

Greetings JPIC's,

I hope you are well.

I just got two emails about Standing Rock. See below. Here's a [link](#) of concrete steps to help. If you have people in the area or elsewhere that might write a LTE or contact the Governor/Police, that could also be helpful.

From Nonviolent Peaceforce:

1) I just returned from Standing Rock. I was told by a clergy there, "I wish the Catholics would get a little more involved." Do you know of any Catholic positions on this that I could share? If not, would it be possible to start generating some support for the tribe and the water protectors?

The confrontation is escalating with the governor's evacuation order and a 3 day snow storm. I do not think they will evacuate people at least tonight but the Gov. has said they would block food and supplies from getting in, in other words a siege. At least 5,000 living in the camp. When the Army Corps of Engineers backed off, the Gov. stepped in and escalated.

On Sunday, 600 people took part in a 2-hour silent, prayerful walk led by women. We ended up at the bridge where people were hosed and the young woman was seriously injured last week. Hundreds knelt silently on the bridge. We stayed for about an hour. 12 elders went down to the river and gave a blessing. Then everyone got up, turned around and walk away. Such a disciplined example. Back at camp one of the elder women that we must remain powerful, peaceful and prayerful. She said the group had set an example for all of ND.

Last night I attended a community meeting in Bismarck where David Archambault, tribal chair, met with about 200 people came out in the snow. He stressed long term relationships, nonviolence and forgiveness. There is a lot of hostility in town.

We will be sending our first unarmed civilian protectors at the end of next week.

From a participant at NODAPL

2) I am a supporter to the NODAPL camps and have discovered that most of the local law officers are Catholic. I am looking for help in showing them that what they are doing here is not the teaching of Christ. Any Information or help you might be able to provide would be greatly appreciated.

With Hope,
Eli

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The **Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)** supports and offers resources for U.S. leaders of Catholic men's religious institutes. CMSM promotes dialogue and collaboration on issues of religious life as well as peace and justice issues with major groups in church and society. There are more than 17,000 religious priests and brothers in the United States.