



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

Media Advisory: September 3, 2019

Rally & Civil Disobedience in NJ – Sept 4 ***Catholic Nonviolent Action to End Child & Family Detention***

Good Shepherd Sisters Claudia Palacio and Winifred Doherty with Lawrence E. Couch will rally on Wednesday, September 4, with Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, and hundreds more to stop the inhumanity and end the cruel detentions of children and families.

Following the rally, **Sr. Claudia Palacio, RGS** will engage in civil disobedience and risk arrest.

Wednesday, September 4, 2019
Newark Catholic Nonviolent Action for Immigrant Children
10:00 am Rally
St. Mary's Church/Newark Abbey
520 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Newark, NJ 07102
Followed by Procession to ICE Office with Vigil & Civil Disobedience
970 Broad Street, Newark

"Separation of families and detention of children are clear human rights violations with devastating consequences for our society," said **Sr. Palacio**. "As a consecrated woman, I believe that the dignity and the value of each person have to be upheld, and the integrity of families should be protected. I offer this action as a matter of conscience and as a way to bring light to the unjust and denigrating way in which immigrants and refugees are being treated. A moral responsibility weighs on developed nations that have used the natural and political resources of less developed nations to their advantage."

Sr. Winifred Doherty, RGS has served as the Congregation of Our Lady of Good Shepherd's NGO Representative to the United Nations since 2008.

Couch is director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Couch was arrested in July at the U.S. Capitol participating in nonviolent civil disobedience to end family detention. He said at the time 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 issued a statement, *In Defense of the Human Dignity of All People at the Border, Especially Children*, in July in response 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.