



NETWORK CONNECTION

THIRD QUARTER 2018

ALSO INSIDE

The next generation of Catholic Sisters writes their own story

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WELCOME NOT WALLS

Our Call to Love Thy Neighbor



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NUNS ON THE BUS ROUTE COMING SOON!

We will soon unveil our 2018 Nuns on the Bus tour route. We can't wait to share our route with you, and start making plans to see you on the road. Watch your email and the Nuns on the Bus website for complete details. Sign up for emails at www.networklobby.org/connect and visit www.nunsonthebus.org for more information!

ON THE COVER

Immigration activists wear orange monarch butterfly wings to symbolize migration across borders during a march in Washington, D.C. on March 5, 2018. Photo by: Mehreen Karim, NETWORK Lobby

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Finding Holiness in the Struggle for Justice

Bearing Witness to the Pain of Our Immigrant Family Calls Us to Action

BY SISTER SIMONE CAMPBELL

I have shed tears watching the news coverage of ICE raids in work places. I have watched the separation of children, including very young children, from their parents in horror. I have had tears in my eyes as Temporary Protected Status for vulnerable people is ended without regard to the lived realities in these countries. I am shocked as the Republican Party, which always prided itself on being the party of “family values,” sets out with calculated cruelty to tear families apart. In the process, they are tearing the heart out of our nation.

But tears are not enough.

Pope Francis in his recent apostolic exhortation on holiness, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, challenges us with the insight: “The only proper attitude is to stand in the shoes of those brothers and sisters of ours who risk their lives to offer a future to their children. Can we not realize that this is exactly what Jesus demands of us, when he tells us that in welcoming the stranger we welcome him?” (Paragraph 102).

So how do we stand in the shoes of these immigrants? For some in Chicago it is being part of a prayer ministry for detained immigrants. In New Jersey, just across from New York City, it is providing detained people with basic necessities like stationery, stamps, and international phone cards. In southern California, it is in providing parish identification cards and safe havens when Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is around. In Minnesota, it is state organizing to provide actual protection for undocumented families. On our southern border, it is leaving water along the paths immigrants travel. In schools, colleges, and universities, it is making education accessible for undocumented children and young adults.

Everyone engaged in these and myriad other ministries is putting themselves in the zapatos (shoes) of the immigrant.

As I don't spend my time doing this direct work, I sometimes wonder how am I putting myself in these sacred shoes? I am led once again to the crying need for systemic change in our immigration policy. Our nation is being torn apart. Our values are being trampled. Our people are being hurt.

A couple of weeks ago, a mother told me that her first grade son came home extremely worried. He feared that his parents would not be there for him when he came home from school. He and his pals at school were talking about what had happened to one of their pal's parents. His anxiety was high as he blurted out in tears: “It isn't fair!”

I know that primal cry. It resonates in my being. I want to stand up and say STOP! This is my part – and yours. Together we are called as the NETWORK community to lobby Congress to change these unjust laws. But it isn't just

our own members of Congress that need to hear from us. We can get our friends around the country to contact their members of Congress too. We need to be missionaries of the common good for our family members who are suffering.

If we are going to reclaim our country, we must act according to our faith values. We will put ourselves in the shoes of those seeking our help and do all in our power to change these unjust laws. I commit to you that I will not step back from the fray even when my heart is broken and I want to flee. Will you act with me in the face of this mounting horror?

It is in this struggle that we might come to know the holiness that Pope Francis talks about. He tells us that it is marked by perseverance, joy, passion and boldness, community, and constant prayer. Let us continue our advocacy, knowing that in our time this is the Gospel path. Let us respond together to the invitation: Come Follow Me! ☀️



Sister Simone and Nuns on the Bus visit the border in Nogales, Arizona in 2013

Notable Quotables

What justice-seekers have been saying this quarter

"We have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness according to the Declaration of Independence. There is no reference to borders or papers."

Lawrence Couch, director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, responding to the detention of pregnant immigrant women at catholicphilly.com

"When fasting, we are dusting off our relationship with God—polishing it with the utmost attention to detail."

Mehreen Karim, NETWORK Communications Specialist, writing about Ramadan in a NETWORK blog

"Imagine governments and nations where love is the way."

Bishop Michael Curry, in his sermon "The Power of Love" at the royal wedding of Britain's Prince Harry and Megan Markle

"It's never right to call other human beings 'animals.' It's not something we should even have to debate."

