

Analysis of Social Justice Involvement Survey April 27, 2017

In March 2017, BVM Sisters, Associates, and friends were asked to complete a survey about their participation during the first three months of 2017 in a range of social justice involvement activities. A total of 87 responses were collected and tallied for this report. Of that total, 63 respondents identified themselves as a Religious (59%), an Associate (28%), or a Friend (13%).

What Participants Have Done

Seven of the nine survey questions asked respondents to indicate their participation in a variety of activities within the first three months of 2017. Six questions were formatted in a multiple-choice format, asking about specific kinds of participation in social justice activities. The table below summarizes the participation of respondents in the activities requested by Questions 1-6. In summary, the five most-often-cited activities were: signing petitions for US Congress and/or Senate (79%, 90%); engaging in organized conversations about immigration (79%); participating in the Women’s March (68%); donating to just causes (66%); and signing petitions for state bills (63%).

Type of Activity	Percent Participating
Q1: Prayer Service for Peace and Justice	48% once; 36% 3+ times
Q2: March for Justice or Peace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women’s March ▪ Women’s Equality Day ▪ Other (community/cluster prayers, conferences) 	68% 6% 46%
Q3: Signing Petitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regarding Actions of US Congress ▪ Regarding Actions of US Senate ▪ Regarding State Bills ▪ Other (Executive orders, environment, Good Friday) 	79% 90% 63% 23%
Q4: Attendance at Town Halls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For US House Representative ▪ For US Senate Representative ▪ For State Representative ▪ For State Senator ▪ Other: (personal letters, met with rep, prayer partner) 	23% 16% 6% 13% 81%
Q5: Engaging in Organized Conversations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regarding racism ▪ Regarding our polarized society ▪ Regarding immigration ▪ Other 	37% 48% 79% 25%
Q6: Communicated and/or Donated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written letters to my US Senator or House rep ▪ Written letters to my state senator or house rep ▪ Made phone calls to any elected official ▪ Donated funds to groups working on change or other justice issues ▪ Other 	58% 52% 49% 66% 13%

Question 7 was an open-ended question, asking “*What resources, articles, songs, poems, prayers give you hope?*” Fifty of the total 87 respondents answered this question. Frequently-cited responses included:

- Resources: Scripture passages during Lent, the quote from Micah—What does God ask of you, friends, the Women’s March

- Articles: NCR articles on Global Sisters, seeing others protest unjust causes, Sojourners, Joan Chittister, Justice for Immigrants,
- Songs: Songs on peace, “Breath of God”, “We Shall Overcome” Taize songs, Gospel music, St. Patrick Breastplate,
- Poems: Maya Angelou,
- Prayers: Sr. Teresa’s “bookend” prayer, Litany of nonviolence
- Emily Dickinson: Hope
- Belonging to an active Social Justice Community

Question 8 was an open-ended question, asking “Name one or two other ways you have chosen to work for justice?” Fifty-six of the total 78 respondents answered this question. Frequently-cited responses included:

- Prayer (5)
- Education, talking on college campuses about death penalty (2)
- Conversations with friends
- Volunteer activities (e.g., League of Women Voters, Ignatian Companions, Peace and Justice Center)
- Move On’s Resist phone conferences
- Demonstrations (e.g., against Dakota Pipeline)
- Created a “Snow Geese Event” on Earth Day to bring awareness and educate regarding the almost 4,000 snow geese that died in the sulfuric acid lake that is 54 billion gallons in the Berkeley Pit in Butte. Raising funds for the Clark Fork Watershed Education Project teaching elementary school students about the environment from Butte to Missoula, Montana

What Participants Intend to Do

The final survey question asked respondents to indicate what they intend to do in the next three months (April-June, 2017) to continue to promote social justice. About 56% of the total respondents answered this question, and respondents could select more than one choice. The four activities with over 50% participation rates were:

- Setting time aside to pray for peace (86%);
- Signing petitions (84%);
- Donating to just causes (64%); and
- Writing letters to legislators (57%).
- Many are working with organizations like
 - Indivisible Groups,
 - Nonviolence Organizations,
 - AAUW,
 - Rapid Action Response,
 - Women of Faith,
 - Windshield Scanning from Neighborhood Watch, I
 - nternational Day of Peace Committee.
- One respondent said, “Given the state of the world and US relations, I imagine I will be involved in anti-war, anti-deportation, and many other causes in the near future.”