



JP Alert

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Economic Justice

Money in Politics Mobilization



Today, we're thrilled to share something huge: This April, thousands will mobilize in Washington, D.C., to spur a Democracy Awakening like never before. From **April 16-18**, we will gather in our nation's capital to Rally for Democracy and call for a Congress of Conscience.

Various movements being obstructed from the unhealthy role of money in politics, ex. immigration, gun violence, climate change, racial justice, etc. are coming

together to deliver a resounding message to our nation's leaders.

When the U.S. Supreme Court issued Citizens United back in 2010, it undermined the integrity of the vote by allowing billionaires and wealthy special interests to drown out our voices. And in 2013, the Supreme Court dealt democracy another blow when it gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act in its Shelby County decision.

We are mobilizing in April to counter these undemocratic rulings and ensure both the right to vote and the integrity of the vote are upheld in this crucial election year.

A coalition of more than 100 groups, including Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns, Franciscan Action Network, CMSM, have already jumped on board to make this April action transformative.

See the [Website](#) for how to Participate

Sign up as an [Organizational Endorser](#)

Upcoming Call: Do you want to learn more about what's being planned? Join us for an exciting teletown hall on Thursday, January 21 at 8 p.m. Eastern to hear from national leaders and activists about the year of action and the April mobilization. Call toll-free 877-874-0696 to join!



Sweatshops and Nike

Religious Institutions: Georgetown, Santa Clara, and DePaul Students Join National Resistance

At Georgetown University, [Jim Keady](#) came to speak in Nov. 2015. With his thorough understanding of Catholic Social Teaching he presented the ongoing abuse of workers in sweatshops affiliated with Nike, which has by far the largest market share of athletic gear. Georgetown and many other Catholic schools contract with Nike for their athletic gear. He helped student-athletes and other students think through some of the hard questions and risks. In turn, some [student athletes covered their Nike swooshes](#), others have organized a [town hall](#), and they penned this [letter](#) to

President DeGioia awaiting a response. Santa Clara and DePaul University students have also been engaged with the [broader movement](#) on this issue.

See most of Jim Keady's talk at Georgetown [here](#) and [here](#).

Who do your schools contract with? If Nike, are you willing to get engaged to help workers?



What is Mercy?

Jim Martin S.J. 30 sec. [video](#) on mercy.

Live Mercy: Join a [Christian Peacemaker Team Delegation](#)

Colombia: Mar. 19-26, May 28-June 11, July 16-30, Sept. 10-24

Palestine: Mar. 10-24, May 3-17, July 16-31, Sept. 17-31, Nov. 13-23

Iraqi Kurdistan: May 17-31, Aug. 26-Sept. 9

US/Mexico Borderlands: Feb. 10-20

Canada Indigenous Peoples: Feb. 13-21, May 13-23, Aug. 12-22, Sept. 23-Oct. 3



Linking the Lectionary to Justice and Peace

Offered by CMSM members and others, here are sample ways to link the lectionary to justice and peace issues in the upcoming weeks.

[Sunday, Jan. 24](#)

[Sunday, Jan. 31](#)



Holy Land Conflict

[Tell your representative:](#) *Don't vote for Israeli settlements!*

A resolution that would support illegal Israeli settlements by conflating the occupied territories with Israel has been introduced in the House and is currently gaining co-sponsors.

[H. Res. 567](#) opposes recently adopted EU guidelines which call for products made in Israeli settlements to be labeled as such rather than with the tag, “Made in Israel.” Such labeling should be supported by the US government which has a decades-long policy of opposition to Israeli settlements. Instead, H. Res. 567 opposes the EU labeling requirements and furthermore, blurs the line between Israel and the occupied territories using the language, “Israel or Israeli-controlled territory.”

As Lara Friedman of Americans for Peace (Jewish organization) now [explains](#):

"This conflation flies in the face of nearly 5 decades of unbroken U.S. policy opposing settlements. Since 1967, every president, regardless of party, has maintained this policy. And until recently, every Congress, regardless of which party was in control, supported this policy, including in law (e.g., legislation barring Israel from using U.S. loan guarantees in areas occupied in 1967).

Indeed, never before in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, until now, has there been any serious effort in Congress to legislate U.S. support for settlements."

ACTION: [Contact your representative](#) today and ask them not to co-sponsor H. Res. 567. Urge them to support a just peace not settlements.

For More Details:

[Human Rights Watch calls international businesses to boycott Israeli Settlements](#)

[Correcting the Record on EU settlement Labeling](#)



Criminal Justice

CMSM member, the Viatorians, ask you to [sign this petition](#) to end solitary confinement in Illinois prisons. You don't need to live there to sign.

The United States is home to only 5 percent of the world's population, but has 25 percent of the world's prison population. The racial disparity in mass incarceration in the U.S. is staggering. White men stand a 1 in 17 chance of being incarcerated during their lifetimes (on average), while Latino men stand a 1 in 6 chance, and African-American men stand a 1 in 3 chance.

[The New Jim Crow project](#) uses a Christian study guide and Michelle Alexander's book to explain the details of mass incarceration, how it came to be, and what can be done to change it. A great resource for your religious community, parish, school, family, etc.

Other News



Cherish all of Creation

Here is a great example of a religious community living out the [CMSM resolution](#). The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate have cultivated [community gardens](#). Here is a short [video](#) explaining the logic

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

"Lift Every Voice!- Racism, Class, and Power"
Apr. 15-18
Washington DC

Election Year National Gathering and Lobby Day in our nation's capital to

Solidarity with South Sudan

The new US non-profit organization, Friends in Solidarity, Inc. is now incorporated in Maryland.

Friends in Solidarity is committed to raising

and justice of such a practice.

We hope you will send us the ways you are living out the resolution. Send to emccarthy@csm.org.

address solutions to issues of injustice to communities of color and immigrants, voter suppression, and economic exploitation.

[Brochure Here](#)

[Register](#)

awareness of the situation in South Sudan and supporting the work of Solidarity with South Sudan. Funds raised by Friends in Solidarity will support capacity building projects in this war ravaged nation, including the training of teachers, health care professionals, farmers and pastoral teams.

We are grateful to the major superiors of the founding Member congregations: Bon Secours of Paris, Comboni Fathers and Brothers, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Missionary Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception, Religious of Jesus and Mary, School Sisters of Notre Dame (Atlantic-Midwest Province), Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe).

We seek assistance of volunteers to help us develop financial systems for this new organization.

Contact:

Jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com
734 731 3726

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 about 17,000 religious priests and brothers in the United States.

Connect with Us



Eli S. McCarthy, PhD
Director of Justice and Peace
8808 Cameron Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4152
www.cmsm.org
emccarthy@cmsm.org
301-588-4030
Twitter: @emccarthy3

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