

# JPIC Notes

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## Amplifying Our Voices by Collaborating and Advocating for Gospel Justice

The JPIC Office has joined the Ohio Sisters Justice Network (OSJN) with sisters and lay men and women across the state representing 14 different congregations. We work collaboratively on common issues like Care for Creation, Justice for the Poor and Vulnerable and Immigration.

Catholic sisters have always been at the forefront of addressing justice issues. What is changing as they move forward is the plan for bringing new voices to the conversations and the work. Sisters are not the only initiators or leaders in this work and different people with experience, wisdom and resources are joining in the work. Collaboration only strengthens the response and brings more energy to the work.

We have met three times this year with Senator Sherrod Brown and Senator J.D. Vance's Office staff. We have discussed immigration policies, forming and passing a just budget that reaches the poorest and most vulnerable (including Extended Child Tax Credit, SNAP, WIC and the Farm Bill), as well as gun violence and the abolishing of the Ohio death penalty.

“Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.” ~Dr. Cornel West



## WORTH WATCHING

*White Supremacy & American Christianity Part III.* Fr. Bryan Massingale and Dr. Robert P. Jones continue the conversation about how hatred and white supremacy threaten our democracy. Watch it [HERE](#).

Based on the work of Robert Putnam, the film *Join or Die* has been produced and is in limited screenings. Georgetown Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life hosted a dialogue on the film. Watch it [HERE](#).

**Jan 11 to Feb 8 is**

### **Human Trafficking Awareness Time**

The Alliance to End Human Trafficking, formerly the U. S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking, offer many resources on this justice and life issue.

Sr. Michelle Loisel, DC, shares a reflection about the link between trafficking and immigration. In part it reads, “When immigration laws do not support the movement of people through legal means, people can be forced to take irregular routes – which might rely on people smugglers and sometimes people traffickers – making them more vulnerable to modern slavery. We know that traffickers lure victims by promising safe travel and entry into the desired country, and then deceive them into exploitative situations. Global crises, conflicts, and the climate emergency are escalating trafficking risks. People lacking legal status living in poverty and without decent work often become the primary targets of traffickers. Women migrate for diverse reasons: from leaving behind poverty, conflict, and climate-related disasters to escaping deeply entrenched gender inequalities, including sexual and gender-based violence and lack of access to livelihoods and resources.

“What are we doing about it? Hundreds of thousands of migrants are crossing into the country every day. Human trafficking has become one of the largest issues facing our border security, with men, women, and children being exploited and forced into labor against their will. Considered the modern form of slavery, human trafficking has become one of the world’s most lucrative businesses, bringing in an estimated \$150 billion annually for evil predators.

Alliance to End Human Trafficking (AEHT) and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (NAC) have embarked on a months-long journey of listening, analysis and action to address the dangerous nexus between forced migration and human trafficking. On Nov. 6, constituents from AEHT, and NAC [met] with members of Congress and staff to break the link between human trafficking and forced migration by addressing the root causes of forced migration, reducing delays in work permits for asylum applicants, and protecting unaccompanied children.”

To read the entire reflection, click [HERE](#).

The Sisters of Notre Dame of the USA are members of the Alliance to End Human Trafficking. Each month we share the Stop Trafficking Newsletter through the daily email. SND USA is part of the education and advocacy to end Human Trafficking.



[Click HERE for a Novena to St. Josephine Bakhita, whose feast day is Feb 8.](#)



Victoria Frabotta, English teacher at NDCL, attended the Teach-In and contributed to this article.



### **2023 Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice: Boundless and Beloved**

This year, for the first time, students from Notre Dame Cathedral Latin (NDCL) attended the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice (IFTJ) in Washington DC, October 27-30. The students were sponsored by a benevolent benefactor to attend this Catholic, international conference with over 1,900 participants.

The Teach-In is a place to be empowered, energized, inspired, challenged and supported. Students participated in seminars over the weekend, focusing on social justice issues. The guest speakers and presentations focused on preparing the students for advocacy with our elected officials in DC.

Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ was one of the keynote speakers who prepared participants for their Capitol visit with her presentation on the importance of welcoming migrants with kindness and fierce tenderness. She reminded all present, “The only way we can make a difference is by standing up and saying there is room for everybody in this world, not just a select few.”

#### **[View Sr. Norma Pimentel IFTJ 2023 presentation.](#)**

The students participated with schools and colleges from all over Ohio to present the Catholic stance on migration and the environment according to Catholic Social Teaching. The NDCL students sat down with Will Mascaro from Representative Dave Joyce's office to ask members to act for humane immigration reform and serious climate action.

Over these three transformative days, they learned, prayed, played and advocated for justice at the largest annual Catholic social justice gathering in the United States.



NDCL Students meet with Will Mascaro, legislative assistant from Representative Dave Joyce's office.