

Women of Providence in *Collaboration* Supplement to the Winter Issue

From the Editor: Inadvertently we left out these articles from the Winter issue of Collaboration and are distributing this Supplement. Please add it to your original Collaboration Winter 2016 issue. Our apologies!

White Violet Center, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

Fiber Arts Immersion Program

A fiber arts immersion or internship is the newest program at White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, a ministry of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. This experience focuses on everything fiber for 3-6 months anytime between October and March.

The schedule is divided between working with the herd of about 35 alpacas (they provide the fiber!), in fiber arts, and a little with the USDA certified organic agriculture program.

Learn fiber processing, which includes skirting, carding, evaluation, and dyeing. Delve into the basics of fiber arts



through knitting, spinning, weaving, crocheting, and felting. Learn about sales preparations, including washing, blocking, finishing, and labeling. The experience also includes sales management and record keeping. Complete some research on techniques, finished product methods, and marketing. Top it off by completing your choice of a final project.

For more details on all three sustainable agriculture internships or immersions or to apply go to Internships. WhiteViolet.org or contact Robyn Morton at rmorton@spsmw.org or 812-535-2932.



White Violet Center Plans 18th Annual Earth Day Celebration

Music! Food! Crafts and handmade goods! Lots to learn and do at this jam-packed celebration of Earth. Bring the kids and enjoy the day. West Central Indiana's largest and longest-running Earth Day celebration is at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, near Terre Haute hosted by White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, a ministry of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. Go to Events. WhiteViolet.org for more information. -- Saturday, April 16, 2016, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Sisters of Providence at the Heart of Today's World

With their work and presence with those who suffer, the Sisters become the real “Human Face of Providence”. The text that follows shows clearly the involvement of the Sisters of Providence in the world, in terms of reflection as well as concrete commitment.

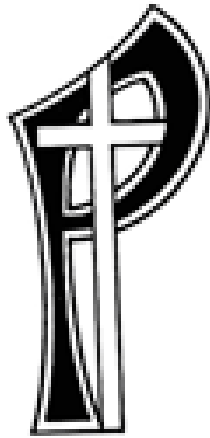
The Responsibility of Welcoming the Other

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me”
(Matthew 25:35).

Freedom of movement is the founding principle of migrations. Human beings have always moved about and they keep doing so for purposes of well-being and personal and family safety. Human safety embraces the economy, politics, community, environment, health, and food.

Nevertheless, we must admit that in recent years, immigration has become a major issue in a growing number of African, European and American countries.

Let us start from the idea that when somebody leaves his/her country, family, relations, and culture, it is not usually because of one reason only; it is rooted in a number of motives and the desire to survive. If the end of accumulated suffering is not sufficient reason, migrants can also be forced to flee their land due to serious environmental problems, pandemic or epidemic, because of terrorism, war, political repression and/or attacks against civilians. These are factors that affect humans in what they hold most dear and intimate: their dignity.



In the light of the intensification of migratory movements caused by multilateral agreements, ethnic or religious armed conflicts, we can question the importance we give to human dignity. In other words, does the protection of migrants’ rights integrate enough respect and dignity inherent to each individual? This concept was introduced into the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, which recognizes: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”¹

We note in the media and our communities the suffering of migrants, their inhumane and degrading treatment. These people are deprived of their basic rights and subjected to discriminatory and racist actions, such as mass expulsions, verbal and physical aggression, and other abuses in both countries of origin, transit and destination.

We, as Christians, when meditating on the life of our Savior Jesus Christ, note he was a migrant himself in Egypt. Joseph and Mary were forced to flee to Egypt in search of safety for Jesus, to save his life because Herod sought to kill him. Let us welcome Jesus in the person of migrants because “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

We, Sisters of Providence, have a special devotion to Our Mother of Sorrows. The flight into Egypt is part of the Seven Sorrows of Mary, the second sorrow. When meditating and praying the Seven Dolors chaplet, let’s pray for the migrants of the world so the Virgin Mary, who also knew exile, can assist them to find hospitality and, in this way, dignity.

¹Article 1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>