E.J. Dionne writing an opinion piece for the Washington Post after President Trump referred to some undocumented immigrants as "animals" during a roundtable discussion at the White House.

"As people of faith, we are called to care for our neighbors, not make food security worse for them."

Sister Quincy Howard, OP, quoted at nronline.org after the May defeat of H.R.2, the partisan Farm Bill, in the House of Representatives.

"As challenging as the circumstances are, we have to be messengers of hope."

Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California speaking on the state of immigration during CLINIC's annual convening in Tucson, Arizona.

"Families deserve peace of mind about their children's health insurance, not further cuts to undo the damage caused by tax cuts for millionaires."

Katie Brown, NETWORK Government Relations Associate, writing about a possible rescission of federal CHIP funding in a NETWORK blog

"Government-sanctioned discrimination against any religious belief is a threat to all religious belief."

Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, in an Op-Ed about President Trump's travel ban published at nronline.org

"Woe to you who exploit others and their work by evading taxes, not contributing to their pension funds, and not giving them paid vacation."

Pope Francis, in his homily for mass celebrated at Casa Santa Marta on May 24, 2018

"There's nothing more heartless than pulling out the rug from under families who are just trying to put food on the table."

Tweet from Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-13) (@RepBarbaraLee) about protecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

"This zero-tolerance policy is cruel. It is immoral. And it breaks my heart."

Former First Lady Laura Bush in an Op-Ed about family separation at the U.S.–Mexico border published in the Washington Post.

"We know that in the richest country in the world, there is no reason for children to go hungry, for the sick to be denied health care and for citizens to have their votes suppressed."

Rev. William Barber II, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, in a statement on the movement's relevance and importance.



Humanizing the Immigration Debate

A Conversation with
United We Dream

United We Dream, a youth-led organization with hundreds of thousands of members, is one of the strongest voices for immigrant rights in our nation. United We Dream has shaped the immigration debate on Capitol Hill and across the country since it was founded, advocating for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA), and other legislation on the national, state, and local levels to improve the lives of immigrants and their families.

Recently, NETWORK Government Relations Associate, Sana Rizvi, interviewed Juan Manuel Guzman, Community and Government Affairs Manager at United We Dream, to hear more about United We Dream's history, current advocacy, and vision for a future of just immigration policy. This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

Sana: Hi Juan Manuel, thanks for talking with us. Could you give us a brief history of how United We Dream was created and how important it was, in that process, to be an immigrant-led organization?

Juan Manuel: Yes, absolutely. The co-founders of United We Dream, Cristina Jimenez and Julieta Garibay, always tell us how United We Dream started. As you know in 2001, there was this DREAM Act. It was a bill that was introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), but it wasn't up until 2006 or 2007 when immigrant youth, Dreamers, from different parts of the country had the opportunity to meet each other.

One of the catalysts of having United We Dream form is that idea of "Oh my gosh you are undocumented like me, but you live in another state and I didn't know you existed." So,

continued on page 6

United We Dream started as a network, a network of young immigrants who basically shared the same stories or similar stories and lived similar things here in the United States as undocumented immigrants. They decided to say, “Okay, you live in Texas, I live in New York, let’s keep in touch and see how we can move things forward.” So, that’s how it all started.

I think there was a point in the movement in which people, or at least the young people, their input was not as valid because young people making decision for themselves was not that mainstream. So, there was that need of people saying “No, I need to have a say about my life. Not only am I somebody who will tell his or her story, but I also want to be at that table where the decisions happen. I want to be able to influence that.” Because up until then it was other organizations doing the work and immigrant youth just being called to say their stories. More than the photo-op, immigrant youth wanted to have more influence on their own lives. So, they tell us that it all started with one desk. United We Dream only had a desk and a phone and

people just trying to make the most out of it. As you know, it went from that desk and now it’s been 10 years.

Sana: We know that one of United We Dream’s guiding principles is “Our Stories Are Power.” How do you use the power of stories in both mobilizing supporters and lobbying elected officials?

Juan Manuel: I think when politicians and the media and everyone talks about immigration in particular, it is a very hot issue. Sometimes when you don’t put a face to that, to those reports, when you don’t do that, you don’t humanize it. What the stories do is basically put a face, a story, a human being, to what is being discussed. Politicians can talk a lot about policy but it is only when you understand the effect on people that it starts to make sense for you whether that policy is right or it’s wrong. So the stories are very powerful.

