

JustSouth Monthly

JSRI Perspectives on FAITH DOING JUSTICE

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS

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JSRI Campus Events

[Nuns and Friends for Immigration Reform](#), Saturday, November 23rd, at 11AM on the Loyola Horseshoe.

JSRI Recent Activities

October 26

Dr. Weishar helped organize a Rally for Immigration Reform outside the office of LA Congressman Scalise.

October 28-29

Dr. Weishar participated in "Americans for Reform Immigration Fly-In" to Washington, DC, and meetings with two LA Congressmen.

November 1-2

JSRI Advisory Board met on the Loyola campus.

November 4-7

Dr. Weishar and Ms. Baudouin presented workshops on immigration detention at detention conference of the *Global Ignatian Advocacy Network* in Alcalá, Spain.

November 8-9

Dr. Mikulich arranged for *Jesus on Trial* to held at the College of Law and at St. George Parish in Baton Rouge [\[press review\]](#).

November 14

Dr. Mikulich offered two presentations at University of San Diego on post-Katrina New Orleans and U.S. hyper-incarceration.

November 15-16

Fr. Kammer attended Board meeting of the *Ignatian Solidarity Network* in Crystal City, VA.

November 17

Fr. Kammer presented three workshops on justice at the [Ignatian Family Teach-In](#) in Crystal City, VA.

Keep "Thanks" in Thanksgiving!

Where is Our Gratitude for Immigrant Workers?

Is eight years so long that people can forget how devastated our community was when the levees broke and how important immigrant workers have been in reconstructing the New Orleans area? Apparently so, or how could some members of Congress from south Louisiana continue to block immigration reform and certain local sheriffs be involved in the increasing number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids terrorizing the immigrant community? According to the [New Orleans Worker Center for Racial Justice](#), the recent alarming growth in community raids, as many as four to five a week, is the consequence of a new, quota-driven ICE initiative to stop and arrest Hispanic-looking people in grocery stores, Laundromats, Bible study groups, and parks.

Fathers being arrested in these raids are some of the same men who did the dangerous and dirty work of gutting homes steeped in flood waters for three weeks. They are the same folks who replaced roofing shingles in almost every neighborhood in every town in South Louisiana. Immigrant workers did sheet-rocking, carpentry, masonry, and much else to aid recovery. Then immigrants and their families joined our churches and helped repopulate our neighborhoods. Their kids started school with our kids and grandkids. Is it possible that we forgot this?

Last week, a brave group of immigrant workers would not let us forget their importance in rebuilding the city and that they are human beings deserving of dignity and respect and the right to raise their families in peace and intact. On Thursday, November 14th, hundreds of immigrant workers, family members, and allies like me marched from Duncan Plaza to the ICE office in the CBD to protest ICE raids and our country's unjust immigration policies that led to almost four hundred thousand deportations last year. We stopped traffic on Poydras and Loyola Avenues for two hours. Eighteen immigrant workers and four allies were willing to be arrested to highlight the hypocrisy of our broken immigration system that provides almost no way for undocumented workers to legalize their status, even though our nation's economy [depends on their labor](#).

Loyola University was well represented at the protest. Law Professor [Bill Quigley](#) played an important role communicating with the police. Law graduates, including Sara Godchaux and Nikki Thanos, were legal observers. Twomey Center Director Ted Quant took photos for the Worker Center, and Iggy Advocates for Immigration Reform student leader Samuel Rottman and I provided witness and support. In solidarity with the "strangers in our midst," this coming Saturday, November 23rd, Catholic nuns from over twelve religious communities will gather on Loyola's front lawn at a [rally beginning at 11 AM](#) to call for just and compassionate immigration reform.

St. Ignatius of Loyola often wrote about the virtue of gratitude, meaning the spontaneous response to the giftedness of reality. Gratitude opens the heart in love and generosity, and is key to living a virtuous life. Ignatius warned, however, that maintaining a sense of gratitude is difficult because we can easily take things for granted. Last week's protest helped to remind us not to take for granted the lives of immigrants, and that families are sacred gifts worth fighting for.

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As our number of enrolled students continues to rise, we need to make sure that each and every one has access to an exceptional educational experience. We can't do it without your help. [Give today!](#)

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