

NGO NEWS



Sisters of Charity Federation

Volume 7, Issue 4

Fall 2014

UN-DPI Conference

Eighteen members of the Sisters of Charity Federation gathered in New York for the 65th UN-DPI (Department of Public Information) conference from August 27-29, 2014. Representatives of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, Les Religieuses de Notre Dame-du-Sacré Coeur, Sisters of St. Martha, Sisters of Charity of Halifax, Seton Hill, New York, Cincinnati, Nazareth, and Leavenworth, and the Daughters of Charity of both the St. Louise Province and Province of the West attended.



Federation members gather at UN-DPI Conference

The conference theme was “2015 and Beyond – Our Action Agenda”. This is the first time the conference has been held in New York since 2007 due to the renovation of United Nations Headquarters. Since 2007 the conference has been held in Paris, Australia, Mexico City, and Bonn, Germany.

The DPI conference is a major civil society gathering involving members of civil society from around the world. More than 2,000 gathered in New York with thousands more participating

via electronic means. The primary goal of this year’s gathering was “to mobilize messaging, advocacy strategies, partnerships and accountability frameworks in the lead up to the launch of intergovernmental negotiations at the beginning of the 69th Session of the General Assembly for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, due to culminate at a summit in September 2015”.

The primary thrust was the

articulation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are to build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs were agreed upon by Member States for the years 2000-2015. The SDGs will be adopted and implemented by Member States for the years 2016-2030.

The outcome document of the conference is a declaration that will be shared with the

(cont’d on p. 4)

Dates to Remember:

- OCTOBER 7-9/14
UN ORIENTATION
SCN ASSOCIATES
- FEBRUARY 4-13/2015
COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
- MARCH 9-20, 2015
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS
OF WOMEN

Inside this issue:

UN ORIENTATION	2
CLIMATE SUMMIT 2014	2
RESOURCES	2
KOREA	3
CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT	4
DPI CONFERENCE CONT'D	4

NGO NEWS

UN Orientation



Srs. Donna Steffen, Tracy Kemme, Affiliate Annie Klapheke, Sr. Andrea Koverman, (Cincinnati) and Candidate Mallorie Gerwitz (Leavenworth)

A UN Orientation session was held for several Federation members in formation. Sr. Donna Steffen, novice director, novices Andrea Koverman and Tracy Kemme and Affiliate Annie Klapheke from Cincinnati and Mallorie Gerwitz from Leavenworth spent several days learning about the UN from NGOs working in a variety of areas, such as migration, disarmament, and financing for development as well as hear-

ing first-hand from NGOs from Nigeria, the Netherlands, and Peru about the realities in their countries. The orientation included a tour of the UN.

The group also spent a day at Genesis Farm in New Jersey visiting with Sr. Miriam Therese MacGillis, O.P. Sr. Miriam started the farm to focus on connections between the health of Earth and of human communities within particular bioregions.

*“SET THE WORLD
ON A NEW
COURSE.”*

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon convened a Climate Summit at UN headquarters in New York on September 23, 2014. The event gathered together 122 government heads. He opened the high-level meeting by stressing that climate change threatens the “peace, prosperity and opportunity for billions of people.” He noted

that hundreds of thousands of people had participated globally in the People’s Climate March on September 21st and are demanding that leaders assume the responsibility to “set the world on a new course.”

Leonardo DiCaprio, a newly appointed UN Messenger of Peace, urged the leaders to

take action to address “the greatest challenge of our existence on this planet.”

A large part of the meeting was dedicated to countries announcing their positions, programs and plans to act on climate change. Many of the countries expressed support for a global climate agreement in Paris next year.

Resources



Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ

Rifkin, Jeremy. *The Zero Marginal Cost Society: The Internet of Things, the Collaborative Commons, and the Eclipse of Capitalism.* Palgrave Macmillan Trade, 2014

Rifkin moves the reader into the future, beyond consumerism to “prosumers” who produce

what they consume and share what they have on a collaborative commons.

Johnson, Elizabeth. *Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love.* Bloomsbury Publishing, 2014.

Johnson deftly leads the reader to an understanding that love of the natural world is an intrinsic

element of faith in God and that far from being an add-on, ecological care must be at the center of a moral life.

Learn more about climate change initiatives at:

[www.un.org/
climatechange](http://www.un.org/climatechange)

Sisters of Charity of Greensburg: Korean Province

Sr. Caroljean (Cj) Willie was invited to Korea by the Sisters of Charity of Greensburg to visit their ministries and give two seminars on Systemic Change.

