



MARYKNOLL OFFICE FOR GLOBAL CONCERNS

Peace, Social Justice and Integrity of Creation

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Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns joins Catholic Day of Action with Dreamers

WASHINGTON, DC — In response to requests from Dreamers, and all those affected by the possible end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, for a demonstration of additional support from Catholic leaders, a group of Catholic social justice organizations with offices in Washington, D.C. have organized a Catholic Day of Action with Dreamers at the U.S. Capitol today starting at 10:30 a.m.

Catholic faith leaders representing the following organizations will hold a press conference outside of the Russell Senate Building at 10:30 a.m. to urge Congress to take immediate legislative action that protects Dreamers while not harming their families and communities:

PICO National Network	Association of U.S. Catholic Priests
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach	Edmund Rice Christian Brothers North America Province
Conference of Major Superiors of Men	Religious of Jesus and Mary
Faith in Public Life	Little Friends for Peace
Franciscan Action Network	Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns
Leadership Conference of Women Religious	The Stuart Center of the Society of the Sacred Heart
Ignatian Solidarity	National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice	Pax Christi USA
Pax Christi International	Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
	Network Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology

At approximately 11:30 a.m., the faith leaders, together with a large group of Dreamers and other friends and supporters, will enter the Russell Senate Building for a prayer vigil in the Rotunda. Follow the event online as it happens on the [Facebook page of PICO National Network](#).

To prepare for possible nonviolent civil disobedience at that time, a group of about 30 Catholics have gathered in recent days to pray the following prayer:

God, as we prepare our minds and hearts to engage in nonviolent civil disobedience, we remember the Hebrew midwives who disobeyed Pharaoh's orders and thus saved the life of Moses. We remember Jesus, who was criticized for healing on the Sabbath, who allowed his disciples to pick grain on the Sabbath when they were hungry, who always placed Your law of compassionate love above human laws. We remember the long line of women and men who sat down, crossed lines, broke in—participating in acts of civil disobedience which were acts of gospel obedience.

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Maryknoll Sisters • Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers • Maryknoll Lay Missioners

200 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202)832-1780 phone
(202)832-5195 fax
ogc@maryknoll.org

P.O. Box 311
Maryknoll, N.Y. 10545
(914)941-7575 phone
(914)923-0733 fax

777 First Avenue, 10th fl.
New York, N.Y. 10115
(212)973-9551 phone

May our nonviolent resistance bring attention not to ourselves but to the young immigrant Dreamers on whose behalf we are willing to be arrested. We pray for these thousands of Dreamers and their families. We pray for legislators who hold the fate of Dreamers in their hands. We pray for ourselves, that we act with freedom, courage, humility and compassionate love. Amen.

“We ask that all people of faith join us in prayer and action for Dreamers and their families,” said Gerry Lee, Director, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

“We are grateful for the [words of support from Catholic Bishops](#) around the country,” Lee said, “and we remember the words of Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego from almost exactly one year ago when he spoke at the first U.S. regional World Meeting of Popular Movements in Modesto, California. Bishop McElroy called for the Church to ‘disrupt’ and ‘rebuild.’”

Bishop McElroy said:

“We must all become disruptors. We must disrupt those who would seek to send troops into our streets to deport the undocumented, to rip mothers and fathers from their families. We must disrupt those who portray refugees as enemies rather than our brothers and sisters in terrible need. We must disrupt those who train us to see Muslim men, women and children as forces of fear rather than as children of God. We must disrupt those who seek to rob our medical care, especially from the poor. We must disrupt those who would take even food stamps and nutrition assistance from the mouths of children.

“But we, as people of faith, as disciples of Jesus Christ, as children of Abraham, as followers of the Prophet Muhammad, as people of all faiths and no faith, we cannot merely be disruptors, we also have to be rebuilders.

“We have to rebuild this nation so that we place at its heart the service to the dignity of the human person and assert what the American flag behinds us asserts is our heritage: Every man, woman and child is equal in this nation and called to be equal.”

“Today,” Lee explained, “the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns joins the Catholic Day of Action with Dreamers as a means of disrupting injustice and rebuilding a peaceful society that is welcoming to our immigrant brothers and sisters.”

Contacts:

Day of the event: Heather Cabral, (202) 550-6880, Email: heather@westendstrategy.com

After February 27: Susan Gunn, Communications Manager, MOGC, (202) 832-1780, sgunn@maryknoll.org

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC) represents Maryknoll missionaries, who are Catholic men and women serving in impoverished communities around the world. The MOGC provides analysis and advocacy on issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation that affect the countries and communities where Maryknoll missionaries serve.

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