I did a lot of advocacy meetings with Republican offices for the DREAM Act campaign, for example. And you know, me,



Cristina Jiménez, Executive Director and Co-founder of United We Dream, speaks at a rally outside the Capitol Building

an undocumented immigrant, talking to Republican offices, that is not easy. But when I told them about the sacrifices of our families, for example, I remember telling this to one staffer: I told her, “Our families—our dads, or moms, our cousins—they worked hard for a better future. From dawn to sunset in back-breaking jobs, sometimes being abused, sometimes being treated unfairly, so we can have a better chance” and people would relate to that and say, “My mom worked a lot too and made a lot of sacrifices and you know what, I understand. It makes sense.” That is why our stories are so powerful.

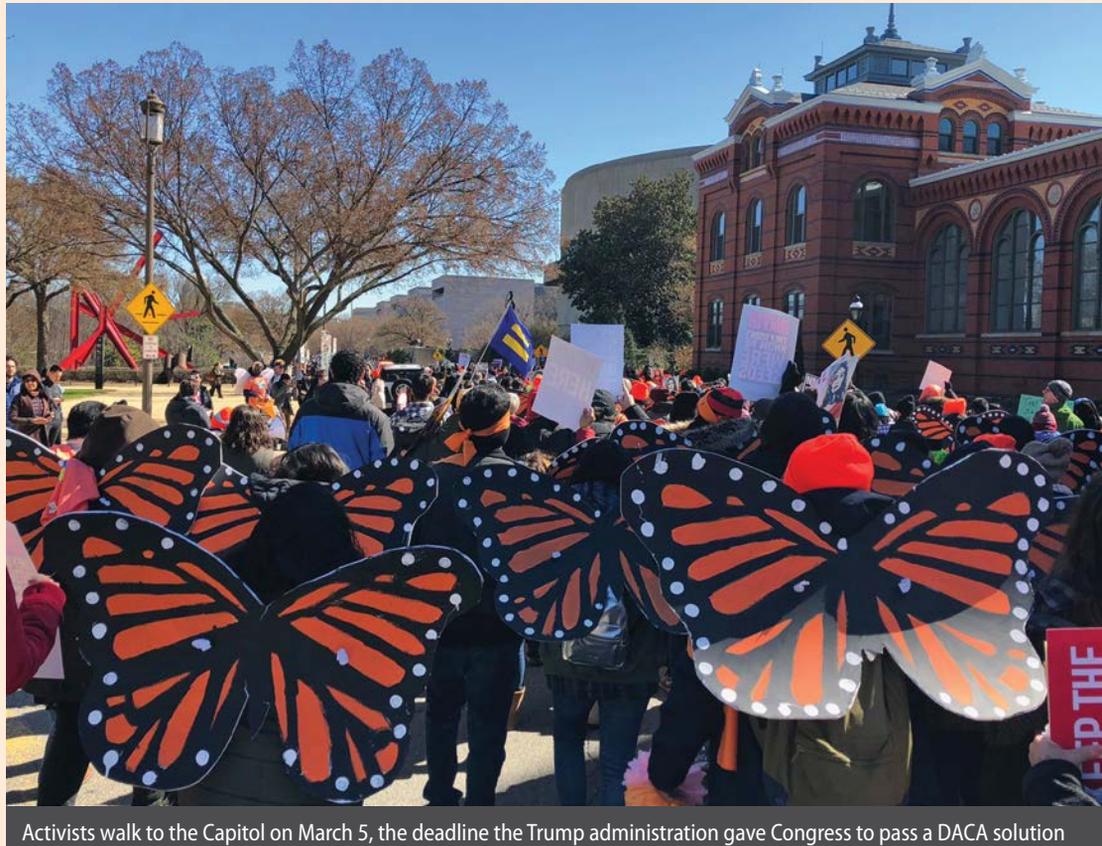
Sana: What do you think is the most significant campaign that United We Dream has worked on in the past?

Juan Manuel: What a question.

Probably the one that had the most impact is our DACA campaign. In 2010, right after the failure of the DREAM Act in Congress, United We Dream and other organizations decided to see how we could move into an executive branch strategy. Eventually, after a lot of work, activism, and organizing, immigrant youth were able to force the hand of the president of the United States into signing an executive order. It was the organizing, it was the strategizing, it was everything that made DACA happen. And that had, as you’ve probably seen, a huge impact on the lives of people, of families. It is not just about the DACA recipient who was able to get a work permit and be protected from deportation, but it was also an impact on the families, the economy, and the communities where we live. I think that is one of the most important results from our organizing.

