



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

Media Advisory: July 17, 2019

Civil Disobedience at US Capitol – July 18
Catholic Day of Action for Detained Immigrant Children
&
Province Leaders Issue Statement

Sister Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, RGS, and Lawrence E. Couch will engage in civil disobedience this Thursday morning, July 18, 2019, to draw attention to the dire conditions and inhumane practice of detaining immigrant children. They will join hundreds of Catholic religious and lay advocates on U.S. Capitol Grounds at a press conference, 50 of whom will carry out civil disobedience in the Russell Rotunda.

Thursday, July 18, 2019
10:00 – 10:30 am Press Conference
Lawn of U.S. Capitol (Section 8)
Followed by Act of Civil Disobedience
Rotunda of Russell Senate Office Building

In addition to her action of civil disobedience, **Sr. Gayle will be one of the speakers at the press conference.** Sr. Gayle has been a vowed member of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd for 28 years and received her doctorate of education from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. Sr. Gayle wrote her dissertation on the detrimental effects that the denial of accessing higher education have on Dreamers.

Couch is director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. He said that “the United States government is becoming increasingly heavy-handed in its tactics and is becoming increasingly less recognizable to its citizens and all peoples around the world. Our bedrock American ideals marry well with our Catholic faith in providing refuge to those in need and welcoming people into our communities. With this action, I hope to call more Catholics to demand our government immediately end the detention of children.”

The Province Leaders of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd have issued a statement “In Defense of the Human Dignity of All People at the Border, Especially Children” in reaction to the ongoing actions and threats of this Administration to immigrants and those who wish to migrate.

“At a time of great need, unfortunately our country has become more fearful of immigrants and refugees,” wrote the U.S. Conference of Provincials. “The people at our southern border are not our adversaries. They are fleeing a desperate situation in their home countries, a situation of extreme poverty frequently caused in part by our national policies.”

“In Matthew 25, we understand that our nation will be judged by how we respond to the needs of our neighbors. These immigrant children and their families are our neighbors. More so, they are a part of the fabric of our very selves – a people made in the image and likeness of God. As a nation, we will be judged by how we treat and love our neighbors as ourselves.”

[To read the entire statement, please visit NAC's website.](#)

[The National Advocacy Center](#) educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in over 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.

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