/c4h-web-171205>. You can learn more about the Campaign at www.campaignforhospitality.org.

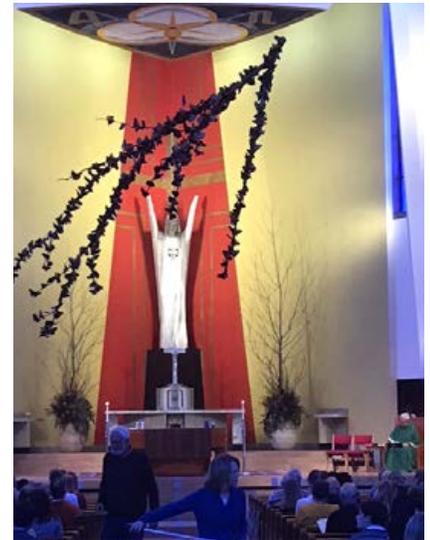
SHARE THE JOURNEY ADVENT RESOURCES

In addition to or as part of joining the Jesuit-sponsored Campaign for Hospitality, you might also want to check out the Share the Journey Campaign led by Pope Francis, which calls the Church around the world to reach out to our immigrant and refugee neighbors. Their [Advent Toolkit](#) has

a good selection of videos, activities and prayers to help faith communities encounter the experience of our immigrant and refugee neighbors and find new meaning in the Journey of the Holy Family. The website even includes an idea for gift-giving: ethically traded [Share the Journey socks](#). Twenty percent of the proceeds from the sale of these stocking stuffers are donated to support Catholic Relief Services' work with immigrants and refugees.

MIGRATION IS BEAUTIFUL – ST. FRANCIS XAVIER LITURGICAL ART

During the month of November, parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Kansas City had a beautiful way of remembering the dead, especially their brothers and sisters who lost their lives attempting to migrate. Created by local artist and SFX parishioner Andy Julo, this butterfly sculpture was hung in the church to remind parishioners of the beauty, dignity and strength of all



immigrants and refugees. Before and after Mass on October 22, parishioners were invited to fold origami butterflies as a way of standing in solidarity with all migrants and remembering the danger and harshness of their journey, especially those who did not make it safely to a new home. Andy then used the paper symbols in the hanging sculpture that was installed in the church during the Month of Remembrance.

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SPEAKS AT IFTJ

While there were many amazing speakers at this year's Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, one that spoke to the hearts of the nearly 2,000 members of the Ignatian family gathered in Washington D.C. – and received an immediate standing ovation – was Delton Utsey, St. Louis University High senior. Delton spoke movingly about his response to the

Jason Stockley verdict in St. Louis as a young black male and the idea of “sonder – the realization that each random passer-by is living a life as vivid and complex as your own.” Take a moment to [watch Delton’s speech](#) in which he calls for us “to dive deep below the surface of petty labels and stereotypes that polarize us and find a way into the complex world that is human dignity and deeper understanding.” (*The link will bring you to the webpage containing all of the major talks at the IFTJ; scroll down to find Delton Utsey’s YouTube video.*)

SOCIAL GRANTS HIGHLIGHT AND A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

Stephen Pitts has a way for you to get your morning caffeine while aiding indigenous Mexican coffee growers.

With the help of a Social Ministry grant, Stephen Pitts is leading an impact evaluation of a project in the State of Chiapas, Mexico, that trains indigenous men and women in organic farming practices and business administration skills. A Jesuit project, the program enables indigenous Mexican coffee growers to increase their resilience against the negative effects of free trade and reduces their need to migrate to support their families. Stephen is working to measure the project’s effect on the household economy of the coffee growers.

Since 1958, the Mexico Province of the Jesuits has operated the Bachajón mission in Chiapas, serving 250,000 people in seven *municipios*. In 2001, the project expanded to include a coffee cooperative, *Bastil Maya*, which allows the coffee



producers to sell a finished product of roasted coffee instead of selling their beans to the lowest bidder. The program serves a customer base throughout Mexico and operates four coffee shops, one in Chiapas and three on Jesuit university campuses.

As part of a plan to enter the U.S. market, a group of friends of the Mission of Bachajón have shipped 150 kilos of coffee to Dallas to sell at Jesuit College Preparatory. If you or your community would like to purchase a kilo (2 pounds) of whole bean (\$25) or a half-kilo (1 pound) of whole bean or ground coffee (\$15), please contact Stephen at spitts@jesuits.org. Prices include shipping via USPS or FedEx ground. The shipment will arrive in Dallas the first week of December and the coffee will arrive at your doorstep before Christmas.

Batsil Maya wants to develop relationships with potential customers, including U.S. Jesuit institutions. More information is on the web at <http://www.batsilmaya.org/>.



when every night is winter

Lord, you split no sky when you came among us,
And you rose not from the sea.
A star was seen in the heavens – but only by those who looked.
A choir of angels was heard – but only by those who listened.
No thunder, no storm, no cataclysm announced you,
Just the cry of a lowly refugee,
Turning to no one, turning to everyone,
Saying, “Will you let me in?”

And so, when every night is winter,
And every town is Bethlehem,
And every inn seems filled,
And on every ear those words are heard,
“Will you let me in?”
May we have eyes to see the star,
May we have ears to hear the choir,
May we have hearts that finally speak:

*Yes, yes, by all means, come in.
Come in and stay.*

(From the Share the Journey Advent Toolkit)