



## Waging Nonviolence

Can you be fully committed to changing the world and change diapers at the same time?

That is the question that opens my book, *It Runs In The Family: On Being Raised By Radicals and Growing Into Rebellious Motherhood*, which was published (OR Books, 2015) earlier this year. Can you be a nonviolent revolutionary and a present, loving role model for your children? Can you hold the macro—justice and peace and the big issues of the day—in one hand and the micro—boppies, wipes, third-grade science projects, and playground politics—in the other? These are the kinds of questions I ask every day, too.

I struggle, as I know so many parents struggle, to be present to my kids—to play and nurture and explain and provoke and cuddle--but not at the expense of the world's kids. I want my kids--who are 8, 3 and creeping up on 2-- to be clean, safe and healthy. How do I do that and simultaneously work to ensure these basic rights for all kids, for all families? If parenting is a full time job—an all around the clock, every day kind of occupation (especially when the kids are small) where is the time and energy to organize, to witness, to act, even to keep up with what others are doing, with the bad news of the world and the good work that so often accompanies it? Where is the



Frida Berrigan

time to do all that and write a book about it?

The book, which is a collection of (and expansion on) essays I wrote over the course of pregnancies and early days of parenting two small kids for WagingNonviolence.Org, tells stories from my upbringing in the Jonah House community in inner city Baltimore. The punch line of those questions I pose at the beginning of the book is that my parents did not think you could do both, and so did not plan on having children....

Father Philip Berrigan, a Josephite priest, and Sister Elizabeth McAlister of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, both peace and civil rights activists, met at a funeral in 1966. Each of them was fully committed to revolution inside the church and throughout society. They fell in love, married, and were

**Where is the time and energy to organize, to witness, to act, even to keep up with what others are doing, with the bad news of the world and the good work that so often accompanies it?**

excommunicated. They faced long jail sentences and long court proceedings, and endured the harsh burn of the media spotlight. They formed Jonah House, a new community to support and nurture lives of resistance and prayer and to replace the religious orders that failed to evolve with them.

They did not see kids as part of that picture, but then I came along. My brother Jerry followed a year later, and seven years after that our sister Kate was born. So much for natural family planning!

A radical, catholic, nonviolent community committed to prayer, protest and poverty with three kids was not what my parents expected or planned - but it was all we knew. And it was pretty strange and kind of messy.

**Frida Berrigan's reflection continued on page 4**

## Letter from the Executive Director | Fall 2015



### A Time of Transformation

If the church is always in need of reform, the same is true for ourselves and the organizations we serve. Call To Action is at an incredibly exciting stage of transformation.

### New Governing Body

Earlier this year, a Vision Council - a new governing body for Call To Action was created and replaced the board of directors which had been a self-perpetuating entity where new board members were simply selected by current board members. The Vision Council consists of six liaisons chosen by CTA's leadership groups, five members chosen for a particular skill set or expertise, and soon will add four at-large members selected from the general CTA membership. This change is a critical step in Call To Action's evolution to becoming a more accountable, transparent, less hierarchical organization where those on the margins have the greatest influence on CTA.

### New Staff

This summer, Call To Action added four new staff members: John Canales Gorczynski, serving as Conference Program Associate offering support for CTA's annual conference; Aaron Bianco, serving as Program Outreach Associate supporting CTA's chapters, JustChurch program, and CTA's young adult program, CTA20/30; Marci Madary, serving as CTA's Director of Programs supports all of CTA's

programmatic elements including webinars, resources, public events around the country, and CTA's anti-racism team; and our most recent addition, Sophie Vodvarka, serving as CTA's Development/Communications Associate offering support for CTA's fundraising and membership outreach.

### Reinventing Call To Action

With a new governing body and full compliment of staff in place, CTA has embarked on a strategic envisioning process with the purpose of reinventing Call To Action. Reinventing an organization is a transformative and challenging process. The landscape in which we do our work is changing at such a pace that the strategies and initiatives that have served CTA so well for so long are quickly becoming outdated. CTA members expect a rapid response to injustices with effective strategies for change while at the same time incorporating processes that adhere to our values of collaboration and transparency. Gratefully, the organizational model where a Chief Executive at the top of the hierarchical chart efficiently telling the rest of the organization what it will do and not do is fading fast. At the same time, utilizing decision making structures and processes that take too long to respond in a fast-paced environment can leave an action oriented organization paralyzed. A strategic envisioning process will unfold over the next few months to effectively balance CTA's commitment to being collaborative with its need to be expeditious in its work for justice.

