This is a limited compilation of CURRENT opportunities for action. Additional suggestions are welcomed at: marynpaul@comcast.net we will make every effort to share them as quickly as possible.


GUN VIOLENCE
ST. EDMUND CHURCH (Oak Park) Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence – SATURDAY, September 28th, 6:30 – 7:00 PM “The last Saturday of each month, please join us on the rectory lawn from 6:30 to 7pm for our monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence.”

**From Aug. 5th to Sept. 8th, there were 271 MORE mass-shooting victims in the US**
[Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mass_shootings_in_the_United_States_in_2019]
"The crowdsourced Mass Shooting Tracker project defines a mass shooting as "an incident where four or more people are shot in a single shooting spree. This may include the gunman himself, or police shootings of civilians around the gunman."

ILLINOIS SB 1966 “Fix the FOID” Act: “Address many of the gaps [in the current law], strengthen the FOID system, and help ensure that people with violent criminal histories who are prohibited from gun possession are not able to easily evade the law and arm themselves.” Sign HERE: https://ilgvp.com/fix-the-foid/

ENVIRONMENT
ATTN: OPRF/HS TEENS! “The people who will bear the most consequences of climate change are children, youth and future generations. It’s Our Future is a youth sustainability leadership project that will equip youth to advocate for climate change solutions and their futures. It’s Our Future is being developed by Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) in collaboration with the OPRFHS Environmental Club, the One Earth Film Festival, the Doris Davenport Radio Show and many other community partners as part of the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation’s BIG IDEA competition. SIGN UP HERE: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoYPvlDHsOqVVXZ8XW6kFj1NNBxZfGlQH2nA-B4xKSoqsNzw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&mc_cid=4064f1bc5b&mc_eid=518b1e7fd8

SAVE THE DATE: 4th Annual “GREEN TEAM SUMMIT” – THIS Saturday, Sept. 14th @ The Field Museum “This will be a special Green Team Summit celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Faith in Place and the work of Green Teams throughout Illinois. This event will convene hundreds of people of diverse faiths from neighborhoods across Chicago and cities across Illinois for an action-packed day of connecting and networking about environmental justice. Whether your house of worship is just starting to think about sustainability or has a long history of going green, you are invited to join us for this event that will give you the tools, resources, and inspiration needed to spark meaningful change in your community.”
Start: Friday, September 20, 2019 • 11:00 AM
Location: Meet at Grant Park at the intersection of S Columbus Dr and E Roosevelt Rd. We will then march to Federal Plaza. • S Columbus Dr & E Roosevelt Rd, Chicago, IL 60540
Host Contact Info: illinois@youthclimatestrikeus.org

NOTE: A group of university Catholic campus ministers and students will gather in Grant Park (at Roosevelt and Michigan Avenues) at 10 a.m. to pray for our common home.

TEACHERS: "Climate Action Day" resources from Archdiocese of Chicago HERE: https://pvm.archchicago.org/documents/87254/516511/Climate+Action+Day+v3/8f4633c5-59e5-4d54-b588-ddbe44cc6ebb

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 13th – 3PM – Unity Temple (875 Lake St. Oak Park)

You're Invited To:
A Community Conversation
Clean Energy | Environmental Justice | Clean Jobs

Join members of the community, policy experts, and state legislators for a discussion of how Illinois can lead the transition to clean energy and a just economy.

Speakers:
State Senators Kimberly Lightford and Don Harmon
State Representatives Camille Lilly and LaShawn Ford
Representatives from our Sponsors

Date: Saturday, October 13, 2019, 3:00 pm
Location: Unity Temple, 875 Lake St. Oak Park
Register at: tinyurl.com/CommunityCleanEnergy

IMMIGRATION

PLEASE KEEP PRAYING FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN DETENTION AND FAMILIES WHO WERE SEPARATED AT OUR BORDERS

Interfaith Prayer Vigil – October 4th @ 7:15 am - 8:00 am – 1930 Beach St, Broadview (South of the Eisenhower, west of 25th Ave.) “Join us every First Friday of the month for the Interfaith Prayer Vigil at the Broadview detention center. We gather in solidarity with people who are detained or being deported. People of all faiths are welcome.”

Creating Communities of Welcome: What Would You Have Us Do? – Saturday, Sept. 21st, 9AM-1PM, Catholic Theological Union, 5416 S. Cornell (Chicago) – suggested donation $25 (free parking)
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me…

To register, simply send your name, email or phone number with your check or money order to:
Mail to: Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, c/o Dorothy Pagosa, SSJ-TOSF
7101 W. Foster Place | Chicago, IL 60656
Check/money order payable to: Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants

...and more...
"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me..."

Community of Congregations invites you to our Fall Gathering
a panel discussion on
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Featuring:
Father Larry Dowling, St. Agatha’s Catholic Church, North Lawndale
Pastor Cy Maynard Fields, New Landmark Missionary Baptist Church, East Garfield Park
Hons. Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge, Cook County Circuit Court,
Mr. Devell Hill, graduate of the North Lawndale Restorative Justice Community Court program
Ms. Mazell Sykes, Peace Circle Facilitator and Coordinator

Thursday, September 26, 2019, 7:00 pm
Grace Lutheran Church
7300 Division Street, River Forest

For more information and to RSVP: opsrac@gmail.com

SOJOURNERS
faith in action for social justice

“Ask Congress to fund re-entry programs for incarcerated people: Crucial programs that assist individuals preparing to leave prison are in jeopardy right now because Congress has not funded the FIRST STEP Act. Ask your senators and representative to fund the FIRST STEP Act to provide these crucial programs that reduce recidivism:

- Education courses, allowing incarcerated people to get a GED or take other general and advanced occupational education classes.
- Substance abuse treatment, for incarcerated persons who are addicted.
- Robust job training, preparing them for life in the workforce after prison.

As people of faith, we believe in the transformative power of God. We also believe strongly in redemption. Funding the FIRST STEP Act will provide redemptive paths to exit the criminal justice system and give incarcerated people a second chance. It is critical that people are given the opportunity to succeed through these programs.”  https://www.firststepact.org/
https://secure3.convio.net/sojo/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1324

SOCIAL JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER

contact@socialjusticeresourcecenter.org

- 50% of all adults in America have had a family member in jail or prison.
- 66% of prisoners at the federal level and about 50% at the state level are in for drug related offenses.
- In 2018, the US incarcerated 655 out of every 100,000 its citizens. For comparison, Russia imprisoned 415, England & Wales 142, France 102 and Germany 77.
- Most American states spend more on their prisons than they do on education. 15 states spend at least $27,000 more per prisoner than they do per student. The leader is California which invests $64,642 per prisoner compared to $11,495 per student - a $53,146 difference in spending
priorities. New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island round out the top states spending more on prisons.

- **76%** of people in local jails are not convicted of a crime, and many are there simply because they can't afford money bail.

- On average, a phone call from a local jail costs over 3 times more than a phone call from a state prison. Nationally, the average cost of a 15 minute call from jail is **$5.61**. The states with the highest rates are: Arkansas **$14.49**, Michigan **$12.03**, Montana **$9.24**, Kansas **$8.49** & North Dakota **$8.20**.

The Rand Corp. recently completed a study of the effects of education in prison and found the following:

- Education in prison lowers recidivism rate by at least **43%**
- Increases chances of employment by **28%**
- For every **$1** spent on education, reduces incarceration rate by **$4-5**