

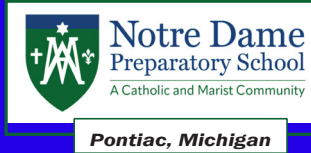
Society of Mary

An International Religious Congregation

Marists in the United States

June 21, 2024

Justice & Peace Alert

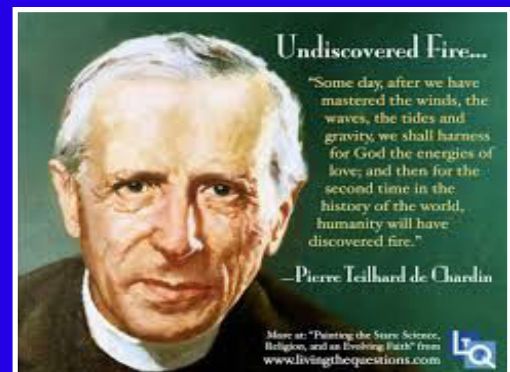


The 'Neighborhood' is the Mission

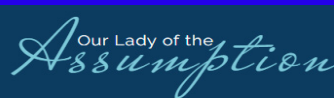


For this year's Juneteenth, NDP will be supporting The Dre Project, an organization that provides home-cooked meals and groceries to families throughout Metro Detroit facing hardship. From June 18th - June 28th, NDP we will be collecting a selection of non-perishable items to deliver to The Dre Project.

Talitha Kum - end human trafficking



Spirituality and Consciousness

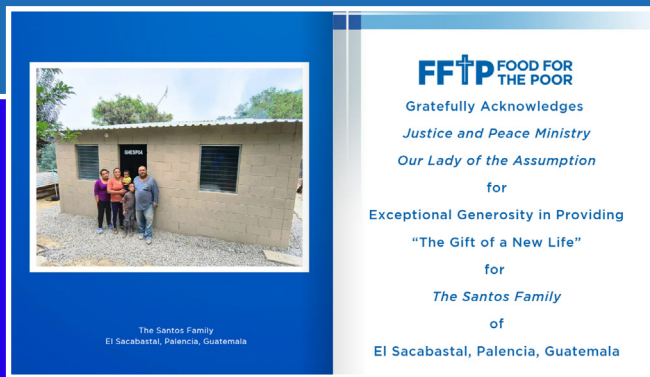


Brookhaven, Georgia

Through the hard work of OLA's Justice & Peace ministry - and from parishioners purchasing Ethical Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate - they raised \$4900 toward a new home for the Santos family of EL Sacabastal, Palencial, Guatemala!

Food for the Poor is grateful for OLA's Justice & Peace ministry members and their dedication to serving the less fortunate in the world. In the words of Food for the Poor, "Embedded in the gift of a home lies a future of possibilities! Thank you for your gift."

Click [HERE](#) to learn more - and see a wonderful video!



Kairos Prison Ministry

Recently Fr. John Bolduc, SM, Kevin Fitzpatrick and Al Massey helped lead the Kairos Retreat at Hancock State Prison. Below are some of the thoughts that Kevin shared after the weekend.

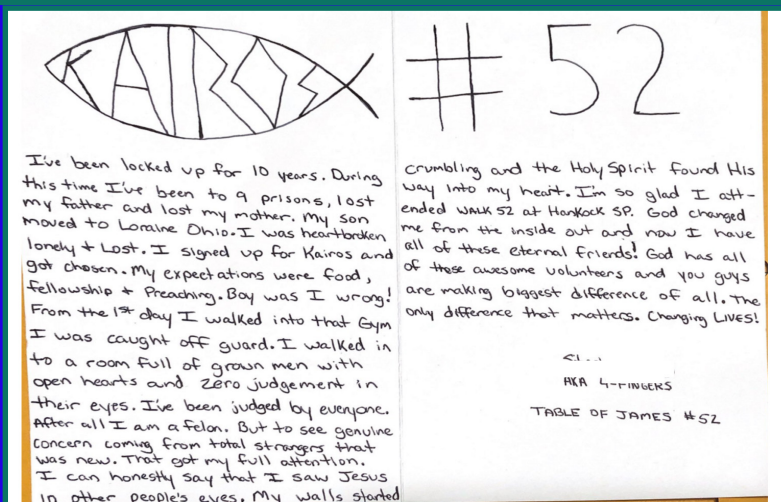
"We had a wonderful Kairos weekend # 52 at Hancock. Fr. Bolduc, Al Massey and I were there, along with agape letters, cookies, and prayers from generous OLA Parishioners and OLA students. I started Kairos at Weekend #43. Al started at #46. #52 was Father Bolduc's maiden voyage. Fr. Bolduc is a Kairos rock star. He also said a vigil Mass for us on Saturday night that was lovely..."

I have attached a card sent by one of our participants. It describes why we participate in the Kairos ministry better than I can. Fulfillment of our motto, 'listen, listen, love, love,' cannot be shown any clearer than in Stephen's prose (see picture of card below).