Call To Action is home to so many. A reinvention process can invoke both excitement and trepidation, especially if one feels change will make CTA feel less like home. The reinvention process is necessary

**Call To Action will always remain a place we justice-driven Catholics can call home.**

so that CTA can be home to more people in a greater variety of ways. There can be no doubt that CTA will look different going forward. While looking different, CTA will always remain a place we justice-driven Catholics can call home.

Call To Action sees itself as a home and as a family. This edition of CTA News and Notes leads with the wisdom of Frida Berrigan as she addresses faith, family, and non-violence. CTA News and Notes will also report on Call To Action's ongoing JustChurch program including the recent forum on women's equality in the church, preparations for the upcoming World Meeting of Families, and CTA's emerging international partnerships.

### Call To Action Beyond Borders

Call To Action's conference will have a number of international guests as a result of relationship building over the last few years. Call To Action's dialogue with the Woori Theology Institute in South Korea is resulting in an exciting exchange. In August, vision council member Kathy Schatzberg presented at a pan-Asian Catholic conference in Manila, Philippines. At Call To Action's conference, Paul Hwang, chief of the Center for Asia Peace and Solidarity will offer several presentations in Milwaukee. The center works to build networks among Asian theologians and church activists by holding various conferences and forums under the auspices of the lay-centered Woori Theology Institute based in Seoul, South Korea.

**Executive Director letter  
continued on page 4**

## JustChurch Update | Marci Madary, Director of Programs

Since beginning my new adventure at Call To Action on June 1st, I have been exploring the landscape with excitement! Here are some of the nuggets.

Aaron Bianco, Program Outreach Associate, and I have been connecting with CTA chapter leaders across the country to learn from and support these incredible on-the-ground networks so that we can continue to strengthen CTA's chapters. He has also hosted numerous group calls for chapters and I was able to spend a Sunday afternoon with the CTA West Suburban Chapter event and have dinner with their leadership team. It is always a treat to connect with CTA members!

With continued unjust Church worker firings, Aaron has been coordinating the networking and relationship building of former employees of Catholic institutions, offering a pastoral presence as well as resources that may be of benefit. Justice for Church Workers remains a pressing issue and CTA will continue to bring attention to it and call its members to action.

Intense and comprehensive preparations for Pope Francis' visit to the U.S. and the World Meeting of Families that will be held in Philadelphia the week prior to the Pope's visit. In Philadelphia on Friday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m., CTA will host "Conversation and Cake." It

will be a chance for all Call To Action members and any progressive Catholics to come, engage in conversations and, of course, eat cake. On Saturday, September 26, from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. people will be able to pick up prayer cards so they can distribute them at the Festival of Families and talk to people about the inclusion of all kinds of families. Those interested in holding signs for the Pope to read as he drives to the convention center can meet up that afternoon before heading out. Later that evening, CTA 20/30 people will have a gathering; food, snacks, and music will invite all present to celebrate being alive.

Equally Blessed (a coalition of CTA, Dignity USA, Fortunate Families, and New Ways Ministry) is coordinating a pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families September 22-25. There are currently 12 diverse families, 22 people, who will represent Equally Blessed and offer a living witness for the need to expand the idea of what a family looks like. To learn more, check out [www.equally-blessed.org](http://www.equally-blessed.org). To follow the day-to-day action of the pilgrims, tune into CTA's "Philly News Blog" at [www.cta-usa.org/w-m-f](http://www.cta-usa.org/w-m-f).

CTA, in conjunction with Catholic Organizations for Reform (COR), have put together a number of resources for CTA Chapters and other groups to use for Pope Francis' visit. The "Love is Our Mission: A Church for All" toolkit includes press releases, talking points, prayer services, and

more. It can be found online at [www.church-4-all.org](http://www.church-4-all.org).

In July, CTA in partnership with Catholics for Choice and CORPUS convened a forum to discuss women's issues in the Catholic Church. "What Francis Needs to Know" was held at the Chicago Theological Seminary and was live-streamed across the nation. A wide variety of speakers and presenters gave voice to stumbling blocks that women face in the Church today: the inability of women to fully minister in an ecclesial setting, the subtle, and not so subtle, ways women are discriminated against in the Church, sex, sexuality, and the intersection of women's role with family life. At the end of the day, there was a declaration, offering specific ways there can be greater inclusion and respect of women in the Catholic Church. To view archived video of the forum and read the entire statement, go to [www.cta-usa.org/womens-forum](http://www.cta-usa.org/womens-forum)

With webinars, mini-courses, and retreats on the docket, Aaron and I are grateful to be on the CTA staff and rubbing elbows with the Church: namely, the people of God.

