Of Catholic Charities of the Matthew 25 Giving Society

Thought for the annual gathering

September 22

the committee.

after preliminary deliberations of

members are Ashley Howard, Social Ministry Mary Baudouin. Director Search Committee: he

composition of the Executive

Marcus Kondkar informed board

JSRI Advisory Board Chairperson

and Ministry and the SGA.

registration campaign,

planning meeting for the voter

Dr. Weishar participated in a

September 9

Covenant.

Group of the Catholic Climate

meetings of the

September 4 and 17

Inequality

Loyola sociology courses (online)

Dr. Dennis Kalob is teaching two

Fall 2020

United Methodist Church to

Katrina Immigrant Workers

ecumenical

JSRI Recent Activities

September 4 and 17

Dr. Kathie Kalb participated in meetings of the Lauch's SJ Work Group of the Catholic Climate Covenant

September 3

Dr. Kathie Kalb participated in a planning meeting for the voter registration campaign, LOYOLA/Vote, of Student Life and Ministry and the SGA.

September 15

JSRI Advisory Board Chairperson Marcus Kondkar informed board members and the JSRI staff of the composition of the Executive Director Search Committee: he will chair the committee with the Jesuit Province Assistant for Social Justice Mary Basilow. Other Search Committee members are Ashley Howard, Beth Emby, and Brian Christopher. More information on the search will be forthcoming after preliminary deliberations of the committee.

September 22

Fr. Kammer, SJ will keynote a webinar in St. Louis on "What's a Catholic to Do?" sponsored by the Seeds of Justice organization.

October 11

Fr. Kammer, SJ will provide a presentation on parish social ministry for parishioners of Holy Name of Jesus Parish here.

JSRI Future Activities

October 2

Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ will keynote a webinar in St. Louis on "What's a Catholic to Do?" sponsored by the Seeds of Justice organization.

Both of those responses are based on demonization that has been spread around the world.

Despite what some critics may say, BLM is not a anti-family. Patrice Collus, who co-founded BLM with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi, describes in her memoir, co-authored with asha bandele, "When TheSYSTEM CAME For Us" how her father and brother were continually oppressed by the criminal justice system. Her father (whose Catholic family she writes about without attribution) and her brother (whose Catholic faith she describes) suffered from drug addiction, and her brother had a severe mental illness. Both were criminalized by the justice system for their diseases. Instead of "keeping it in the family" and not talking about her pain, Collus reached out to other people in her life who became like family to her. They helped her support as she supported her father and brother.

This is the type of situation to which BLM's vision statement refers when it states the following: I don't think the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requires supporting each other as extended families and in-law families that collectively care for one another, especially those of children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable (emphasis added). BLM does not oppose having a spouse and children and caring for them in order for them instead encourages a more extensive care for one family, through building connections with one's neighbors, extended family, and wider community.

And when BLM talks about being queer-affirming and dismantling stigma, privilege, it is nothing to attack Christian values. It is trying to value Black LGBTQ people. BLM is aware of the tragically high suicide rates among LGBTQ youth and that trans people of color are often victims of violence. BLM is encouraging society to pay attention to the voices and experiences of some of the most vulnerable members of society. This is not anti-Christian, it is Christian.

Due to the clamer of demonization and confusing social media, many Catholics may not know that Catholics have firmly asserted that the organization is committed to non-violent direct action or that Tometi is a devout Christian who speaks frequently about her faith. BLM's critics seem intent on erasing the BLM's founders' voices and creating sensational distractions, adding injustice on top of injustice while systemic racism continues and more Black people are killed.

The Catholic Church in the United States has a long past when it comes to social justice. Let's have a stronger future. Let's all reject harmful doctrinal purity debates regarding BLM and instead use our energy to fight tenaciously for racial justice in our country. Rooted in Christ who came to announce freedom to the oppressed (cf. Luke 4:16-21), Jesus, with Patrice Collus, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi, unapologetically proclaims that Black lives matter. All lives are equal and valuable except for those who are marginalized and oppressed by the system.

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