



# Where Justice and Truth Meet

April 2014

**“As Dominican women we claim our power to nurture mutual relationships that offer healing and courage to a broken world.”**

*Together – Birthing Anew, Chapter 2014*

## Stop Trafficking!



Consistent with our 2013 corporate stance on a Consistent Ethic of Life and our 2014 Chapter declaration, one collective action taken by leadership on behalf of the congregation was to sign on as co-sponsors of the [Stop Trafficking!](#) Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter. You are encouraged to read the latest edition of the newsletter to hear the story of 110 trafficking victims rescued from a Houston home last month, understand the difference between “free trade” and “fair trade” and how consumerism contributes to human trafficking, and read how representatives of the Vatican are collaborating with leaders of other global faiths to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking through the [Global Freedom Network](#).



View the video [Not My Life](#), available from the Springfield Dominican Justice Office.

**“We need to awaken our tenderness for life, giving birth to relationships of equality, justice and truth.”** Learn more about [Red KAWSAY](#), an international network of religious committed to building a world free of trafficking and slavery.

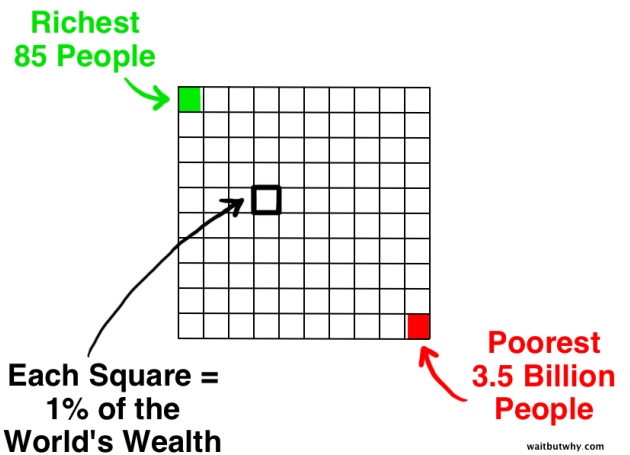


### Other useful resources:

- [Prayer Service to End Human Trafficking](#)
- [Human Trafficking Continuum of Action](#)
- [United Nations Blue Heart Campaign](#)

## Income Inequality

A report titled [Working for the Few](#) released by Oxfam International in conjunction with the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in January 2014 reveals startling statistics about the growing tide of wealth inequality in our world.



**The richest 85 people in the world own as much as 3.5 billion poorest – Oxfam**

In addition:

- Almost half of the world’s wealth is now owned by just one percent of the world’s population.
- Seven out of ten people live in countries where economic inequality has increased in the last 30 years.
- In the U.S. the wealthiest one percent captures 95% of post-financial crisis growth since 2009, while the bottom 90% became poorer.

*“This happens today: if the investments in the banks fall slightly, we say,... ‘a tragedy... what can be done?’ But if people die of hunger, if they have nothing eat, if they have poor health, it does not matter! This is our crisis today!”*

*-- Pope Francis*



## Earth as our Home

Earth Day was April 22, but every day is a good day to celebrate Earth as our home and deepen our awareness and gratitude for the gifts that she gives

us every day. Too often when we hear the word “house” we think of a physical building and its rooms. But what if we began to think of Earth as our house—with various rooms—what would we need to do to make this “house” a true “home”? [Catholic Sisters for a Healthy Earth](#) invite you to take a contemplative walk through the various rooms of a house—living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, porch, attic and yard—placing each room and its activities in the broader context of our Earth-home. Simple actions are suggested for deepening awareness, living more sustainably, and walking more gently on Earth.

*“Suddenly, from behind the rim of the moon, in long, slow-motion moments of immense majesty, there emerges a sparkling blue and white jewel, a light, delicate sky-blue sphere laced with slowly swirling veils of white, rising gradually like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery. It takes more than a moment to fully realize this is Earth...home.” - Edgar Mitchell, astronaut*

In action related to care of our Earth-home and our Springfield Dominican corporate stance on nuclear disarmament, the Leadership Team



joined other U.S. Catholic communities and organizations in signing a [letter to Secretary of State John Kerry](#) urging the United States to take specific steps toward nuclear disarmament during the UN meetings on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that will take place in New York April 28 to May 9. It is part of a broad effort by the World Council of Churches to send the same message to governments around the world that they will hear in New York. We hope that this collective

public witness will have a positive impact on the NPT process.

*“Sustainability is about stabilizing the currently disruptive relationship between earth’s two most complex systems—human culture and the living world.”*  
—Paul Hawken, *Blessed Unrest*

## Did you know...

... that recycling 10 aluminum cans saves enough energy to power a 60 watt CFL lightbulb for 199 hours?

...that recycling 10 plastic grocery bags saves enough energy to power that same 60 watt lightbulb for 13 hours?

... that recycling 10 plastic bottles saves enough energy to power a laptop for 25 hours?

Learn more at [EPA.gov/EarthDay](http://EPA.gov/EarthDay)

## Earth-Friendly Spring Cleaning

- Get rid of clutter; clean out cabinets and closets; recycle old items, donate to a local charity that helps families in need or sell it in a yard sale;
- Open windows to air out the house before air conditioning is needed;
- Use a clothesline to air out pillows and winter blankets (before storing for the winter);
- Use a vinegar and water solution to clean windows, walls, and wood or tile floors;
- Use rags or pieces of old shirts instead of paper towels;
- [Make your own cleaning solutions](#) with hot water, vinegar, baking soda and essential oil scents;
- Each time you use water, recall what a sacred gift it is—and how many millions throughout the world lack access to clean water; be grateful and careful.



*“I would therefore like us all to make the serious commitment to respect and care for creation, to pay attention to every person, to combat the culture of waste and of throwing out so as to foster a culture of solidarity and encounter ...”*  
- Pope Francis