Sana: So, moving onto the current situation which is, unfortunately, attacks on DACA and attacks on the immigrant community. With all of this, how is United We Dream balancing its priorities and what are some of your current campaigns?

Juan Manuel: I have to say the end of DACA [by President Trump] had a huge impact on United We Dream, because we are primarily led by undocumented young people. So the end



Activists walk to the Capitol on March 5, the deadline the Trump administration gave Congress to pass a DACA solution

of DACA took us to a 7-month [legislative] campaign for the Dream Act. That happened until March 5. We fought, we did everything that we could to find a legislative solution, but ultimately, politicians were not able to come up with a solution that provides a pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth but at the same time doesn’t hurt our families. So after March we decided to go back to the drawing board and see what is next.

I think at this moment what is important is that there have been a lot of leaders that emerged during the DREAM Act campaign. Even though there is that difficult reality that the future of the DACA program is in limbo, people have this energy, this willingness, to fight, to do something for their communities, to step up. There are many people in the country that we need to be involved at the local level. We have to see how we can protect immigrants at the local level. How do we work with the city council, how do we work with the school districts, how do we work with local organizations so we protect immigrants? Especially for people who are not protected or are losing protections, like TPS recipients or our own family who do not have any protection. How do we push for policies and people who are going to not only support us, but put a stop to what has been coming from the federal government?

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United We Dream staff speak at a rally to protect Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and DACA

*Take action with NETWORK for just immigration policy by signing up for action alert emails at www.networklobby.org/connect or get instant action alerts via text message by texting **DACA** to **877-877**. Your advocacy is crucial!*

But most importantly, we want to seek racial justice because immigration is also a racial issue. You are seeing black and brown kids being separated from their families right now. They are not white kids. They are black and brown kids being separated from their families and black and brown people being incarcerated at such high levels. In the case of immigrants in detention centers, immigration detention centers—which are just jails—I can tell you that that is the future. Racial justice for issues that affect black and brown communities.

Sana: What keeps you all hopeful during this time? As an organization, I see United We Dream get up after we have a defeat and say, “Okay we are going to keep working, we are going to keep doing this.” What keeps that hope up?

Juan Manuel: I think we were able to see that in the DREAM Act campaign. We worked really long hours. We used to wake up really early, go to bed really late at night. Every day: working, going to Congressional offices, doing visits, doing actions, doing everything. We used all our energy and we were tired and it was difficult and it was cold, but at the same time you could see that people were still hopeful, were still energized and willing to fight. I think when you see that even though you might be tired, you might be burned out, you also have this sense of hope. In the worst times you can get the best out of people and I think that’s what gives me hope. When we didn’t have any certainty about our lives, it became the greatest leadership that we’ve seen. I think that’s what gives me hope that this is not over yet. We are going to keep fighting.

Sana: What is your long-term vision for just immigration policies in our country?

Juan Manuel: I think United We Dream has set it up clearly. It is not just about immigration. It goes beyond immigration. That was one thing we were able to see with President Trump coming to power. It is only not immigrants who are being attacked. It is also women. It is also our Muslim brothers and sisters. It is also the LGBTQ community that is being attacked, the environment. So I think the future for United We Dream and the vision is that we want to build this network of people, of people of conscience that want to work on behalf of these issues.

Sana: Are you hopeful that we will be victorious?

Juan Manuel: I think that sometimes we have to stumble and we have to fall a little bit so we can see the direction of our lives. I think that’s true on a personal basis but also as a country. I think the country itself is waking up and people are saying, “I don’t agree with separating children, that’s not right. I don’t know what kind of political views you have but that is not a political issue, that’s a moral issue.” And I think people coming from that moral point of view will be able to say, “That is not the direction that we are going to go.” And I think progress, of course, is not linear, sometimes you have to take one step back to get two steps or three steps forward.

Sana: Can you give one word to describe how this movement makes you feel?

