



Online Update  
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“...RESPOND IN NEW WAYS TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR AND MARGINALIZED, ESPECIALLY IMMIGRANTS.”

## We Are All Immigrants — MARCH 2013 CONGREGATION GATHERING

The focus of our March 2013 Congregation Gathering was our chapter direction statement in which we called one another “to respond in new ways to the needs of people who are poor and marginalized, especially immigrants.” Rosemary Brennan, CSJ, introduced the day and welcomed all – both those present in the Motherhouse Chapel and those participating via streaming video. In her opening remarks Rosemary commented,

“We are most grateful for your presence and interest in this important topic of immigration. At the time we voted on our chapter direction statement we could not have anticipated how this issue would gain such energy and come to the forefront of our national conversation.

Given the current energy and momentum on this important issue, we are well poised to delve deeper into the ramifications related to immigration hopefully in order to help shape, guide, and influence future immigration policies. Today’s meeting gives us the opportunity to renew our commitment to the justice issues that surround the immigration debate.

We do this in order to make sure that the needs of newcomers, especially the poor and marginalized, will be heard and addressed in order to implement laws which respect the human dignity of each person.”

Rosemary went on to say, “For years we have been blessed and even spoiled by having passionate and talented members of our congregation lead and direct our works of justice and peace. They educated us, challenged us to take direct action both locally and nationally, and always kept us on the cutting edge of major issues. Most recently it is to Carole Lombard, CSJ, that we owe this deep debt of gratitude.” This gratitude for Carole’s passion and dedication was demonstrated in the applause that followed.

Our opening and closing prayer framed the context for the video [We Are All Immigrants](#), created by religious congregations in the Pittsburgh, PA area followed by an insightful and informative presentation by Pat Andrews, CSJ. Pat began by explaining that Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in Boston in 1873 to serve an immigrant population. Now it is our turn to learn from new immigrants about the challenges that face them each day. Who are these immigrants? They are our neighbors. They are people we know. Combining a wealth of statistics and personal stories, Pat wove a message that left us wanting to know and do more.

As the gathering concluded, two goals were accomplished. First: to further educate ourselves on the topic of immigration through personal stories, Church teaching, and the awareness of the current political situation. Second: to seek a commitment from each sister and associate as to how we, personally, will be willing to engage in our chapter direction statement as we move forward. \*



PICTURED TOP TO BOTTOM: Rosemary Brennan, CSJ and Pat Andrews, CSJ, after the Congregation Gathering on Immigration; Mary Gaudet, CSJA, presents one of the symbols used during the opening prayer. Design on T-Shirt and other materials to educate about immigration reform used by Catholic Sisters of the Upper Mississippi Valley — <https://www.facebook.com/catholicsisters>—used with permission.

### The Gentle Path to Lifelong Resilience

Presented by Linda Miller, LICSW

Linda is an experienced social worker with an interest in teaching simple mind, brain and body skills that facilitate a return to natural states of resilience. Resilience is a natural state that we’ve removed from our fast paced society.

Her presentation blends neuroscience, poetry, psychology, story and spirituality to teach familiar skills for lifelong resilience.

Hosted by the Area Councilors & Health Care Coordinators

RSVP the date/time you will be attending to: Dottie Harrington by e-mail or by phone at ext. 2044.

See dates on page 2 and in csj news email dated 3/8/13

# A Worldwide Movement of Christian Women

By Helene Higgins, CSJ

On March 1, I gathered with a few women at the Friends Meeting House (Quakers) in Rochester, NH, for the World Day of Prayer. This year's meeting was especially meaningful for me as the prayer was prepared by the women of France and the theme was Welcoming the Stranger – Immigration. Participating in this worship service sponsored by the Greater Rochester Interfaith Council (GRIC) connected me with our foremothers in France, our sisters around the world and our Boston CSJ stance on Immigration.

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions. On the first Friday of March each year they come together in more than 170 countries and regions to observe a common day of prayer, fellowship, and understanding. In many countries, the groups have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world. The motto of the World Day of Prayer is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." ❀



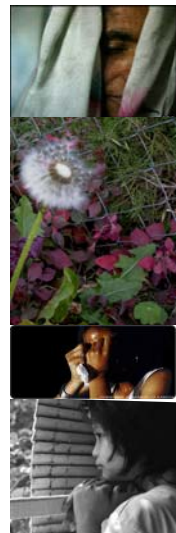
PICTURED ABOVE:  
Helene Higgins, CSJ [far right] with other members of the GRIC during this year's World Day of Prayer service.

## Dates to Remember...

- MARCH 13, WED., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- MARCH 14, THURS., 6:30PM — CONSCIOUSNESS CONVERSATION — Motherhouse Penthouse, Contact Kathy McCluskey, CSJ, to participate.
- MARCH 17, SUN., 10:00AM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome
- MARCH 19, TUES., 7:00PM — ST. JOSEPH DAY LITURGY — All welcome
- MARCH 21, THURS., 7:00PM — TAIZÉ PRAYER — Motherhouse Chapel — All Welcome
- MARCH 23, SAT. 12:30-3:30PM — ASSOCIATE GATHERING — Fontbonne Convent, Milton call 617.746.1670 for more information.
- MARCH 24, SUN. 10:00AM — PALM SUNDAY LITURGY — Motherhouse — All welcome
- MARCH 28 — HOLY THURSDAY, 5:30PM — EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER — All welcome
- MARCH 29 GOOD FRIDAY
  - 12:00-3:00PM SILENT PEACE VIGIL — Outside Motherhouse— All welcome to come and stay for a while.
  - 5:30PM — CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION — All welcome
- MARCH 30 — EASTER VIGIL, 7:30PM — All welcome
- THE GENTLE PATH TO LIFELONG RESILIENCE — see invite email from Dorothy Harrington — 3/8/13
  - TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2:00- 4:00 PM — Fontbonne Convent, Milton
  - THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1:00 – 3:00 PM — Saint Joseph's Hall, Framingham
  - THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 6:00 – 8:00 PM — Motherhouse, Brighton
  - FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2:00 – 3:00 PM — Bethany Health Care Center, Framingham
- APRIL 4, THURS., 7:00PM — SHARING THE STATE OF THE HEART — Fontbonne Convent, Milton
- APRIL 6, SATURDAY, 12:30-4:00PM — SIXTH ANNUAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM — Fontbonne Academy, Milton
- APRIL 9, TUES., 5:30PM — MOTHERHOUSE LITURGY — All welcome



## Join in the Sixth Annual *Anti-Trafficking Coalition's Symposium...*



Sponsored by the Boston Unit of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Saturday, April 6, 2013 — 12:30-4:00pm — Fontbonne Academy  
— NOTE: CHANGE OF LOCATION FROM PREVIOUS SYMPOSIA.

12:30pm Registration

1:00pm Prayer, Welcome.

Presentation of SOUL CRY by [Accendo Dance Company](#)

**SOUL CRY**, based on a true story of sex trafficking as reported by Nicholas Kristoff in his Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Half the Sky*. It will shock you. It will move you. It will inspire you.

Follow-up Conversation/Discussion

Gathering the Graces

4:00pm Closing

To register email [rosemary.hanlon@csjboston.org](mailto:rosemary.hanlon@csjboston.org) or call 617.746.2028.

View the trailer at: <http://www.accendodancecompany.com/soulcry.html>

