



JUST Love

FEBRUARY 2019



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH



AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

At these sites you can find resources for the celebration of
African-American History Month

<https://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/black-history-month.htm>

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/celebrate-black-history-month/>



Do you recognize this woman? If you don't, it highlights the need for African American History Month. She is Doctor Lena Edwards, the first African American woman to be board certified as an obstetrician/gynecologist as well as to gain admission to the International College

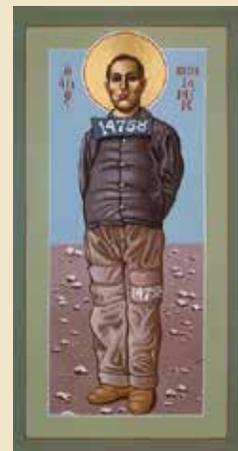
of Surgeons. Though a native of Washington, DC, she has important ties to New Jersey since she worked for many years at the Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital in Jersey City beginning in 1931. After many struggles she gained residency in the Hague in 1945, a goal she sought because she was appalled by the difference "between a poor

man's treatment versus a rich man's treatment." She later moved to Hereford, Texas and opened a maternity hospital for migrant women. Dr. Edwards was a devout Catholic her whole life, a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, and a pro-life advocate. Her son became the first African-American member of the Graymoor Friars. She died in Lakewood, NJ in 1986. She is mentioned in the US Bishops' recent pastoral letter on racism *Open Wide Our Hearts; The Enduring Call of Love* as someone who "worked tirelessly against the prevailing current of racism to share the Catholic faith with persons of African descent." There are a charter school and an apartment complex in Jersey City named after Dr. Edwards but regrettably no Catholic institution as yet bears her name.

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>

Ben Salmon (1888-1932) conscientiously objected to World War I and all war in opposition to the majority of US citizens, the US Government, and his own Roman Catholic Church. Ben's conscience earned him lengthy imprisonment, solitary confinement and broken health. he wrote "Either Christ is a liar or war is never necessary, and very properly assuming that Christ told the truth, it follows that the State is without judicial authority to determine when war is necessary, because it is never necessary." At this link you can sign a letter asking the Archbishop of Denver to open the Salmon's cause of canonization.

<http://www.bensalmon.org/letter.html>





(left to right: Fr. Terrence Moran; Dr. Anna Brown, Immigration advocate from St. Peter's University; Maria Del Cielo Mendez Varillas, DACA student; Nargis Muniri, Afghan refugee; Carol Graham, Refugee Assistance Morris Partners.)

On January 9, 2019, the Sisters of Charity and fellow advocates for the rights of immigrants and refugees met in Holy Family Chapel, named for a refugee family, for a prayer service in celebration of National Migration Week. This year's theme is "Creating Communities of Welcome," so we heard speakers who shared their experiences of being welcomed and welcoming.



As an act of advocacy, we signed postcards to President Trump with this beautiful painting of the refugee Holy Family by IHM Sister Lisa Perkowski calling for respect for the right to migrate and seek asylum; an end to border militarization; and an end to the detention and deportation of immigrants.



Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Dates in February

1 Four African American college students stage a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, NC. This peaceful action triggered similar nonviolent protests throughout the Deep South (1960)

2 World Wetlands Day

<https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>

3 Feast of St. Blaise, patron of throat illnesses – Become a full-throated voice for justice.

8 Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita/International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking – Distribute some of the SC Trafficking Prayer Cards available from pjei@scnj.org

11 Our Lady of Lourdes – World Day of the Sick: Send a card of gratitude to a health care provider. Do something healing for yourself/others.

22 Anniversary of the execution of Sophie and Hans Scholl (1943), martyrs of the White Rose nonviolent resistance group in Nazi Germany "The real damage is done by those millions who want to 'survive.' The honest men who just want to be left in peace. Those who don't want their little lives disturbed by anything bigger than themselves." Sophie Scholl

26 Anniversary of the death of Trayvon Martin (1995-2012), 17-year-old African American teenager shot by neighborhood watch volunteer in Sanford, Florida