

PEACE and JUSTICE

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Spotlight on Social Justice Opportunities

From the desk of a Social Justice Intern...

As a product of Catholic Education since 2nd grade, social justice has been part of my vocabulary since I can remember. I have always been preached to about action and advocacy, direct service and lobbying for change; but I never knew what to do with this. Lucky for me, this all changed when I came to Canisius. First semester of last year, I applied to attend the Ignatian Family Fall Teach-in and School of the Americas Rally with Campus Ministry. It wasn't until this trip that I truly realized what Social Justice means. I attended a few workshops on various social justice issues and heard about what other college students were doing at their schools for the cause of social justice. This got me thinking about what I could do. At the School of the Americas Rally, we gathered together with 15,000 other individuals in the name of innocent people throughout Latin America. I knew that standing in that funeral procession, remembering all of those who were killed at the hands of graduates of the School of the Americas, I was part of something bigger. Being in solidarity with all of these people could help make a difference. When I returned from the Ignatian Family Teach-in, I felt empowered. Since then, I have found the real meaning of Social Justice. As a college student, you have tremendous power. Register to vote, contact your representatives and let them know what changes you want to see. Be a conscious consumer, volunteer and make a difference in someone's life. Lastly, educate yourself on social justice issues. You CAN be the change you wish to see in the world.

Mary Mietlicki

Social Justice Intern for Campus Ministry



Interested in Social Justice Issues? Contact these clubs!

Want to promote the rights, dignity, and well being of every person on this Earth? Concerned for human rights issues? Contact Amnesty International!

President: TJ Rogers at rogers13@canisius.edu

Meetings: Bi-weekly on Tuesday at 6:00 PM in OM 224

Wondering who plans justice activities at Canisius? Want to have a voice in what justice-themed programs go on? Contact J.U.S.T.I.C.E. chair of USA!

Chair-person: Mark Ramzy at ramzym@canisius.edu

Meetings: Sundays at 8pm in the Frisch Conference Room

Want to learn more about GLBT issues on campus and work to create a more accepting world? Contact Unity!

President: Emma Fabian at fabiane@canisius.edu

Meetings: Bi-weekly on Thursday at 9PM outside the Unity Clubroom (SC 220)

Interested in environmental issues? Want to make Canisius a more environmentally friendly campus? Contact Project Conservation!

President: Cella Nteni Nlandu at nlandun@canisius.edu

Weekly meetings on Thursday at 6:30 PM in OM 110

~Prayer for Peace~

Eternal God,

In whom the whole family of earth is one,
breathe your spirit into our hearts that we
may establish a global community of trust
and fellowship, justice, and peace.

Illuminate the darkness of our minds the we
may see your light, think your thoughts, and
serve your glory by advancing the greater
good of all people.

...Amen...

The Meaning of: Social Justice

"Social justice means moving towards a society where all hungry are fed, all sick are cared for, the environment is treasured, and we treat each other with love and compassion. Not an easy goal, for sure, but certainly one worth giving our lives for!"

~Medea Benjamin, co-founder of

Global Exchange and Code Pink

"Social justice provides the foundation for a healthy community. It grows out of our sense that each person...has value. Only as we recognize the value and dignity of each person can we build a healthy community, so it's a slow, painful process of learning and growing. To help the process along we develop attitudes of respect for one another. We also shape policies and patterns of behavior to protect and enhance the worth of each person. We do this by building governmental and economic structures, educational and religious institutions, and all the other systems that provide for health and social welfare.

This justice is not a goal that we'll ever reach, but a process, a struggle in which we can be engaged through all the pain and all the joy."

- Doug King, editor and WebWeaver, of the Witherspoon Society of the Presbyterian Church USA

Social justice means no kids going to bed hungry, no one without shelter or healthcare and a free and lively discussion and participation by all people in the political direction and organization of our communities and nation.

- Kirsten Moller, executive director and co-founder, Global Exchange



Club Spotlight: Project Conservation

Project Conservation is one of the newest social justice clubs on the Canisius campus. It started out as a committee and was turned into a club in the spring of 2009. Project Conservation came along during the time when the green movement was on the rise.

In the Last year, Project Conservation has instituted our new "tray-less" policy, helped students learn how to recycle efficiently, helped with food waste management, and energy sustainability. You might have heard about them recently in their "Caught You Green Handed" Campaign. In this campaign, if you're a resident and your RA catches you doing something "green friendly", you get a raffle ticket for a big prizes!

Project Conservation is a forward thinking group, looking towards the future. Many say that the future is a long way off, its not their concern to worry about sustainability. We must be stewards for our world. It is the only one we have. This group is a stepping stone in the right direction, towards sustainability, waste management, and recycling.

Department Spotlight: Service Learning

Service learning is a very unique opportunity the combines academics, community service, and guided reflections. There are many courses on campus that offer the opportunity to do service learning.

The main goal of service learning is to foster the creation and care of the whole person. At Canisius, the hope is to not only teach your mind but also teach your soul. So through service learning, you take some time to do some volunteer work at a site in Buffalo. The site you pick should coincide with the material you are learning in class. After completing your service hours, you generally write a reflective paper talking about your experience. New this year are peer led reflections sessions to help you. Discussions during this reflection session help you go deeper into your experience and really get everything out of it you can.

This department is run by Sr. Patricia Brady, SSMN. Sr. Pat has done mission work in Africa and Brazil and has a great interest in fostering the spiritual development of the students at Canisius. To learn more, contact Sr. Pat at ext. 2177. Her office is located in OM 005.