Moving Forward in Unity

We, the Sisters of St. Joseph, commit to stand with our Dear Neighbor as we continue to advocate and to act to seek unity, reconciliation and justice so that all may be one. As we look to the challenges that lie ahead, more than ever we unite in prayer and express love for our Dear Neighbor in our community and abroad. We firmly believe that every person is created in the image of God and endowed with a basic and fundamental dignity [Genesis 1:27-31; Justice in the World: Chap.1]. In our Congregational Stances, we state our beliefs that:

- A person with a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality or political opinion should not be returned to their home country;
- It is in the inherent dignity of the person that health care be a basic right;
- We must stand in solidarity with immigrants and refugees to ensure their rights while challenging that which would deny them rights and services essential to human welfare;
- That as citizens of the world, we accept responsibility in our personal, occupational and community lives to protect the integrity of the Earth.

“As Sisters of St. Joseph, one of our strengths is bringing people together from all walks of life in order to break down barriers that divide us. We are steadfast in our belief that there is more that unites us as brothers and sisters to one another than what divides us.” (A Vision Statement that Resonates, Bridges Summer 2016)

Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange have taken 17 stances including:

- Earth Covenant
- Health Access
- Racism
- Immigrants and Immigration
- Sanctuary

Read all of our stances at csjorange.org/ministries/justice-center/congregational-stances
This post-election season brings simultaneously the challenge and eagerness to be in unity and to work together to lift the dignity of each person in our midst. More than ever we continue to look for ways to be beacons of peace and reconciliation in our families, communities and nation. We continue to commit to live out humility and kindness in our conversations and dialogues with those we meet. In particular, as our immigrant brothers and sisters need us more than ever, we commit ourselves to promote nonviolence and to welcome the stranger. We continue to build bridges that unite and tear down the walls that divide.

**Assisting Immigrants:**

- What we can do for immigrants - [bit.ly/ImmigrantsAndRefugees](http://bit.ly/ImmigrantsAndRefugees)
- Immigrants’ rights - Know-your-Rights Video (Bilingual) - [www.chirla.org](http://www.chirla.org)

We commit to “work toward inclusion of all members of this ethnically and racially diverse nation in full participation in society, incorporating their diverse gifts and contributions that the common good be achieved.” *(Affirmative Action Stance)*

Let us work together to promote equality and inclusiveness in our nation.

**Promoting Equality and Inclusiveness in our Schools:**

- Preventing bullying - [www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/at-school/engage-parents](http://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/at-school/engage-parents)
- Protecting children from cyberbullying - [www.netsmartz.org/Cyberbullying](http://www.netsmartz.org/Cyberbullying)

**Supporting the Muslim Community:**

- Council on American-Islamic Relations - [www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com)

**Staying Informed**

**Fact Check Sites**

- FactCheck.org - [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org)
  A nonpartisan, nonprofit “consumer advocate” who seeks to reduce deception and confusion in U.S. politics
- Politifact - [www.politifact.com](http://www.politifact.com)
  Rates accuracy of claims by elected officials and other political figures
- SNOPES - [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)
  Internet reference source for rumors, myths, misinformation, etc.

**Media Outlets**