Juan Manuel: Wow, that’s a profound question. I think empowered. I joined the movement right around when Donald Trump was about to become the presidential nominee for the Republican Party. Before that, I was in the shadows and I felt very disempowered. That’s how you just feel. You don’t know your future here in the country. All these things being said about you and your community and your people. I had so much frustration and anger inside myself because of all the hateful things I was hearing. It was through the movement in United We Dream that I could feel empowered. I was able to say, “We can have an impact on the direction of our lives.” ☀️

We Cannot Allow This Cruelty in Our Country

Fighting Immoral Policies Tearing Families Apart at the Border

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PRAMILA JAYAPAL

Our nation is in crisis. The words on the Statue of Liberty—“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”—seem far away as families on the border are separated as a result of President Donald Trump’s inhumane and cruel “zero tolerance” policy. The policy has resulted in thousands of children being placed in tent cities, shelters, and foster homes across the nation, with no plan to reunite them with their parents.

Two weeks ago, I spoke with 174 women who were, at the administration’s orders, transferred thousands of miles from the southern border to a federal prison just outside Seattle. Most of these women were asylum-seekers, fleeing rape, violence, and persecution. The majority had been held in various facilities for over two weeks, many for over a month.

The mothers had been separated from their children at the border, and not a single one had spoken to their children since then. All but two of the mothers did not even know where their children were. They wept as they told me that they had been “deceived” by agents who told them to just leave the room for a minute to take a picture or see a judge, and when they returned, their children were gone. They didn’t even have a chance to say goodbye.

The women I spoke to had already made heartbreaking choices in deciding to come to the United States. One woman told me that her oldest child was shot killed by gangs, her second shot and paralyzed, and that she had to leave that paralyzed child in order to try and save her third child. She had been separated from that last child at the border and had not seen him in a month. Another woman traveled to the border with one child, leaving another child who was blind behind because she knew he could not make the difficult journey.

I am an immigrant and a mother, and what I heard breaks my heart.

We must demand that Trump fix the crisis he created, and reject his false claims that he has taken any action to do that. The executive order he signed does not reverse his zero-tolerance policy that created these abuses and violations; instead, it allows for the indefinite detention of children and their parents in family prison camps. His administration has challenged a previous court settlement that clearly states that children cannot be detained for more than 20 days. That means that, very



Rep. Jayapal speaks at a rally in Washington, D.C. for an end to family separation and child detention.

soon, either he is going to separate families again or he is going to defy that court order and continue to detain children illegally. Does anyone seriously believe that incarcerating children is a solution to the crisis the president has created?

On top of that, the administration has no plans to reunite the thousands of children who have already been separated.

We cannot stand for this. As one of only a dozen members of Congress born outside of the United States, I began my organizing in the wake of 9-11, forming Washington’s largest immigrant advocacy organization to combat the abuses at the time against Sikhs, Muslims, Arabs, and immigrants. I saw then that strength emerges in times of crisis and that is what we must focus on building all over again today. That’s why I’m calling on Trump to overturn his zero-tolerance policy, reunite families, and release them from their prisons.

This isn’t about politics—it’s about right and wrong. We have to stand up for America.

Representative Pramila Jayapal represents the state of Washington’s seventh district. The first Indian-American woman in the House of Representatives, Representative Jayapal has spent the last twenty years working internationally and domestically as a leading national advocate for women’s, immigrant, civil, and human rights.



Living Out Our Hope That All May Be One

Father Jim F. Callahan

Worthington, Minnesota is a community of 13,000 people, located in the Southwest corner of the state. It is a diverse community with 64 nationalities, living, working, and worshipping together. The Latino population comprises the largest immigrant community. Seventy-five percent of our public school children speak Spanish as their first language. Most members of our immigrant communities come without documentation.

People often wonder how Worthington has the second largest immigrant community in the state. What draws immigrants here are the meat packing plants in the city and surrounding communities as well as the numerous farms throughout the region.

The challenges facing the immigrant communities in Worthington are racism, prejudice, and discrimination. Lack of affordable housing, medical, and dental care are also challenges that the

community faces. As a result of the need for medical care, we established the Our Lady of Guadalupe Free Clinic, and later, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Free Dental Clinic. Anyone without insurance is welcome. We became a 501(c)(3) four years ago, and have seen over 1200 patients.

The Parish of St. Mary is a church of hospitality. Our primary objective is to make the parish a welcoming and safe haven for all people. After the election of Donald Trump, fear seized our community. We announced to the parish we would do everything possible to help and protect our people. The staff prayed and studied what would be the most Gospel-based response to this crisis. Already we were experiencing families being torn apart by deportation and mothers separated from their children. So we unanimously decided that we had to become a Sanctuary Church.



