

Dominican Call to Justice

North American Dominican Justice Promoters

2013-2014

The North American Dominican Justice Promoters respond to the call for justice in our world today. Engaging in issues using the pastoral model of seeing, judging, and acting, we preach with the eyes, mind, and heart of who we are. In solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world, and recognizing the need to address the global impact of climate change and its ramification for all justice issues, we commit to study, advocate and act in the following areas:

Climate Justice
Economic Justice
Human Trafficking
Migration/Immigration
Peace and Security for All Life

We call our Dominican sisters and brothers to join us in this effort. As members of the world-wide Dominican Family, we advocate for justice through our ministries, through our presence at the United Nations, and through our corporate socially responsible investing. We collaborate with all who seek a more just and sustainable world.

*Action on
behalf of
justice is a
constitutive
dimension of
the preaching
of the Gospel.*

*Justice in the
World, 1971*

CLIMATE JUSTICE

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace. It is imperative that we declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life—especially those who are poor and vulnerable—and to future generations.

(adapted from the *Earth Charter*)

We commit to:

1. Acknowledge the reality of climate change and its impact on Earth's ecosystems and the plant, animal and human lives that these systems sustain.
2. Educate ourselves and others on the interconnecting dynamics of climate change and all other justice issues.
3. Embrace the reality of our oneness with the whole of life, allowing that deepening awareness to transform our prayer, our study, our preaching (ministry), and our common life.

4. Engage in dialogue with our legislators and business and corporate interest groups to move them toward actions that mitigate the effects of climate change.
5. Advocate for policy and legislative efforts to promote the use of alternative energy, cap and trade, energy efficiency, diminishing use of fossil fuels, and other issues that directly impact climate.

Resources:

350.org	www.350.org
Catholic Climate Covenant	www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
Citizens Climate Lobby	www.citizensclimatelobby.org
Earth Charter Initiative	www.earthcharterinaction.org
Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center	www.ipjc.org
Union of Concerned Scientists	www.ucsusa.org
UN Conference on Sustainable Development	www.uncsd2012.org
Internet Search “Carbon Footprint” for information appropriate to your local setting	

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

We see that the gap between the haves and the have-nots is growing in our country and in our world. The forces of individual and corporate power and greed cause many persons to lack the basic necessities of life ...food, clothing, shelter, security, jobs, health care, and education.

We believe that the economy, both local and global, has moral dimensions and consequences for humanity and the greater Earth community.

We commit to:

1. Support fair trade products.
2. Educate ourselves and others about our free market economic system and how it affects humanity and the Earth that sustains us.
3. Explore the Global Commons movement as a way of protecting resources that are common to all of us.
4. Support legislation that protects public interests in financial transactions.
5. Work to overturn legislation that allows for unrestricted and undisclosed contributions to political candidates, political action committees, and public policy initiatives (e.g. Citizens United).
6. Work toward a just, living wage in our institutions.
7. Protect the rights of workers at home and abroad.

Resources:

Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice	www.catholicscholarsforworkerjustice.org
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good	www.catholicsinalliance.org
Global Commons Trust	www.globalcommonstrust.org
Interfaith Worker Justice	www.iwj.org
NETWORK: A National Catholic Justice Lobby	www.networklobby.org
On the Commons	www.onthecommons.org
US Catholic Conference of Bishops	www.usccb.org

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. The rising number of climate refugees worldwide today exposes more and more people to becoming victims of human trafficking. Called by the Gospel mandate and our Catholic social teaching on the dignity of all persons, we are compelled to take action against human trafficking, modern day slavery.

We commit to:

1. Educate ourselves and others by exposing the truth about modern-day slavery in its many forms, including the burgeoning exploitation through the internet and social media.
2. Advocate for change by contacting elected officials and demanding protection for the victims in trafficking legislation.
3. Encourage education of hotel, airline, airport personnel and other relevant groups so they can identify those who may be victims of trafficking and make the necessary contacts to help victims.
4. Identify and make known the local agencies who give protection and support to survivors.

Resources

End Child Prostitution and Trafficking	www.ecpatusa.org
Not for Sale Campaign	www.notforsalecampaign.org
Stop the Demand Campaign	www.unanima-international.org
<i>Stop Trafficking!</i> Newsletter	www.stopenslavement.org
UNODC	www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html?ref=menuside
USCCB	www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/index.cfm
US State Department Trafficking in Persons Yearly Report	www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt

MIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

We support compassionate and comprehensive immigration legislation, practice, and policy that provide for the following:

- processes for undocumented persons to expeditiously achieve permanent residency and citizenship without leaving the United States;
- creation of legal avenues for the migration of people of all economic backgrounds;
- assurance of family unity for all immigrant families;
- guaranteed human rights and labor protections for ALL workers;
- acknowledgment of and addressing the root causes of migration.

We commit to:

1. Respond compassionately to migrants in our respective areas.
2. Stay informed of developments in immigration legislation.
3. Educate and advocate for immigration reform in our parishes and with other concerned groups.
4. Contact local and federal legislators to support the issue of a just reform of immigration laws.

5. Educate ourselves to the emerging realities of climate refugees.

Resources:

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.	www.cliniclegal.org
Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform	www.faithandimmigration.org
Friends Committee on National Legislation	www.fcnl.org
Immigration Advocates Network	www.immigrationadvocates.org
Interfaith Immigration Coalition	www.interfaithimmigration.org
Leadership Conference of Women Religious	www.lcwr.org/social-justice/immigration-policy-reform
National Immigration Forum	www.immigrationforum.org
NETWORK: A National Catholic Justice Lobby	www.networklobby.org
US Bishops Campaign: Justice for Immigrants	www.justiceforimmigrants.org
US Immigration and Customs Enforcement	www.ice.gov

PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ALL LIFE

In a violent world obsessed with the illusion of security, we hear the Gospel call to non-violence, peace and the sacredness of all life. In particular, we commit ourselves to the abolition of all forms of war and the destruction of Earth and all living things, as well as advocacy for peoples and lands occupied unjustly and/or illegally.

We commit to:

1. Educate ourselves and others to redefine our understanding of security for all life.
2. Engage in dialogue and advocacy with federal and state representatives for abolition of the death penalty.
3. Take a public stand opposing all forms of torture.
4. Join networks and groups that advocate for the eradication of nuclear weapons and all forms of mass destruction.
5. Dialogue with civic leaders and others regarding the use of weapons (nuclear, chemical, biological, drones, small arms, etc.).
6. Promote legislation that allows peoples the freedom to live on their own lands; support legislation that opposes the occupation of these lands by dominant groups.
7. Contact those corporations producing media that portray violent and demeaning behaviors.

Resources:

Catholic Mobilizing Network	www.catholicmobilizing.org
End the Occupation	www.endtheoccupation.org
Friends Committee on National Legislation	www.fcnl.org
National Coalition Against the Death Penalty	www.ncadp.org
Pax Christi USA	www.paxchristiusa.org

