



# issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

## IJPC 30th Anniversary & Annual Meeting

by Sr. Judi Clemens, SNDdeN  
IJPC Board Chair

Do you remember how you celebrated your 30th birthday (if you are beyond that special milestone)? Do you remember how we celebrated together the 25th anniversary of IJPC? Were you with us at Purcell Marian on that glorious night? I was a relative newcomer to Cincinnati and to IJPC and I know what the occasion meant to me personally. I was thrilled to be with so many justice seekers in the same hall. It was a very impressive evening. Well, can you believe that already five years have passed and here we are poised to celebrate the 30th anniversary of IJPC?

Each of you has been a vital

part of who IJPC has become.

If you have been following all the exciting news from IJPC you are aware that we have been blessed with Allison Reynolds-Berry's leadership since December.

We are on solid ground for the future and we want to invite you to join with us on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph Church planning to gather to share stories as we look back at photos from years past and hear reflections from key leaders over the years. We will have marimba music, highlight IJPC's programs, and eat good food. We hope you will all join us in remembering and celebrating as we truly welcome this new "coming of age" of IJPC.

## Human Trafficking

As a result of research and revisioning conducted early this year, IJPC has added Human Trafficking as a primary focus area. Sisters Against Human Trafficking is being reorganized and expanded to become the IJPC Committee on Human Trafficking. The committee will support other organizations addressing this issue in the city and state through collaboration.

The Committee supports End Slavery Cincinnati in its efforts to raise awareness about the potential increase in sex trafficking that occurs in locations hosting large sporting events like the MLB All-Star Game. Members of the committee have made contact with local businesses alerting them to the problem, making them aware of signs for identifying participants and victims.

Others have assisted with the SOAP (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution) project, started by a former victim of sex trafficking. Bathrooms are often the only place victims have privacy away from the people controlling them. A sticker is placed on small bars of soap and left in hotel bathrooms with a special message for victims or witnesses of prostitution and the National Human Trafficking hotline number: 1.888.373.7888.

## World Peace Festival

The Right of all Children to Peace is the theme for this year's World Peace Festival. The festival program will include readings from the book "For Every Child: the rights of the child in words and pictures," by Caroline Castle.

This family friendly event will include music and art, celebrating the International Day of Peace. The festival takes place on Saturday, September 26th



from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm at the Peace Bell in Newport, Kentucky. Leaders from different faith traditions will gather in prayer and support of Peace as a potential and continuous way of life.

## A Letter from Allison Reynolds-Berry

On a particularly hectic day at the office last month, I ran out to a meeting at the World Peace Bell in Newport, KY. I stood under the bell, looked up in to it, and breathed deeply. I read the poem below which was engraved in stone near the bell. I was touched by the way this poem goes beyond the quote I am familiar with, focusing only on peace in our homes, and goes further to highlight what needs to happen in order for peace to be sustained. I felt a sense of calm and hope.



There have been many signs of hope over the past few months. I attended Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington DC, thanks to the Sisters of Mercy, and advocated on Capitol Hill for an end to the detention bed quota requiring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hold an average of 34,000 immigrants in detention on a daily basis. No other law enforcement agency is subject to a statutory quota on the number of individuals to hold in detention. May kept us running with the Flying Pig and thanks to our 23 volunteers, 42 Flying Pig participants, and 91 donors, we raised \$13,150! Truly a team effort. The Voices of Experience panel at St. Maximillian Kolbe on May 26th brought a spotlight on the injustices in the death penalty system and the pain that continues to be felt by victims' family members, exonerees, and all those involved.

I look forward to the ringing of the bell at our World Peace Festival on September 26th. But before the peace bell rings, and afterwards, we will continue to write, read, and talk about peace. We'll write about it in letters asking for prosecutorial discretion for an immigrant mother set to be deported and separated from her US born children. We will need to read about it in analysis of the violence perpetrated by ISIL in Iraq and Syria, as well as increased violence in our own communities. We will have to talk about peace and ending human trafficking to our family, friends, and neighbors after the All-Star Game ends and the attention to the prevalence of sex trafficking is no longer in the media spotlight. We will talk about it as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of IJPC in conjunction with our Annual Meeting on September 17th. I hope you will join us, near and far, in these ways and in many more, as we advocate, challenge, and transform to promote peace and seek justice.