The first Greensburg Sisters arrived in Korea in 1960. Their first mission was teaching and administering at the St. Joseph School for Girls in Kwang-ju.

Today there are 207 Seton Hill Sisters serving in 11 dioceses throughout Korea. The majority of the Sisters are native Korean women. The ministries of the Sisters in Korea are very varied and meet a number of spiritual and social needs.

The Sisters have a Support Center for North Korean refugees which has cared for more than 1,500 refugees..

The Seton Spirituality Center offers parish retreats for men and women, youth programs, and space for personal retreats. The Sisters offer lectures, rituals and art therapy to aid participants in developing personal expression.

Sunflower House is a shelter for young women who are victims of trafficking and sexual abuse.

The Interreligious Research Center sponsored by the congregation offers a space for people of multiple faiths to gather and share the richness of their faith traditions. The center also publishes a journal twice a year.

The Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, located in Chung-ju, was origi-

nally serving only those who were blind but now serves those with multiple disabilities.

The government invited the Sisters to provide administration and staff for the Jecheon Social Welfare Complex. This center provides many different kinds of programs for people of all ages, including a Day Care Center.

A number of Sisters work in pastoral ministry in different locations, both at the parish level and in a diocesan office. Their goal is to improve the spiritual life of the parish, provide catechetical classes and rituals, visit the sick in their homes and those hospitalized.

Teresa House, located in Gwang-ju, is a Daycare Center for the Disabled. The center offers a daily program for 24 adults and children which includes arts and crafts, exercise and therapy. The Sisters also have a bakery where those with physical disabilities can learn the trade.

Several Sisters work in the Development Office which raises funds for ministry and in Vocation Ministry.

Sisters work in educational environments from Daycare through Secondary School.

In 2008 the Korean Province opened a new mission in Ecuador.

A highlight of the trip was to attend an audience with Pope Francis as he visited a town for the disabled and addressed the religious of Korea.



Sr Cj with Sisters and Staff at the Seton Spirituality Center



Sr. Hung Kyung Hee, SC at Gwang-ju Daycare Center



Srs. Choi Hyo Jin and Im Sun Yun with parishioners on Wando Island

Sisters of Charity Federation

NGO Office
747 Third Avenue #213
New York, NY 10017
646-678-0210

Caroljean Willie, SC, Ph.D.
NGO Representative

Email:
cjwilliengo@gmail.com

Federation website:
www.sisters-of-charity-federation.org

Vincentian Family website:
www.famvin.org

Vincentian Family of North America Social Justice Representatives Collaboration Climate Change Statement

We, the social justice representatives of the Vincentian Family of North America, invite us all to respond to the crisis of global climate change as one of the central ethical issues of our time.

Faithfulness to our charism challenges us:

To efficacious compassion toward the brokenness of Earth and its life systems;

- *As Vincent de Paul challenged us, to see persons living in poverty and on the margins as Christ and to understand that they suffer first from the effects of global climate change;*
- *To learn to discern and celebrate the presence of God in Earth;*
- *To evaluate our lifestyle choices;*
- *To integrate this heightened awareness in our consciousness, congregational documents and actions.*

DPI Conference cont'd



Art work at CSM Motherhouse in Antigonish

UN system, the UN Member States, the global civil society and other stakeholders. The document affirms the progress made to date re: the MDGs, but also notes the many gaps in achievement and progress needed in the goals related to poverty and hunger, achieving gender equality, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, universal access to primary education, child mortality, improving maternal health and reproductive health, environmental sustainability and access to water and sanitation.

The document also noted the imperative of ensuring that

the SDGs deliver a truly transformative agenda for poverty eradication and inequalities reduction, with a strong sustainability dimension. Goals on Climate Change, Sustainable Cities & Human Settlements, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Oceans, and Ecosystems and Biodiversity should therefore be considered critical to a sustainable development agenda.

The Sisters of Charity Federation co-sponsored a side event during the DPI conference entitled "Four Zeros Add up to Positives for Global Education".

The title of the side event comes from an initiative in education by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and international leaders, campaigners and celebrities called the "Emergency Coalition for Global Education Action".

The Emergency Coalition – convened in Washington D.C. In April 2014 by UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown – calls for four zeroes: zero child marriage; zero child labor; zero discrimination against girls; and zero exclusion from education.