Photo courtesy of St. Mary's Parish



Since our declaration of becoming a Sanctuary Church, we have received support from the diocese and individuals and faith communities around the state.

We believe Sanctuary has biblical roots and we have mandate to proclaim justice for all people, regardless of race, creed, or color.

We work closely with the Immigrant Law Center based in St. Paul. We established a steering committee made up of immigrants and community leaders and the church sponsors programs, workshops, and listening sessions related to topics that affect the community. As a Catholic Faith Community whose foundation is the Eucharist, we have an obligation to live out the pillars of Catholic Social Teaching, living out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

St. Mary's Parish prays for comprehensive immigration reform and for the end of this reign of terror, where families will no longer hide in the shadows, where families will no longer be separated or children taken from their parents because of the color of their skin, the language they speak, or who they call God.

Our prayer is as a Nation, as a Church, as a People, that one day all may be one.

Father Jim F. Callahan is Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Worthington, MN. Visit: www.st.marysworthington.org.

Celebrating Our Dreams, Our Families in the Face of Threats to Family Reunification

Sam Yu

In February, the Senate voted on four different immigration bills for our undocumented young people. They all included plans to cut family-based immigration and they all failed to pass. Moreover, the Trump administration was doubling down on using harmful rhetoric around “chain migration” in order to further alienate and dehumanize communities whose families benefit from family-based sponsorship.

An overwhelming majority of Asian Americans come to the U.S. through the family-based sponsorship, meaning that any cuts directly impact our community. Forcing immigrant youth to choose between their futures and their families is pure blackmail and intolerable.

In order to spark dialogue and fight back against the harmful “chain migration” rhetoric, NAKASEC and affiliates launched the “Our Dreams, Our Families” campaign. During February and March, we shared stories of impacted folks from our community whose families have benefited or will benefit from family-based sponsorship. All of the stories can be found at www.nakasec.org/ourdreamsourfamilies.

In one of our stories, Esther, our DACAmented young leader, explained how “it infuriated [her] that members of Congress, even our so called ‘allies,’ would think that [she] would ever want a pathway to citizenship that would prevent [her] from sponsoring [her] own parents... Our parents made us who we are today,



Esther shares her family's immigration story during an event to mark the March 5 DACA deadline

our parents are the original Dreamers, and when you celebrate the achievements of Dreamers like [her], you are celebrating the achievements of not just our parents but our friends and our communities.”

Esther's story and her declaration that her mother deserves to stay too captures the essence of the “Our Dreams, Our Families” campaign. We are asking Congress to value our families, protect family-based sponsorship, and fully understand that we cannot support undocumented young people without also supporting their families. Families are a cornerstone of American values and they deserve to stay together!

Sam Yu is the Communications Coordinator at NAKASEC. NAKASEC organizes Korean and Asian Americans to achieve social, economic, and racial justice. Learn more at www.nakasec.org



Getting to Know Younger Sisters in Their Own Words

Sister Susan Francois, CSJP and Meg Olson

In Our Own Words: Religious Life in a Changing World is a collection of essays written by 13 younger women religious about the issues central to religious life today, ranging from vows and community life to ministries and leadership. The book was written over four months, with the authors meeting over video chat, forming a community, and writing on their own. Then, they came together for a week-long retreat where they workshopped their essays.

Meg had the opportunity to attend a book reading and panel discussion moderated by one of the editors, Juliet Mousseau, RMCJ, and featuring four of the contributing authors, including a member of our 2016 Nuns on the Bus trip, Susan Rose Francois, CSJP. She was so moved and curious about the writing process that she needed to ask Susan a few more questions!

Meg: Why did you decide to say “yes” to the editors Juliet Mousseau and Sarah Kohles and participate in this writing project?

Susan: For years, I had been saying that it was up to us, the newer generation, to write the next chapter of religious life, literally write it. So much of recent writing about religious life explores the life in relation to the changes after Vatican II, or as Juliet says, in relation to what it is not. For those of us born years or even decades after Vatican II, it felt like we needed an updated take on the core issues of our life, such as vows, charism and mission, community, and leadership. In the end, since I had been encouraging others to write, when Juliet and Sarah invited me to participate, I felt had to say yes.

Meg: Tell us about your chapter, “Religious Life in a Time of Fog.”

