



EYE ON JUSTICE

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SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES
ST. JOSEPH OF LYON/ WINSLOW

OUR COMMITMENT CONTINUES

One part of the promises of our General Chapter this year stated, *“live right-relationships among ourselves, with the ‘Dear Neighbor’ and all creation, and continue our commitment to justice and peace in partnership with all who share the vision.”* Another one asked us to cultivate, *“a critical analysis of reality”*. How are we living this in our daily lives? There are many ways to make a difference!

The Friends Committee on National Legislature suggests that we write a persuasive letter, send an email or even better, visit the office of our representative in Congress. It is suggested that we focus on one important issue that is being worked on. If you know that your member has taken a public position on the issue before, refer to that position and thank him or her. Always be polite and positive. If you are part of a group, include this info. The key to success is to thank your member for his/her work, and focus on a few concise facts about the issue. The most important information to include is your connection to the issue or the communities. Ask for a commitment and a reply. This lets the office know that you intend to remain engaged on this issue. The average representative has about eighteen permanent staff distributed between Washington and the district office, and senators tend to have larger staffs. The best person to meet of course would be the one working on this issue. A good telephone call can also be very effective.

JUSTICE AND PEACE TEAM: Robert & Nancy Hurd, David & Janice Champion, Patricia Hackett, Claire Lepage, csj

SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY

It is not clear whether our economic hard times will finally force us to break the vicious cycle of poverty and punishment. With even the official level of poverty increasing to over 14% last year, some states are beginning to ease up on the criminalization of poverty, using alternative sentencing methods and shortening probation. If we want to reduce poverty, we have to stop doing the things that make people poor and keep them that way. Stop underpaying people for the jobs they do. Stop treating working people as potential criminals and let them have the rights to organize for better wages and working conditions. Stop the institutional harassment of those who turn to the government for help or find themselves destitute in the streets. Maybe our country can't afford the kinds of public programs that would genuinely alleviate poverty, but at least as a bare minimum, we can stop kicking people when they are down.

***PEACEMAKING MEANS PLANTING SEEDS THOUGH WE
MAY NEVER SEE THE FLOWER, AND NEVER LOSING
SIGHT OF THE VISION PROMISED BY GOD.***

Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB

ENERGY-WATER CONNECTION

Not everyone is aware that the amount of water we use depends not just on toilets and sprinklers, but on lighting and appliances as well. In providing electricity to our homes, utilities withdraw massive amounts of water to cool the steam that spins the turbines in coal, nuclear and many other power plants. In addition, transporting, treating and heating the water and wastewater that leaves our homes, consumes energy and produces heat-trapping carbon dioxide, the primary contributor to global warming. So if we want to do our part in helping both preserve natural resources and avoid the worst effects of climate change, start saving water and energy today.