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Donna Wilhelm, Dorothy Pagosa, Marjorie White, Maxine Smith, Michele Richardson, Rose Grabowski, Rose Marie Bommer, Shannon Fox — Social Justice Committee

70th Anniversary of Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki *by Sr. Dorothy Pagosa*

On August 6, 2015 it was 70 years since the bombing of Hiroshima. August 9th was the anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki. The United States is the only country to ever use an atomic bomb. Generations of Japanese suffered effects from this bombing. We hope and pray—Never Again.

We are currently debating the deal that several countries are trying to make with Iran. What is included in this deal? Can we do whatever we can to stem the increase of nuclear weaponry in our world?

The Pope's Encyclical "*Laudato Si: Care for our Common Home*," has increased the world's attention to the needs of our environment and our human ecology—the people of the world.

Some corporations have been promoting nuclear energy as the "green, clean energy." Once again, the people of Japan might question that after the disaster in Fukushima.

"Following a major earthquake, a 15-metre tsunami disabled the power supply and cooling of three Fukushima Daiichi reactors, causing a nuclear accident on 11 March 2011. All three

cores largely melted in the first three days." World Nuclear Association. Thank God that there were no immediate deaths.

I remember when the movie "China Syndrome" came out in 1979, I joined others in leafletting the movie theaters showing this movie to warn of potential dangers of nuclear energy. It was shortly after that when the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania happened.

Let us pray as the people of Japan do:

This is our cry.
This is our prayer.
Peace in the world! ■

The Story of Sadako

Sadako Sasaki was a Japanese girl living in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan (August 6, 1945). In 1955, at age 11, Sadako was diagnosed with leukemia, a type of cancer caused by the atomic bomb. While in the hospital, Sadako started to fold paper cranes. In

Japan, there is a belief that if you folded 1000 paper cranes, then your wish would come true. Sadako spend 14 months in the hospital, folding paper cranes with whatever paper she could get. Paper was scarce so she used the paper from medicine bottles, candy wrappers, and left over gift wrap

paper. Her wish was that she would get well again, and to attain peace and healing to the victims of the world.

Sadako died on October 25, 1955. She was

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Photo from Wikipedia.com

Sadako ... continued from p. 1

12 years old and had folded over 1300 paper cranes.

Sadako's friends and classmates raised money to build a memorial in honor of Sadako and other atomic bomb victims. The Hiroshima

Peace Memorial was completed in 1958 and has a statue of Sadako holding a golden crane. At the base is a plaque that says:

This is our cry.
This is our prayer.
Peace in the world.



Photo by Robert Atendido

The Iran Nuclear Deal From "Peace Action"



As Congress debates the merits of the final nuclear agreement, it would be wise to listen to the nuclear and non-proliferation experts who say this agreement will move Iran's breakout time – the time to produce enough fissile material to produce a nuclear weapon – from the current three months to one year or more.

They also point out that the agreement provides unprecedented inspections, monitoring and verification regimes, which would catch Iran if it cheated and "snap back" sanctions in short order.

Some lawmakers claim that the U.S. can get a "better deal." But experts say there is no such thing.

Why? A better deal would require more pressure on Iran in the form of more sanctions, which have only worked

when the entire international community participates. If the U.S. backs out of the deal, our partners aren't likely to join us in the re-imposition of sanctions after they all just agreed to the deal on the table.

Remember, it wasn't just the Americans and the Iranians negotiating over the past decade and with great intensity the last few years: The British, French, Chinese, Russians and Germans all okayed this agreement, too.

As Nicholas Burns, a former top U.S. negotiator with Iran, points out, the global sanctions regime would collapse if the U.S. walks away now from this international agreement.

The other alternative, military intervention, wouldn't work and would be extraordinarily costly in blood and treasure. Military experts agree that even a highly successful war with Iran may only set

its nuclear program back a few years and it wouldn't destroy the country's technological know-how. Intervention could also force Iran to do everything possible to obtain a nuclear weapon.

It's very difficult to estimate long-term costs of wars. You must calculate long-term health care, interest on debt, opportunity costs, loss of productivity and other difficult variables. Nobel Prize-winning economists estimate the total costs of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars will run between \$4-\$6 trillion – nearly enough to fund the U.S. government for two years. Now consider that Iran is nearly three times as populous as Iraq, four times larger geographically, and spends \$8-\$14 billion annually on its military compared to the few billion Iraq spent when the U.S. invaded in 2002. ■

Nuclear Education Information System: On Nuclear Power

NEIS is opposed to the continued use of nuclear power both in this country and worldwide. When we started NEIS in 1981, we had four main reasons for opposing nuclear power:

1. *It's an unacceptable and unnecessary safety and health risk because of the tremendous accidents it could cause, like at Chernobyl in the Ukraine, Three Mile Island and Brown's Ferry in the USA, and Windscale, England;*
2. *It's too expensive compared to other ways of meeting legitimate energy needs for electric service;*
3. *It produces long-lived and dangerous radioactive wastes which must be kept out of the environment for hundreds to thousands of years, and at a great financial cost to society;*

4. *If it weren't for the first three problems, nuclear power would actually be an unimportant energy resource, since so many other better choices exist for us to use to meet our energy needs. More detailed explanations of these positions will be found in the "Literature" materials on our website.*

Since our founding, we have had to add four more objections to the continued use of nuclear power:

5. *It contributes world-wide to the illegal and unwanted spread of nuclear materials, technology, and eventually weapons, like in Korea, Pakistan, Israel and Iraq;*
6. *It cannot efficiently or safely help solve other serious energy-related environmental problems like Global Warming; and*

7. *It cannot efficiently or safely end our dependence on foreign oil imports, despite what nuclear industry advertising claims.*

8. *There is a great risk of a terrorist incident at a nuclear plant or – surprisingly, much more dangerous – at a waste storage site.*

But, NEIS is not just "against" nuclear power.