**The JUSTCHURCH program includes initiatives in the areas of racial justice, women's equality, LGBT justice, lay empowerment, & church worker justice.**

Get the latest JUSTCHURCH news on the JUSTCHURCH blog!

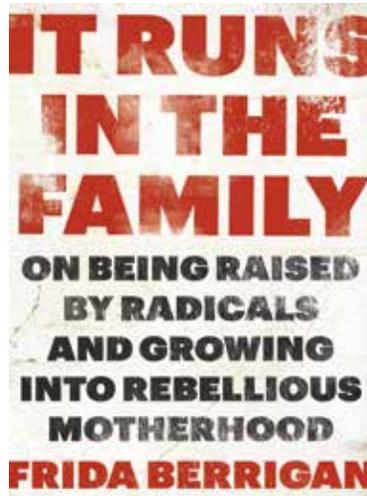
[WWW.CTA-USA.ORG/UPDATES](http://WWW.CTA-USA.ORG/UPDATES)

For complete media coverage, visit: [www.cta-usa.org/media-center](http://www.cta-usa.org/media-center)

### Waging Nonviolence, continued

There were ten adults and half that many kids, all living together in a tall skinny row house with a tiny yard in the middle of Baltimore. Our food was bought in bulk or salvaged from dumpsters and always shared with hundreds of hungry neighbors. The mice, cockroaches, and moths loved our abundant, haphazardly stored provisions. The calendar was chock-full of meetings, demonstrations, and arrests. In the bitter cold, driving rain, stultifying heat (and, occasionally, on a gorgeous, balmy spring day) we picketed the White House, vigiled the Pentagon, harangued the Department of Energy (which oversees U.S. nuclear weapons), and protested at the Capitol. We spent a lot of time in court houses too.

My mom and dad estimated that they spent eleven years of their twenty-nine-year marriage separated by prison. We celebrated birthdays, graduations, and other milestones in prison visiting rooms.



A lot of our family communication happened through letters. But over the years, we built and maintained deep, loving relationships, even when separated by bars and chain-link fences, and across distances great and small.

In June of 2011, I married Patrick Sheehan-Gaumer. We have three kids and now that I have a family of my own, I appreciate my parents even more. They set the bar so

high. They were able to be peace activists, conscientious human beings, inspiring leaders, nonviolent revolutionaries...and good parents. They raised me and my brother Jerry and my sister Kate into three complicated, thoughtful, driven people who are striving to lead meaningful, loving, integrated lives.

I cannot replicate the circumstances of my upbringing—nor would I want to. But I have so much to learn from my parents about how to listen to the still small voice of conscience within amid the cacophony of children.

*Frida Berrigan will be a presenter at the 2015 CTA conference. She serves on the board of The War Resisters League, a 90-year-old pacifist organization, and helped to found Witness Against Torture, a nonviolent direct action group focused on shutting down Guantánamo and ending torture. For book information (or to order) visit <http://www.orbooks.com/catalog/it-runs-in-the-family/>*

---

### Executive Director letter, continued

In February, vision council members Rosa Manriquez and David Saavedra participated in a Mexico City conference consisting of representatives of Comunidades Eclesiais de Base, small faith communities throughout Mexico and Central/South America. The fruitful exchange of vision for the church and justice activism has resulted in a delegation from the Comunidades Eclesiais de Base from various countries to present and participate at Call To Action's national

conference in November. Reports from both events are offered in greater detail in this edition of CTA *News and Notes*.

This year's conference promises to be an invigorating weekend that will serve as a critical point in CTA's reinvention. If you haven't done so already, make sure to register soon and plan to join us in Milwaukee November 6-8!

As always, I'm blessed to be on this path of inspiration and transformation with you. In this season of lifting up Catholic family life, know I am holding all Catholics and their families in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jim FitzGerald'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim FitzGerald, Executive Director

For more information about chapters, visit: [www.cta-usa.org/chapters](http://www.cta-usa.org/chapters)

## Collaboration with Asian Theological Forum

From August 16-26, 2015, the Asian Youth Academy and Asian Theological Forum (AYA/ATF) convened in Manila, Philippines. Theologians, priests and other professionals delivered a program for 60 young lay leaders from across Asia. The conference themes were Women's Issues and Ecological Sustainability, all folded under the mantle of peacemaking.