Susan: The title was inspired by Sister Nancy Farrell, OSF who spoke at the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) assembly a few years ago about our time in history and in religious life. She talked about this time as one where breakdown and breakthrough tussle with one another and the path forward is hidden in fog. It certainly feels like that in the civic space these days, but also in religious life. We keep saying that things will look different in the future, but I want to know how we get there. So, I look at the tremendous needs of the world at this time for things like peace, mercy, charity, and justice. How are Catholic sisters being called to respond in this time

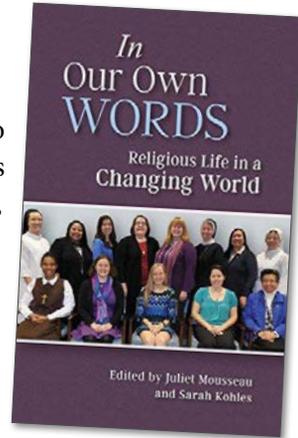
of fog? I believe that we are being called to de-commission the large-scale structures of religious life, both physical structures, but also how we organize our lives together, and recommission ourselves as critical yeast in a world yearning for our charism, witness, and presence.

Meg: What did you learn about women religious during this project? Did anything surprise you?

Susan: We had a lot of fun together. We shared deeply and found common ground so quickly, even though some of us had never even met. We love our sisters in community and believe in the future of religious life. If anything surprised me, I guess it was the realization that what we hold in common as women of the Gospel is so much bigger than any differences, whether it be cultural or whether our community members wear a habit. No matter our congregation or leadership conference, we are sisters.

Meg: What is something that the NETWORK community should understand about this new generation of sisters under 50?

Susan: Collaboration and networking come natural to us. Because there are fewer of us in individual congregations, we have been building peer relationships across congregational lines since the very beginning of our religious lives. We also build networks outside of religious life, through our ministries, advocacy, and other connections. I think this experience will serve religious life, advocacy work, and the church well into the future.



Susan Rose Francois is a member of the Congregation Leadership Team for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. She was a Bernardin scholar at Catholic Theological Union and a Nun on the Bus in 2016. She has ministered as a justice educator and advocate.

Meg Olson is NETWORK's Grassroots Mobilization Manager.



Help Us Raise Names for New NETWORK Board Members

NETWORK is seeking three Board members to join the NETWORK Lobby and NETWORK Advocates Boards in 2019. We invite all NETWORK members to participate wholeheartedly in a “name-raising” process to identify potential candidates.

Unlike the nomination process of our national politics, name-raising is a “Sister-Spirit” method of discerning the gifts and talents of a person who might best match the qualities needed on the NETWORK Boards at a given time. This involves prayerful discernment on the part of those raising the names of potential Board members, the potential Board members, and the Boards themselves.

If you know someone, including yourself, who would excel in this role, please complete the name-raising form at www.networklobby.org/nameraising no later than **September 1, 2018**. Earlier responses are appreciated.

Qualifications

- ✓ Must be a member of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice;
- ✓ Must have a serious commitment to the principles of Catholic Social Justice; and
- ✓ Must be able and willing to attend and participate actively in Board meetings and monthly committee conference calls. Current committees are: Development, Finance, and Governance & Administration.

Areas of Expertise

While no individual member possesses all the skills needed on a national board, NETWORK believes that a well-developed board will include members with a variety of skills.

In 2019, the Boards are seeking people with one or more of these areas of expertise:

- ✓ Development: Fundraising strategy, connections, ability to raise money;
- ✓ Finance: Budgeting, financial management, investments;
- ✓ Governance: Board, nonprofit management, or business experience; and/or
- ✓ Racial Justice.

Demographic Diversity

NETWORK is committed to having diverse voices on its Boards and believes the Boards should reflect diversity of race and ethnic heritage; economic background; ministry or occupation; geography; age; affiliation (or not) with a community of women religious; and personal or professional skills.

In 2019, the Boards seek candidates who have one or more of the following characteristics:

- ✓ under 45 years of age;
- ✓ a person of color; and/or
- ✓ a resident of the Mountain Time zone or rural U.S.

NETWORK is open to all who share our passion for justice; therefore, **raising the names of Catholics and non-Catholics is welcome.**

Time Commitment

- ✓ Two in-person weekend Board meetings a year, in Washington, D.C. (Scheduled for May 3–5 and November 8–10, 2019)
- ✓ Monthly committee conference calls with pre-meeting review of materials.
- ✓ Additional assignments from committee work.
- ✓ If one takes on a leadership position, this will also require additional time.
- ✓ If elected, a new Board member would be asked to serve a three-year term with the option of serving up to three consecutive terms.