### Peace

Peace starts at home.  
Peace starts at our schools.  
Peace starts on our city streets.

If we have peace in our homes,  
And in our schools,  
And on our streets,  
Then our governments,  
And our nations will follow  
And we will have world peace.

To sustain this peace  
We must continue to write about it.  
We will need to read about it;  
We will have to talk about it  
to our family, and friends, and neighbors.

And when our Peace Bell Rings  
the world will listen.

-Wayne E. Carmichael

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## Thank you, Summer Interns!

With our many projects and initiatives, it has been a gift to have additional help from our summer interns; Brian and Eleanor. Hear from them in their own words:

Hello! I'm Brian Igel and I am the Xavier University summer intern at IJPC. I am a senior at Xavier and a Theology and Philosophy major. My interests are Catholic Social Teaching and its relation to American politics and society, and Catholic civic responsibility.

I hope to continue working in both faith and justice after graduation. While at IJPC I have en-

joyed working and getting to know my peers who are involved in the YES program and knowing their stories. I've also been deeply impacted by IJPC's work on death penalty abolition and the movement at both the state and national levels. I am thankful for the people I have learned from here and the rich history of IJPC. It is exciting looking forward from the past 30 years to the great things IJPC is advocating and educating for in peace and justice.

I'm Eleanor Gaston and I am a graduate student at Mount St. Joseph University. With a graduate degree in education I will be-



come an art teacher. Through my brief involvement with IJPC I have gained a deeper understanding of the death penalty, human trafficking and immigration issues. This is an engaging experience for me. I hope to take what I'm learning at IJPC into the classroom in an effort to educate and encourage my students to use their gifts to become advocates for change.

## Peace Committee

The Peace Committee has been hard at work over the past months lobbying in downtown Cincinnati for peace to Congressman Steve Chabot's office.

The focus of visits has been lobbying for dialogue and diplomacy rather than war in the Middle East, and advocating for nuclear disarmament. The committee has used Pope St. John XXII's encyclical *Pacem et Terris* and Pope Francis's *Laudato si'* in the lobbying efforts, portions of which encourage a collaborative effort towards diplomacy.



Dorsey Stebbins, Donna Park, Fr. Ben Urmston, SJ and Don Rucknagel on a lobby visit to Congressman Chabot's office.

## Flying Pig



Our 5k and 10k participants were all smiles before and after the race. Thanks to all who ran, walked, donated and cheered on Team IJPC.



## Walk to Stop Executions

The Walk to Stop Executions is planned for October 4-10, 2015. Abolitionists from Ohio and beyond will walk from the Lucasville prison, where death row inmates are executed, to the Statehouse in Columbus. The 7-day, 83-mile walk will feature evening programs in Portsmouth, Chillicothe, Circleville, and Columbus for walkers to engage local communities in conversations about ending capital punishment.

Those unable to participate in the full walk can join the final 2+ mile leg in Columbus on Saturday October 10, the World Day Against the Death Penalty, or attend a rally in Columbus that afternoon.

An event of the Scioto Peace and Justice Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, IJPC is a cosponsor along with Footprints for Peace, Ohioans to Stop Executions, and Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio.





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## Anti-Death Penalty Program

IJPC was pleased to partner with Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Catholic Social Action Office to bring an outstanding death penalty educational event to the area. Ohio is half way through a year of moratorium on executions, providing an opportunity to reflect on the system as it is, consider recommendations for fair and accurate administration, if it is to exist at all.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church in Liberty Township graciously hosted the Voices of Experience event, and invitations were extended to include other faith traditions and the general public.

The audience heard the perspective of individuals with a wide variety of personal experience and opinion on the death penalty including Alice Gerde-man, CDP, Joe Byrne, Derrick Jamison, Terry Collins, and Judge James Brogan.

If you missed the event, visit: <http://bit.ly/1Tq7My2> to watch the recording or show it to your group!

If you are interested in having a presentation and/or discussion for your parish or group, a presentation after Mass, or a speaker for a class, contact Allison, [allison@IJPCcincinnati.org](mailto:allison@IJPCcincinnati.org).

## Immigration Program



IJPC's YES (Youth Educating Society) program supports young immigrants in telling their stories as a means of educating the public and advocating for reform.

This summer, some of our YES members have shared their stories with groups of high school students visiting from Saint Vincent DePaul's Ozanam Center for Service Learning to learn about the realities of immigration.