I was privileged to represent Call To Action at the meeting. My role was to present a summary of U.S. reactions to Pope Francis' climate change encyclical "Laudato Si," but as teachers often say, I learned far more than I offered.

Young people presented sessions on ministries in their home countries where they work with the poor in their own dioceses; with abused domestic workers or women abducted into the sex trade; with indigenous people threatened by ecological disaster caused by climate change or by the greedy development plans of governments and corporations; with oppressed minorities such as LGBT people; and with many others, from the hungry to homeless to refugees. It was inspiring to see the energy and commitment of these young people to live the Gospel!

The professionals included priests committed to interfaith engagement, especially imperative in most nations in Asia. While the Philippine people are 85% Christian, and most of those Catholic, most of the young people work in nations where Catholics are a tiny minority.

We heard from a Muslim scholar

who explained the historical roots of the Islamic fundamentalism we see today and who vigorously denied that such groups as ISIS have any legitimate claim to Islam.



Filipino Woman Addresses Participants

A diocesan Japanese bishop who also heads Caritas Asia described ministering to interfaith marriages of Catholic Philippine women with Buddhist farmers in his country.

I was privileged to hear feminist theologians and women religious from India and Pakistan, the latter a nation where it is risky even to be Christian, let alone feminist. Did you even know that feminist theologians worked in such places? I didn't!

I was humbled to learn of a Dalit man who with his own people asserted their land ownership rights in India. The Dalit were the lowest caste in India's Hindu caste system, formerly known as the "Untouchables," and most converting to Catholicism generations ago.

Our lodging and conference sessions were at the Notre Dame de

Vie Retreat House in Quezon City, Manila, one of the world's "mega-cities" – three times the size of New York City. The bishop celebrated Mass for us, as did several other priests, a multi-cultural crew including Asian natives and western missionaries who had worked in Asia for decades.

One evening, a Cultural Celebration featured participants performing songs and dances in their native garb, even our Japanese bishop wore a t-shirt while singing Karaoke! Have you ever even seen a bishop in a t-shirt? I hadn't!

The strongest "take-away" for me was the strength with which lay leadership is emerging in the Asian Catholic Church. In the U.S., we worry about declining numbers of priests, but the ratio of priests to Catholics throughout Asia makes our situation look like an embarrassment of riches, not to mention raises ethical questions about our "recruitment" of priests from Asia and Africa.

This was an experience I will never forget. Fortunately, all of you will be able to find out more about this: the chief organizer, Paul Hwang, a Korean theologian who has been creating these gatherings for many years, will join us at the 2015 CTA conference in Milwaukee. Don't miss this opportunity to meet him and learn what insights the Asian Church has to offer us!

*Reflection written by Kathleen Schatzberg, Call To Action Vision Council Member & Development Committee Chairperson.*

## Jennifer Haselberger 2015 Leadership Award Recipient

Ms. Haselberger resigned her post as canonical Chancellor of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Diocese in 2013 after becoming the whistleblower who brought attention to the mishandling of clergy sexual abuse allegations by the diocese. The ensuing scandal eventually led to the June 2015 resignation of both Archbishop John Nienstedt and Auxiliary Bishop Lee Piché.



Call to Action applauds Ms. Haselberger's courage and integrity. Without her brave decision to leave her job and talk to the media, we would still not know of the botched

handling of these serious allegations. Her commitment and persistence made a difference for individuals and families not only in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Diocese, but potentially all over the country.

Haselberger's witness demonstrates the ugly ills of clericalism, secrecy, and irresponsibility that can pervade institutional ranks. It further demonstrates the necessity to continue to be diligent in demanding our Church be open, transparent, and accountable to both Catholics and oversight authorities.

*Call To Action will honor Haselberger on Sunday morning of the upcoming Call To Action Conference for her extraordinary leadership and service to our church and world.*

## Call To Action & Comunidades Eclesiais de Base

The Comunidades Eclesiais de Base (Base Ecclesial Communities - CEB) are inclusive Christian (mainly Catholic) communities inspired by liberation theology after the Second Vatican Council (1962 - 1965). These communities evolved and grew throughout the 1970s and 1980s in Central/South America. Communities form to be in solidarity with those on the margins and incorporate Christian spirituality with social and political awareness and justice work.

