

January to April 2013 - Highlights of CMN Activities

Conferences /Events attended Jan-April 2013

CMN was present at the following conference and events:

- March for Life (marched)(Srs. Ilaria and Kathie)
- Students for Life (materials only)
- Archdiocese of Atlanta Justice and Peace Exposition (exhibit)(Cathy)
- USCCB Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (Member of Planning Committee, Karen attended, Staff exhibited, Cathy moderated panel)
- LCWR Justice and Peace Directors (Ilaria attended)
- Living the Catholic Faith Conference (exhibited)
- Social Ministry Convocation of the Archdiocese of Baltimore (Ilaria and Karen attended and materials present)
- Holy Cross High School (presentation)
- Sant' Egidio Workshop Trainings (presentation)(Karen and Anne)
- Catholic Leaders for Faith and Service (materials only)
- Gonzaga High School (presentation) (Vicki)
- NCEA (DP Workshop and exhibited)(Karen and Cathy)
- Ecumenical Advocacy Days (exhibited)
- Faithful Citizenship Luncheon and Diocesan Presentations – Archdiocese of Louisville (multiple presentations by Cathy)
- NADD (exhibited and meetings re: Deacon's Course)(Karen attended)
- Social Ministry Convocation – Archdiocese of Washington DC (Vicki presentation),

CMN has 18 opportunities on its calendar for the remainder of 2013 (some are tentative), including a presence at the National Congress of Youth Ministry (exhibiting-interactive), Midwest Catholic Family Conference (exhibiting), Hispanic Congress on Religious Life and Evangelization and many other Spanish leadership programs, Catholic Charities USA Annual Conference (application for workshop pending), and Catholic Charities USA Regional Trainings (workshop application pending and request for Vicki).

Decisions to attend are based largely on cost, numbers of possible attendees, and possibility for participation in the conference program (now or in the future).

Grants

CMN has received the Our Sunday Visitor Grant - \$5000. CMN has outstanding request with Dominican Sisters – Peace and Justice Fund and Generous Promise Grant. We are currently working on three major grants, including The Tides Foundation, Porticus, Abel Foundation (all have several tiered process for applications). Others in the works.

Youth Outreach

CMN has developed many new materials to reach our Catholic youth, including lesson plans for middle school and high school students, prayers and Power Points. In addition, CMN now has our popular DP Workshop and RJ Workshop fine-tuned and available online for Catholics between the ages of 13-18.

Spanish-Speaking Outreach

Sr. Ilaria has made major inroads to increase partnerships and opportunities to work with the Charismatic movement, a key element in reaching our Latino Catholic audiences. In addition, CMN (featuring Sr. Ilaria) has been featured in radio “podcasts” syndicated to Spanish-speaking Catholic radio stations throughout the country. She has also cultivated new, important relationships with Spanish-speaking media and Catholic Latino leadership.

Restorative Justice

Workshops – CMN has completed development of its new Restorative Justice 101Wworkshop and has posted it online, as well as presented it to the Sant’ Egidio Community in a “train the trainers” event to support MD abolition. The workshop has been refined for the Spanish speaking community and for youth as well. Already, two requests have been made for this workshop – One to youth in Maryland and one for the ST. Vincent DePaul Regional Conference in Dover, Delaware, June 15th.

CMN Sanctity of All Life Deacon’s Course

Many meetings and discussions have taken place and the CMN Deacon’s Course development continues. At this point, moral theologians David Cloutier and Joe Capizzi are developing the outline of the curriculum (deadline mid-May). Collaboration with other national life issue organizations has occurred. At the National Association of Deacon Directors, Karen further developed contacts and collaborators for this 13-week, graduate level course.

Key States

CMN has had a significant presence in several key states during Jan- April of this year, including Maryland, Delaware, Montana, and Colorado in particular. We have also worked in North Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky. To varying degrees, CMN has helped to support state work in various ways including, direct emails in support of faith based sign-on letters, exhibiting at conferences (direct outreach), participating in educational/workshop/Faithful Citizenship sessions, advocacy alerts (featuring Catholic leaders), garnering Catholic leadership support, highlighting state activities on our website. A popular new resource this year has been “CMN Talking Points for States” – a fact sheet highlighting Catholic social teaching and state-specific information for education/advocacy. CMN currently has these available online for many key states and is working to fulfill requests from other states.

Where Justice and Mercy Meet: Catholic Opposition to the Death Penalty

CMN has worked with marketing department at Liturgical Press to identify ways that we can spread the word about this new book. We have also worked to sell it directly at exhibits and presentations, and have connected with book reviewers at National Catholic Reporter and other members of the Catholic press, who have agreed to review and write about the book.

CMN's Monthly E-Newsletter

CMN's E-newsletter currently goes to more than 5000 people nationally – helping to increase its valuable role in communications and as a tool for the national movement to end the death penalty. We continue to feature the Dead Man Walking Play Project in each of our newsletters, with an article submitted by Greg Callaghan. This year's newsletters featured CMN's 2013 Upcoming Projects (Jan.), Maryland (Feb.), Colorado (March), CMN's Restorative Justice projects (April), and Georgia (May). Going forward CMN is working to outline a strategic plan for the newsletter to best ensure that we assist key states, follow parish liturgical planning, and highlight our resources so that they may be used more widely. Plans for the remainder of 2013 include themes such as Advent, CMN's youth outreach and resources, CMN's Spanish-speaking outreach and resources, Lent, Respect Life Month and the key/upcoming states of Nebraska, New Hampshire, Washington, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Victim's Families

CMN gets numerous requests for presentations, and particularly for DP or RJ workshops that feature members of victim's families. As such, we have increased our efforts to expand our speakers' bureau to include more of these individuals. In addition, we have been working to identify other victims' groups and restorative justice projects that connect with our mission, such as Mothers in Charge, the Cherish Life Circle, Campbell University in North Carolina, Father David Kelley, the Grossmaire Family, and others.

Other items of interest:

- CMN was predominantly featured as a National Partner in the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Spring newsletter
- CMN continues to receive numerous requests for materials from across the country for meetings such as the Florida St. Vincent DePaul Jail and Prison Ministry Convocation, events in support of Sr. Helen Prejean's presentations in Oregon this spring, and for parish/community outreach such as the work of Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Kentucky.
- CMN continues to expand its website with new resources for lay leaders, youth ministers, Spanish speaking Catholics, and those interested in Restorative Justice. Facebook now has 677 Likes and Twitter has 261 followers. We are being retweeted daily (Gov of Colorado, NCADP, Delaware Repeal, DP Focus, TCADP, ISN, etc....)
- CMN has signed onto the Fair Sentence for Youth Statement of Principles (December 2012)
- CMN submitted an application for the new American Catholic Colleges and University Association's Best Practices List (application is pending)

- CMN is the official sponsor of I WANT TO SERVE, a national, web-based educational outreach effort. Housed on our website with possible IVC volunteer to make into national campaign.
- Ilaria initiated a LCWR Google Group on the death penalty which now has 35 Congregational members. We have gained numerous Congregational statements for the website and initiating contacts and educating religious orders.