



4511 West Pine Blvd.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108  
504.655.6574

# Compassion

Faith doing justice in the Central and Southern Province...and beyond

August 2019



## Helping to Care for the Earth

Catholic Energies ([www.catholicenergies.org](http://www.catholicenergies.org)) is a consulting organization that aims to help reduce costs while protecting the earth and future generations. It provides experience, expertise and financial resources *at no cost* to Catholic organizations that want to embrace and install solar power and other energy efficiency equipment. It offers turnkey services including project design, development, management and capital to pay for the installation of equipment without debt financing or risk of ownership.

Catholic Energies has developed a national network of investors who will fund 100% of the capital in exchange for the variety of market incentives for owning and operating such projects. This capital enables Catholic organizations to benefit from solar efficiency projects while preserving money for important mission-aligned priorities. Catholic organizations can reduce their utility expenses and demonstrate commitment to reduce greenhouse gas pollution by consuming cleaner energy and reducing overall energy consumption. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

## Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES) News

Want to learn more about Jesuit Social and Ecological Apostolates around the world? Visit the SJEC [website](#), which includes news updates, links to publications, narratives from Jesuits and lay people involved in social and ecological ministries, and occasional videos. While on the website you can also sign up to receive the *Headlines* newsletter, which is e-published monthly (<http://www.sjweb.info/sjs/headlines/hlsubscribe.cfm>).

Current and back issues of *Promotio Iustitiae*, which offers essays and articles on specific themes of social and ecological justice, are also available on the website.

## Social Grants 2019

Twenty-two UCS Province Social Grants have been given to support a wide variety of projects across the province, evidence of the many ways that Jesuits are accompanying the poor and/or supporting organizations that serve the marginalized. The 2019 projects and their Jesuit sponsors include:

- ▶ *Belize Prison Ministry* (Tom Greene and Bill Snyders): Assist with transportation expenses to the Belize Prison for Jesuits and collaborators to preside at liturgy, offer spiritual direction, and assist with 12 step classes for inmates.
- ▶ *Ignatian Volunteer Corps Denver* (Dirk Dunfee): Third-year operating support for the program which now includes nearly 30 volunteers.
- ▶ *Ignatian Spirituality Project Denver* (Joe Damhorst): Financial support for 3 overnight retreats and follow up days of reflection for 36 people experiencing homelessness and addiction.
- ▶ *Martin Luther King Catholic Student Study Center, Baton Rouge* (Tom Clark): Support efforts to accompany students of Southern University through providing study space and becoming a more active presence on campus.
- ▶ *Project HEAL, Belize City, Belize*: (Brian Christopher): Employ a Family Liaison Worker to link St. Martin de Porres' parents the school and essential resources.
- ▶ *Verano de Leones, San Juan* (Andres Vall-Serra): Offer a summer enrichment program for 40 low income 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, focusing on basic skills and robotics.
- ▶ *Claver Works Commons, St. Louis* (James Coughlin): Offer Saturday and summer science and literacy-based enrichment activities to grade school students living in the Ville Neighborhood.
- ▶ *Documentation Assistance Program, St. Louis* (Dan White): This program of St. Francis Xavier (College) Church assists people with limited resources to obtain State ID cards and birth certificates.
- ▶ *Reaching Out, Building Up, Grand Coteau* (Derrick Weingartner): Provide operating support for the Thensted Center's after school tutoring, summer camp and seniors activities programs