Kairos is a time commitment. In addition to the 4-day weekend, we have about a half dozen team formation meetings leading up to the weekend. We also conduct a monthly Saturday morning reunion at the prison, though those are attended by a smaller group than at a Kairos weekend. Our team members range in age from around 40 to around 85. At Hancock this weekend we had 6 Catholics, about a dozen Methodists, and an assortment of other Christians. It is a wonderful group of Christian men.

The inmates we see are usually younger men. They arrive at Hancock because they participated in a crime that resulted in serious injury or death. The sense of guilt and self-loathing they carry is profound. We seek to open their hearts with a 'sophisticated cursillo program' that emphasizes God's mercy and love.

This is a heavy-duty Christian ministry. It is for men who can roll up their sleeves, surrender judgement, and allow Christ's love to pour through them. The gifts we 'receive in the process far exceed our expenditure of effort.'"



Q&A with Sr. Maureen Clark on enriching incarcerated lives in Massachusetts

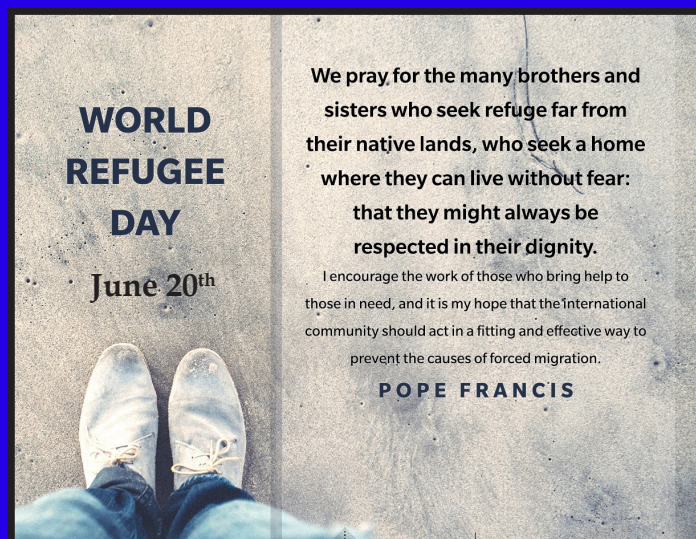


Pulling Back the Curtain: The Legal Labyrinth of Capital Cases with Patrick Mulvaney

Pope to G7: AI a 'cognitive-industrial revolution' that could threaten human dignity



'Tense calm' at the border as migrant shelters brace for impact of Biden's asylum order



**Pax Christi USA receives inaugural
Dorothy Day Peacemaker award**



**Catholic Worker continues to share
hospitality and hope**



**Ralph McCloud to receive Pax Christi
USA's Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award**

**Beatitudes Center, June 22: Rivera Sun
on "People Power Peacemaking"**



The Beatitudes Center
welcomes Rivera Sun
People Power Peacemaking:
How civil society stops war
Saturday, June 22
11 AM PT / 2 PM ET



**60 years after Civil Rights Act, US still
wrestles with complex racial dynamics**

“Grandmother of Juneteenth”

(from [Catholic Mobilizing Network](#))



Opal is a fiery, 97-year-old Texan who for decades led a national campaign to make #Juneteenth a federal holiday. This year, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

We learned about Opal’s story from our Board Chair, Ralph McCloud (pictured with Opal here). Opal was Ralph’s neighbor, mentor, and friend in Fort Worth, Texas for many years. Ralph says Opal helped raise him — and many other children in Fort Worth — teaching him the significance of Juneteenth and the importance of celebrating emancipation.

Growing up, Ralph remembers Opal spearheading efforts to commemorate Juneteenth in Fort Worth, long before such celebrations were popular for the rest of the nation. She organized pageants, parades, concerts, rallies, and sincere conversations about the impacts of slavery and the responsibility of being “free.” It became her life’s work.

Over the course of decades, Opal led the effort — first at the state level and eventually on to the national stage — to earn federal recognition for the holiday the Fort Worth community had long celebrated. In 2016, at 90 years old, Opal made a 1,400-mile journey from Fort Worth to Washington, DC. She walked 2.5 miles every day, honoring the 2.5 years it took for enslaved people in Texas to receive the message that they had been freed. She finished her walk in 2017, and in 2021 President Biden declared Juneteenth a national holiday.

“[Juneteenth] is not a Black thing or a Texas thing,” Opal would say. “Freedom is for everybody; If it’s not, we’re not free yet.” Ralph says that at 97, even with the national holiday codified, Opal “still engages, still challenges, still works on behalf of those who are marginalized.”

We all have something to learn from Opal, as we work for justice in our own ways. May her legacy — her relentless, never-tiring energy — inspire all of us to work just as tirelessly, tenaciously, and communally as we journey for justice. Until we all are free.

Holy Family Sisters plan 22-acre community solar project in Louisiana



**Our work is done with the heart
of Christ**



This will be the last Society of Mary USA Justice & Peace bulletin until mid-August. We look forward to sharing more justice and peace related news with you when this publication resumes!

In the meantime, we encourage you to continue following our posts on the Society of Mary USA [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Thank you for your continued support! Wishing you a safe and relaxing summer!