We are ***in favor of***

- energy conservation,
- energy efficiency,
- cogeneration,
- and renewable energy resources,

and want them to take over nuclear power's role, while also helping to improve the condition of both the environment and the economy.

This is the direction in which our country should go as it makes future energy choices. ■



Revel in the Revolution: Sept. 19th for 8th Day Center

Reverend Otis Moss, III from Trinity Church in Chicago will be the main speaker.

You might remember when his father, Reverend Otis Moss, spoke to us during a Gathering. His son is just as inspiring.

Tickets are \$60 apiece or \$30 low income.

Location:
Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL

Saturday, Sept. 19th
3–7 p.m.

For more information, see:
www.8thdaycenter.org



Social Justice

“Stemming from our Franciscan values and the fact that all life is interconnected, members, vowed and non-vowed, are encouraged to be engaged in ministry with those living on the margins of society and struggling to live with dignity.”

SSJ-TOSF Congregational
Commitments
26th General Chapter



Project IRENE: Information on Sex Trafficking

WHY DEFINITIONS MATTER

Defining a child as a victim of sex trafficking rather than a "prostitute" results in a radically different response.

Federal law defines any minor used in the commercial sex industry as a victim of child sex trafficking—regardless of the presence or control of a pimp/trafficker.

However, some states and agencies continue to require an identified trafficker in order to respond to an exploited youth as a trafficking victim. This is a problem because:

- A child mislabeled as a "prostitute" is re-victimized and stigmatized
- Access to justice against buyers and traffickers is hindered
- Restorative services available only to sex trafficking victims may be unavailable

- The buyer who pays to exploit a child may face less serious charges and penalties

WHY YOU NEED TO CARE

Right now major policy decisions that rest on legal definitions and agency policies that require proof that a child is under the control of a third party (a trafficker) risk the exclusion of two major categories of sex trafficking victims:

- Runaway and homeless youth are often targeted and exploited by adult buyers who prey upon their vulnerabilities and induce minors to exchange sex acts for life necessities such as shelter, food, and clothing, and these youth may not be under the control of a "trafficker" or third party.
- Victimized youth who experience extreme trauma bonding may

not see their traffickers as an abuser, and youth often do not feel safe enough to identify their trafficker to law enforcement out of fear of retaliation. As a result, these commercially sexually exploited children may be excluded from services that are designed to address the chronic trauma associated with sex trafficking.

Source: *sharedhopeinternational*, adapted

Note:

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis partner with Project IRENE—*Illinois Religious Engaging in Nonviolent Endeavors*—an initiative of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in IL, to impact systems change for women and children in Illinois. ■

Collaborative to End Human Trafficking



Save the date for an important event!

*WHAT EVERY
BUSINESS NEEDS TO
KNOW ABOUT HUMAN
TRAFFICKING*

Dawn Conway
Keynote Speaker
Chief Operating Officer,

CISION, U.S., INC.

Founding Member,
Global Business Coalition
Against Human Trafficking
American Bar Association
Anti Human Trafficking
Presidential Task Force

**Thursday, September 24,
2015 at 12:00 Noon**

Location:

Windows on the River
2000 Sycamore Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Also Featuring:

“Reflections on Human
Trafficking Through
Photography and Poetry,”
Don Iannone. ■



Recommended Resources:

Franciscan Spirituality and Cosmology

"We embrace our immigrant roots and identify with the struggle of all people to find a home in this world."

SSJ-TOSF Congregational Commitments
26th General Chapter

Contact us:

Members of SSJ-TOSF Social Justice Committee:

- Donna Wilhelm
- Dorothy Pagosa
- Marjorie White
- Maxine Smith
- Michele Richardson
- Rose Grabowski
- Rose Marie Bommer
- Shannon Fox

"Our Franciscan spirituality inspires and guides us in responding to any needs calling out to us."

SSJ-TOSF Congregational Commitments
26th General Chapter



Shared by Sr. Marge White

Walter Brueggemann compares the events leading to the fall of Jerusalem with our 9/11.

He also speaks strongly about the *Empire* and the stranglehold of those in the "empire" on those who are not in the "empire."

I found it to be an interesting way to speak about those who are on the margins of society.

I feel that "empire" expresses it more accurately for me. ■



Shared by Sr. Dorothy Pagosa

"Skin" tells the story of a black girl born to white parents in South Africa during apartheid.

Given current situations in our country, I was reminded of what importance we place on skin color. ■

REMEMBER...

We welcome your submissions in the form of

- "Sightings"
- Brief write-ups of your activities, "prototypes," suggestions for workshops, books, articles, films, resources.

Please send these to Sister Marge White by the end of August for inclusion in the September issue of our newsletter, *We Commit Ourselves*.

~Your Social Justice Committee