- ▶ *Jesuit Summer Bridge, Tampa* (Frank Brou): Provide an academic summer enrichment program for high achieving, low-income middle school students, focusing on basic school subjects, thinking, and creativity.
- ▶ *Supporting Our Immigrant Friends and Educating Our Citizen Neighbors, Albuquerque* (Warren Broussard): Train and place volunteers to assist immigrants threatened with arrest and deportation by ICE; provide funds for emergency needs of asylum seekers; and offer local immersion programs through which immigrants share their stories with church and civic groups.
- ▶ *Social Justice Ministry of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Denver* (Roy Joseph): Offer a visioning retreat for the Social Justice team of the parish.
- ▶ *St. Cecilia's Charities, Jasper, AL* (Wayne Herpin): Assist in providing supplemental food for elderly and low-income people through the parish food bank.
- ▶ *House of Charity Outreach, New Orleans* (Mark Thibodeaux): Purchase painting materials for rebuilding 17 homes in New Orleans through volunteers, including UCS novices, Jesuit universities and Jesuit Volunteers.
- ▶ *Arrupe Jesuit High School, Denver* (John Nugent): Supplement the purchase of a set of school supplies for incoming freshmen.
- ▶ *Morning Glory Ministries, Kansas City* (Drew Kirschman): Purchase food for daily breakfast and weekend lunches for homeless guests. UCS Novices serve at the kitchen during the 2-month experiment in Kansas City.
- ▶ *St. Peter Claver School, Punta Gorda, Belize* (Matt Ruhl): Replace a termite-invested roof in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom to prevent bats from entering the classroom.
- ▶ *Lion Studios, Cristo Rey Jesuit College Prep, Houston* (Juan Ruiz): Purchase equipment for the school's new video club.
- ▶ *Evaluating the impact of Health Literacy on Concussion Assessment, St. Louis* (Michael Rozier): Support a SLU School of Public Health Research Project on the impact of literacy on concussion assessment.
- ▶ *Ignatian Spirituality Project, St. Louis* (Michael Smith): Support 4 retreat programs for men and women who are homeless and moving toward recovery from addiction.
- ▶ *Sharing Ignatian Spirituality with Low Income People in the Amazonia Region, Brazil* (David Romero): Subsidize the participation of low-income people in the programs promoted by the Vicente Canas Retreat House, including eco-spirituality workshops.
- ▶ *Ignatian Volunteer Corps Feasibility Study, New Orleans:* Hire a consultant to lead the feasibility study and organizing of a new IVC chapter serving the New Orleans Metro Region.

## Be a Light in Darkness Campaign

In response to the immigration crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border and in cities and towns across the U.S., including overcrowded immigrant detention centers, deaths of immigrant children in U.S. custody, family separation, threats of raids and deportation, the Ignatian Solidarity Network has initiated the "Light in Darkness Campaign" to encourage prayer, solidarity and action with immigrants and asylum seekers. The Campaign makes available a number of resources, including posters, yard signs, prayer cards, and social media links that can be used to spread the word with your friends, family, students, parishioners, retreatants and others. You can access these resources and join the Campaign here...

[Join the Light in the Darkness Campaign](#)

## Words of Encouragement for Walking with Immigrants and Refugees

On July 18, the Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology and the Ignatian Solidarity Network co-sponsored the [Catholic Day of Action for Immigrant Children](#) which brought together more than 300 Catholic sisters, priests, brothers and lay Catholic advocates representing nearly 20 national organizations. Together, they sang, prayed and chanted as they demanded an end to the immoral and inhumane practice of detaining immigrant children.

Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso sent those gathered this inspiring message, which also inspires us to continue our walk with the marginalized, especially immigrants and refugees.

*"St. Oscar Romero reminded us, there are not two categories of people, some born to have everything and others who can't enjoy the happiness that God has created for all. In this moment of injustice for migrants and the poor, we people of faith are called to work for justice. Justice is a beautiful robe, paid for with tears and sacrifice, sown together with long vigils and witness, and placed finally on the shoulders of the poor and the oppressed. You who know the goodness of God have faith that the Lord of History and Life is working even now to build a temple of justice, throughout the Americas, in every heart and across every border. You know he comes in the stranger, in the afflicted, in the migrant. Do not tire in your vigil or grow timid in your witness today and may a lack of compassion never dry your tears or harden your hearts. For with the Lord we are building that temple, wherein there will be an end to suffering and separation and estrangement, and there will be justice overflowing and enough for all."*