



## **Justice Promoters Explore New Avenues of Collaboration**

Sisters Denise Curry and Maura Browne were among the Social justice promoters from congregations of women religious who gathered at River's Edge Retreat Center in Cleveland, Ohio for their first-ever national convocation November 11-13. Participants representing more than 100 congregations from 26 states and one Canadian province met to explore the theme: "Entering the Transforming Future: Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Ministry in the Coming Age of Religious Life."

Keynote Speaker Marie Dennis, co-president of Pax Christi International, challenged participants to strive always to push back fear and establish the peace and justice of the reign of God.

The convocation also featured eight participant led workshops where they shared insights into specific social justice topics, built social media skills, and reflected on the spirituality underlying action for justice.

Mary Jo Nelson, OLVM, facilitated the work of the two day event helping the justice promoters to strengthen their work on critical global and national concerns and to share innovative strategies and best practices to respond more effectively to issues that affect the lives of people and the planet. Promoters plan to continue to collaborate and to share prayer, education, and action resources.

Participants took the opportunity to call on President Obama to provide the broadest possible relief to those trapped in the shadows by the broken US immigration system and they challenged congressional leaders to enact comprehensive, compassionate immigration reform.

These justice seekers gathered, rooted themselves in their Catholic tradition, and reached towards the future. Convocation co-chair Ann Oestreich expressed the sentiments of many, "While the future is unknowable, the fact that these sisters, and those who minister with them, remain deeply committed to justice, transformation, and collaboration is a sign of hope for all."