Call To Action vision council members David Saavedra, Rosa Manriquez, and CTA Conference Liturgy Coordinator Don Pribor traveled to Mexico to participate with Jim FitzGerald, CTA Executive Director attending via Skype. Dialogue and exchange between CTA and CEB highlighted how the challenges both organizations face are so similar. Both want to widen the circle of influence with people we touch, especially young people. Both

sprouted from a close experience and support with the Catholic Church but no longer find that to be its sole inspiration.

Both have a profound interest in being in solidarity with those on the margins, especially concerning issues of migration and immigration that continue to affect families and young people as well as ecological justice that addresses basic availability to food and water.

Believing that ongoing dialogue is essential in identifying those intersections that will provide energy, growth, and understanding for both organizations, a CEB delegation will



be attending and presenting at Call To Action's 2015 national conference in Milwaukee. Both CTA and CEB are hopeful that CTA representatives will attend the 2016 CEB gathering in Paraguay.

*Pictured above: Call To Action representatives and Mexican base ecclesial community members gather for prayer. Reflection by David Saavedra, Call To Action Vision Council & Antiracism Team Member.*

## Women's Forum Highlights Need for Ongoing Dialogue



Panelists gather for their session "Always at the Center, but Never at the Front? The role of women in the Church."

A one-day forum on July 25 at Chicago Theological Seminary examined and discussed Pope Francis' reforms in the Catholic church with a focus on the largely ignored concern of the role of women in the church. Speakers included experts in church history, Catholic theology, and the lived experience of Catholic women.

Each session included a moderated question and answer period

between the panelists and the audience and spoke to the need for ongoing dialogue between women in the Church, Catholics, and those in the hierarchy. Women's equality and the inclusion of women's voices in Church decision-making continues to be both a struggle and challenge.

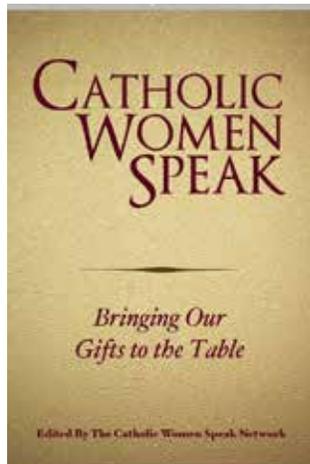
*The forum was recorded and can be viewed online, including the forum's declaration, at: [cta-usa.org/womens-forum](http://cta-usa.org/womens-forum).*

### Resource Spotlight

## Catholic Women Speak: Bringing our Gifts to the Table

This unique anthology brings together 44 contributors from around the world, including well-known Catholic women theologians, up-and-coming theological voices from the Global South, and reflections from women sharing personal stories of faith.

Contributors include Anne Arabome, Tina Beattie, Agnes Brazal, Lisa Sowle Cahill, Margaret Farley, Astrid Lobo Gajiwala, Cristina Lledo Gomez, Nontando Hadebe, Elizabeth Johnson, Ursula King, Sara



Maitland, Cettina Militello, Jean Porter, Carolina del Rio, Lucetta Scaraffia, and many more.

Rhonda Miska, a leader in Call To Action's 20/30 young adult community, will

be one of the contributors featured in the Catholic Women Speak Network's anthology.

The book is being published (Paulist Press, 2015) in advance of the October 2015 Synod on the Family. The contributors believe that women have vital contributions to make to these discussions.

*To learn more about this project, visit [www.catholicwomenspeak.com](http://www.catholicwomenspeak.com)*

## Chapters Offer Great Fall Programming Options

Visit [www.cta-usa.org/calendar](http://www.cta-usa.org/calendar) for a full listing of fall programming events, descriptions, and contact information.

Chapters, organizations, faith communities, etc. can also use the link to **submit** items to be listed on the Call To Action calendar.



# CALL TO ACTION

Inspire Catholics, Transform Church

# News & Notes



## 2015 Call To Action Conference - Milwaukee

November 6-8

**FINAL CALL FOR  
REGISTRATION!**

[cta-usa.org/conference](http://cta-usa.org/conference)

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Chicago, IL  
Permit #9867

### Change of Address / Contact Information

If you've changed your mailing or email address, phone number or other primary contact information, please let us know so we can keep in touch.

Changes can be emailed to [edits@cta-usa.org](mailto:edits@cta-usa.org)

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our records current.