

JustSouth Monthly

JSRI Perspectives on FAITH DOING JUSTICE

LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS

Number 28

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JSRI Campus Events

- [Jesus on Trial](#)
Noon, November 8th,
College of Law
- JSRI Advisory Board
November 1-2
- Nuns and Friends for
Immigration Reform,
November 3rd, Noon, on
the Loyola Horseshoe

New Look!

Our *JustSouth E-News* has a new format, new title, new content, and new schedule--monthly!

JSRI Recent Activities

September 17-18

Dr. Mikulich with his co-authors presented [The Scandal of White Complicity in U.S. Hyper-Incarceration](#) at Center for Social Concerns of Notre Dame Univ.

September 30

Fr. Kammer gave the keynote on Church in the public square and workshops on immigration and Catholic social thought at St. Cloud diocesan conference.

October 4

Dr. Weishar co-planned Biloxi Bible Study and Prayer Service for Immigration Reform with JSRI Board Member Bishop Roger Morin.

October 4-5

Dr. Mikulich co-facilitated anti-racism workshop for Pax Christi in Oklahoma City.

October 6-7

Fr. Kammer preached at the Red Mass in St. Louis and [talked at St. Louis University Law School](#).

October 13

Fr. Kammer gave talks on health care policy and advocacy to Chicago Catholic Health forum.

October 14-15

Dr. Mikulich co-planned and presented to six-state Faith Roundtable on payday loans.

October 26

Dr. Weishar co-planned New Orleans Rally for Immigration Reform with JSRI Board Member Dr. Oscar Barbarin speaking on African American support.



The Globalization of Indifference

Pope Francis asks, "Who is responsible?"

On July 8th, on the island of Lampedusa off the coast of Italy, Pope Francis went to pray about refugees fleeing North Africa in the hope that the island would be their gateway to Europe and a better life. He was drawn there by reports of the deaths of a few refugees earlier in June, but the reality is that an estimated [17,000 have died](#), attempting this dangerous voyage in leaky and overcrowded boats.

In his [homily](#) there, the pope asked, "Who is responsible for the blood of these brothers and sisters?" He answered:

No one! We all respond this way: not me, it has nothing to do with me, there are others, certainly not me. But God asks each one of us: "Where is the blood of your brother that cries out to me?" Today no one in the world feels responsible for this; we have lost the sense of fraternal responsibility; we have fallen into the hypocritical attitude of the priest and of the servant of the altar that Jesus speaks about in the parable of the Good Samaritan: We look upon the brother half dead by the roadside, perhaps we think "poor guy," and we continue on our way, it's none of our business; and we feel fine with this.

The cause, Francis continues, is a culture of well-being making us think only of ourselves, insensitive to others' cries. We live in "soap bubbles that are beautiful but are nothing, are illusions of futility, of the transient..."

In this globalized world, we have "fallen into a globalization of indifference" accustomed to the suffering of others. I think of our own country:

- 50 million people without health coverage;
- Over 10 million undocumented people living and working in the shadows;
- Nearly 49 million Americans, including 16 million children, struggling to put food on the table; and
- 21 million workers unemployed or underemployed.

Looking at the realities of our suffering world, Francis asks us a further question:

Who has wept for the deaths of these brothers and sisters? Who has wept for the people who were on the boat? For the young mothers carrying their babies? For these men who wanted something to support their families? We are a society that has forgotten the experience of weeping, of "suffering with": the globalization of indifference has taken from us the ability to weep!

Tears, however, are not enough. The pope commends the "solidarity" shown by the people of Lampedusa in their care for the surviving boatpeople.

His use of the word solidarity reminded me of Blessed Pope John Paul's famous instruction, that solidarity is "not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people." It is, he said, "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good, that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual because we are all really responsible for all."

Two popes. Same message. Will we take it to heart?

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