



Reduce Reuse Recycle

-Christine Chana, Iona Prep

Over the last year, Iona Prep chemistry teacher and co-moderator of the Human Rights Club, Christine Chana, has been working to turn Iona Prep's cafeteria *green*. Her work both in the classroom and with the Human Rights Club has led to creating awareness in the school community and taking direct action to reduce Iona Prep's environmental footprint.

In our efforts to improve our stewardship of the planet, we have begun an effort to "green" our school cafeteria with that first command in mind - Reduce.

Our school C.F.O. looked at all the plastic items we buy, use, and throw away daily. Serving breakfast and lunch to over 800 students per day, countless plastic plates, knives, forks, spoons, straws, yogurt cups, coffee cups end up in the trash. All these items are 'single use' and all enter the waste stream because they cannot be recycled in our local system. Either made of mixed plastic or of un-coded plastic, after just one use, all these items are buried in local landfills or burned in trash incinerators creating greenhouse gases.

This year, we began replacing all plastic cafeteria items with 100% compostable alternatives: corn-based polymer knives, forks, spoons, and straws; bamboo based paperboard plates; vegetable polymer containers for everything from chicken fingers to yogurt parfaits to storage for leftovers. These materials will breakdown into the organic molecules they are made from.

An effort has also begun to end the sale of plastic bottles of water in the building. Beginning with installation of filtered tap water fill stations throughout our campus, and continuing with the sale and distribution of aluminum refillable bottles, we have set the goal to rid our campus of single serve PET plastic water bottles. These are the kind that pollute our oceans, that eventually crumble into microplastic pieces that are now found in the stomachs of fish, birds, and animals, and that also waste petroleum resources in their production and transport into our schools and then back out again as waste .





Virtual Hunger Walk
Tom Gambardella, Bishop Hendricken

On Wednesday, April 1, Bishop Hendricken kicked off their 46th annual Hunger Walk. With school being closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Hendricken challenged students to be creative in walking alone in solidarity with the poor and marginalized, who always walk alone. They were then asked to post a video and challenge three others to do it as well. [Click here to learn more about the project.](#)

Our walk counts now more than ever.

In the wake of COVID-19, more and more Rhode Islanders aren't sure where their next meal will come from, if at all. The poor, hungry, laid-off, furloughed, and unemployed need help now more than ever.

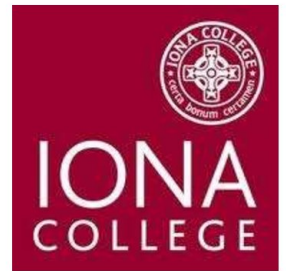
That's where we come in.

Each year, the Bishop Hendricken Hunger Walk is an opportunity for us to stand in solidarity with the marginalized of our society, and do our part, however small, to make a difference in their lives. While this year's walk can't take place as usual, we can still help.

#MyHungerWalk, our 46th Annual Hunger Walk taking place completely virtually, begins on Wednesday, April 1st through Holy Thursday on April 9th. Your participation is crucial, and pretty easy.

Digitally Serving at Iona College

Carl Procario-Foley, Iona College



- The Iona College Biology and Chemistry departments donated boxes upon boxes of plastic gloves and eye goggles to the emergency room of Montefiore Hospital in New Rochelle.
- Iona students are writing letter of support and encouragement to those who are not allowed visitors: residents of Wartburg Senior Center and women incarcerated at Bedford Hills Correctional facility.
- The Iona Best Buddies chapter has hosted "Zoom Gatherings" of art work and much laughter with their "buddies" who live in Westchester Jewish Community Services group homes.
- With the leadership of the Education department, Iona students are preparing to do on-line tutoring assistance with children of New Rochelle Public Schools adjusting to remote learning.

Senior Social Justice

Jina Masters, Tampa Catholic



Senior students at Tampa Catholic High School are entrenched in a class dedicated to Social Justice. They have been fortunate enough to participate in a lecture series including presentations dedicated to each of the Catholic Social Teachings. During the month of March, students learned about "Life and Dignity of the Human Person" with a presentation from Colleen Quinn-Adams, who owns a legal investigation and mitigation firm. She has lived out her Catholic identity by dedicating her 30 year career to fighting against the death penalty. Crusaders learned some of the many challenges Mrs. Quinn-Adams must overcome in seeking life in prison for violent offenders.

The entire senior class also went out into the local community to live out "Option for the Poor and Vulnerable". During their Senior Service Day, students prepared food for Metropolitan Ministry residents, played with children at a local shelter, and supported elementary school communities that struggle with socioeconomic difficulties. We hope to send our seniors out into the world embodying the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice!



ACTION Alerts

[Protecting Prisoners from COVID-19- Take Action](#)

As people are coming together across the globe to keep each other healthy and safe, it's critical that we extend that care to members of our community who are in prisons, jails, and detention centers as well as their families and communities.

Join AFSC in calling on governors in every state and the leadership of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to respect the human rights and dignity of every person and take steps that help create healthier and safer communities for us all.

[Fighting for Catholic Education in New York](#)

Lawmakers are poised to finalize a state budget soon, which is expected to include hundreds of millions more in funding to public education. It's crucial that we add our voice to ensure that the state's Catholic schools receive their fair share of funding for critical programs that support our students and teachers. Take action now to send a message to your elected representatives.

[Protect SNAP](#)

The House Farm Bill has arrived and it's as bad as we had feared. SNAP recipients across the country will face tighter restrictions to access benefits, punitive work requirements and a sea of red tape to prove they are trying to find work. Billions of dollars of food benefits will be funneled into a half-baked and underfunded skills and training programs. Email your Representative now to oppose the bill, and encourage your Senators to participate in a better legislative process.

[Support the Home Stability Support Program in New York](#)

Statewide, more than 150,000 children and 80,000 families are on the brink of homelessness. The Home Stability Support program is a fiscally responsible way to help these vulnerable families on public assistance stay in their homes and out of dangerous shelters. In a time of pandemic, this is more urgent than ever. What's more it will reduce costs to taxpayers by preventing evictions, and reducing use of emergency shelters and other homeless services.

[Advocate to Deny Detention Center Expansion](#)

During this pandemic, immigration detention centers are at high risk of coronavirus outbreaks, given the crowded conditions and poor medical capacity of the facilities. Immigrant advocates across the country are crying out for the release of vulnerable detained migrants whenever

possible and for other measures to protect those in detention during this crisis. Instead, the Trump administration has called for an expansion of funding to ICE and Customs and Border Patrol to build “quarantine facilities” for detained migrants. Take action today: urge Congress to deny funds for the expansion of ICE and CBP capacity and instead fund alternatives to detention so that migrants can be released during this pandemic.

Links

[Carbon Rangers- Coronavirus Edition](#)

[Edmund Rice International March Newsletter](#)