



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER
Rise Up AND Act for Justice

Press Release: November 17, 2016

The Elections

Statement by Larry Couch Director of National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Given the two major parties, as a Catholic we can never “win” an election.

Neither Republicans nor Democrats positively address the full breadth of Catholic Social Teaching. However, given the concerns that the National Advocacy Center primarily has addressed during the last fifteen years, the election results could threaten all that we have tried to accomplish. Programs serving poor people may be at risk, compassionate comprehensive immigration reform appears to be off the table, threats to our environment may be increased, refugees may be denied asylum based on their religion, torture of prisoners may be permitted and even encouraged, and racism under the code words of “law and order” may be sanctioned.

Hopefully, in the coming months, these fears may prove to be groundless. However, right now, many people of color are fearful. Many people see our president-elect as racist and a xenophobe. Environmentalists are alarmed to hear Mr. Trump refer to climate change as a “hoax.”

I believe it is important to remember that God is still in charge. If we continue to pray, seek guidance, and work according to our conscience, we will help realize the Kingdom of God here on earth. We need to be patient with each other and to listen closely to people with opposing views.

However, we also need to act with conviction. We cannot allow immigrant families to be torn apart; we cannot tolerate family detention that traumatizes young children; we cannot allow basic necessities to be denied to poor people both here and overseas; we cannot allow people of color to go to prison for years longer than a white person convicted of the same crime; and we cannot allow our environment to be polluted and destroyed.

The poet W. B. Yeats once said, “The best lack all conviction while the worst are filled with a passionate intensity.” We cannot remain silent while people in poverty, immigrants, refugees, and prisoners needlessly suffer. We cannot remain silent while the earth is poisoned due to extreme consumerism.

Please join the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd as we work in solidarity with poor people, immigrants, refugees, abused women, prisoners and other people on the margin of our society.

Join us as we advocate with Congress and our new President for compassionate immigration reform, criminal justice reform, and protection of our environment.

To join our legislative network, please go to:

<http://gsadvocacy.us5.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=dacb47a8135da877ad4a85e9a&id=ac5ed6ca63>

Thank you.

[The National Advocacy Center](#) offers education through processes and strategies that address social justice issues and advocates for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people. The center reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, working in solidarity with the disenfranchised - particularly families, women, and children.

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