Please take time to prayerfully consider people who would be an asset to the NETWORK Boards. Speak to those persons and let them know you are raising their names as possible candidates for a position on the Boards. Finally, complete the name-raising form no later than September 1, 2018 at www.networklobby.org/nameraising.

Each person whose name is raised will receive a response and an invitation to enter into their own process of discernment. The NETWORK Boards are grateful for your time and discernment, and hope for a robust response from our membership as we seek to fill these positions on our Boards.

If you have any questions, you can contact us at nameraising@networklobby.org or call Taylor at 202-601-7866.



Positive Results for Census Funding in the Federal Budget, Hurdles Remain to Achieving a Just Farm Bill

An update from D.C. on key votes held during the past quarter and social justice issues on the horizon



Key Votes: Census Funding

This spring, the House Appropriations Committee approved \$4.8 billion in overall funding for the Census Bureau as part of the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY 2019) Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) spending bill. This was an increase of \$1.985 billion above the FY 2018 enacted level and almost \$1 billion above President Trump's FY 2019 budget request. In contrast, the Senate Appropriations Committee took a more conservative approach and allocated nearly \$1 billion less than the House for the Census Bureau, substantially short of NETWORK's request. Regrettably, both bills contain several unacceptable provisions that impact immigrant families participating in the census. The decision by the House Committee to reject an amendment to remove the citizenship question was a major disappointment.

The FY 2019 budget process moved swiftly after Congress passed a two-year budget agreement in February that would provide an additional \$300 billion over FY 2018 and FY 2019. At the President's behest, Congress endeavored through the spring and summer to complete work on twelve FY 2019 spending bills by September 30, 2018. NETWORK continues to advocate for increased funding for affordable housing, workforce development, job training, child welfare, and healthcare in the federal budget.



On the Horizon: Farm Bill

The Farm Bill, which determines subsidies for farmers across the country as well as nutrition assistance, is due for reauthorization in the coming months. The legislation to do so, however, is moving through both chambers on divergent paths, and with starkly different bills. On the House side, NETWORK strongly opposes the hyper-partisan H.R.2, due to its harmful changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). H.R.2 jeopardizes nutrition assistance for millions of people and substitutes massive bureaucracy and stringent eligibility standards for actual food assistance. In April, H.R.2 was voted down 213 to 198, but unfortunately passed 213 to 211 when it was brought up again for a vote a few weeks later.

At the same time, the Senate chose to legislate with bipartisan negotiations and crafted S.3042, which avoids controversial changes to SNAP and meets the needs of both the agricultural community and people experiencing food insecurity. The bill moved smoothly through the Senate Agriculture Committee in June, but still faces multiple political hurdles. As S.3042 moves to the Senate floor for debate, controversial amendments will likely emerge. If both bills are ultimately approved, a risky conference process will follow and food-insecure families will hang in the balance.

NETWORK—a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace—educates, organizes, and lobbies for economic and social transformation.

NETWORK LOBBY FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Mary Ellen Lacy, DC, Meg Olson, Jeremiah Pennebaker

FELLOWS

Nancy Groth, Joan Neal, Patricia Sodo



LIGHT A CANDLE FOR PEACE

When our dear friend, Bob, was dying he gave me a check to be used “to light a candle rather than curse the darkness.” I have every confidence he is watching from his new home in the community of saints in heaven and happy you can use this donation. Please remember Bob and his loved ones in prayer. May our Nonviolent Jesus continue to bless your prayers/work for peace and justice. Yes, God bless everyone—no exceptions.

*Peace and gratefully yours,
Sister Kay O’Neil*

Often times, we receive inspiring messages from members whose friends and/or family wish to make a legacy gift that is close to their heart.

Sister Kay O’Neil recently sent us this note. We are touched by her friend Bob’s generosity and grateful for his legacy gift to our continuing work for justice and peace.

Sister Kay shared that “we do a lot of peace work and Bob was always there...it made an impact.” As a NETWORK member, you may not always be aware of the impact your work has on another person.

You can learn how you can build a legacy for justice and peace by requesting information using the enclosed envelope. And, we invite you to use the same envelope to grow our community with a NETWORK gift membership for a loved one, or by going online to www.networklobby.org/member.

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