



Responding to the Pope's Challenge

Pope Francis arrived for his first visit to the United States to great fanfare and anticipation. Given the pope's humble Franciscan roots and his willingness to speak so forcefully about social justice issues, all of us at IWJ wondered how Francis would craft his message, particularly in his speech to a joint-session of Congress.

Perhaps the only people disappointed in the pope's visit were those who hoped that Francis would temper his message given the pervasive economic inequality that exists in the United States today. Whether he was speaking to elected lawmakers in Washington, DC, worshippers in New York City, or activists in Philadelphia, Francis never wavered from his message of ending the "throwaway" economy, valuing labor and workers, and giving anyone who puts in an honest day's work the ability to sustain a family.

The pope's message presents America with a challenge. It transcends partisan agendas and appeals to the values that we all share as a nation. The value of family. The value of hard work. The value of love for our neighbors.

As Pope Francis has noted, "the word 'solidarity' maintains its prophetic force today, even though some people may have thought the term had seen its day."

In the coming months, we will keep Francis's words and spirit in mind as we refocus and deepen our fight to end wage theft, to win a national living wage and paid leave policy, and to strengthen and enforce workplace safety regulations.

Living out Francis' Message

On November 10 we joined tens of thousands of working people at city halls across the country to declare ourselves "15 voters" and

Faith leaders joined federal contract workers who went on strike Sept. 22, calling for \$15 an hour and a union.



commit to voting and volunteering for the presidential candidates who lead the way on establishing a national living wage.

In the third week of November, IWJ affiliates from coast to coast participated in our annual Wage Theft Day of Action to celebrate successful campaigns to pass laws against wage theft and recover wages, expose businesses that regularly engage in wage theft, and launch a brand new website full of resources to help end wage theft in America once and for all.

And as the holiday season gets into full swing, the IWJ network will make sure that Black Friday shoppers are aware of the low wages, lack of set schedule and paid leave, and long hours that so many workers have to endure during the busiest shopping days of the year.

Realizing Pope Francis's vision for an economy that truly values workers and their labor won't happen overnight. But every day that we act is one day closer to a truly just society. The IWJ network will continue to act with the pope's words in mind: "Please, let us fight for this: the justice of work."

IWJ Receives Bradford O'Neil Award for Social Justice

IWJ Executive Director Rudy López accepted the award from Dominican University on behalf of IWJ. Following are excerpts from his speech:

I accept this award on behalf of our network as a whole and the tremendous work they have done over the past 19 years and as a down payment for the work to come. There is so much yet to do and our network of faith and labor groups and worker centers look forward to working with those who share our common values.

For those of us who are people of faith those values and ideals are rooted in our faith. It is through our life experience we find ways to give shape and life to it in the real world.

Brothers and sisters, let me tell you, we have much good to do together. Each in our own way according to the vocation we are called. It is indeed our Life's work to share God's love, which can be seen in many forms: justice, compassion, charity, empowerment, healing and much more. Whatever way you choose, we have a responsibility to share it with others. We all have tremendous gifts and if we work together to move a set of common values, rooted in faith or in our life's experience, we can do incredible things and make incredible changes.

Thank you again for this honor and may God bless you all.



Invest in the Work of Justice
Give to IWJ at <http://bit.ly/FallFW>

The Blessing of Faithful Givers

Following are excerpts from a Q&A with Ian Robinson, a longtime member of the Faithful Givers Club, IWJ's monthly sustainer program.

Tell us about your work in the social justice movement and anything else about yourself.

About 10 years ago I became active in social justice, organizing non-tenure track faculty at the University of Michigan. I became a union officer with the Huron Valley Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO) at the state level. Eventually, they asked if I would run for president of that body, and after a little thinking I decided it would be an excellent endeavor. The Central Labor Councils are really interesting because they create room for non-union labor council members to organize, and also promote organizing on a local level, which is really critical to building worker power in our community.

Why is IWJ's work important to you?

Around 2006, while still in the thick of leading the faculty union, I began working with a class on labor in North America. I studied the causes behind the great migration out of Mexico and what happened to people after they arrived in the United States. As part of the course, we used to go Nogales, Arizona and meet with individuals trying to immigrate to the United States, as well as with activists on both sides of the border. At one point I had a particularly talented group that determined after the visit that we needed to build a worker center. As I looked around for development support, I found IWJ. With the help of both IWJ and National Domestic Workers Alli-

ance, we were able to establish a worker center. IWJ is important to me because of that support. After building the worker center, I became even more aware of IWJ's work and leadership, as well as the need for organizations to help represent workers in parts of the economy where unions are not present (especially in the immigration and low-wage sectors). IWJ has been instrumental in many other aspects of social justice and continues to impress me with the breadth and depth of their work.



Help sustain the work of justice. Join the Faithful Givers Club! Go to <http://bit.ly/FallFW> or use the enclosed envelope to start your recurring contribution TODAY!

photo credit: CTUL



country on November 10 symbolized a renewal of our commitment to stay alongside workers in the Fight for 15. As we head into this 2016 election season, we're not only demanding \$15 and a union for fast food workers, we're also letting candidates know that many of us are \$15 voters. For those of us who vote, we're looking for candidates who support policies that touch many aspects of workers lives': we can only take candidates seriously who also support \$15 and a union for fast food workers, childcare providers, and home care providers. We can only entertain candidates who understand that Black Lives Matter and that there is a dire need for reform in our immigration system.

We vote our values. We vote for \$15 an hour and a union.

IWJ affiliate Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha turned out big and strong to Fight for \$15 on Nov. 10.

Reclaiming Stolen Wages

In August, the IWJ network met in Chicago for a three day convening on wage theft. During a story-circle on the last day of the meeting, twenty participants took turns sharing any experience they might have had with wage theft. The results were shocking. Every single person in the room, regardless of age, occupation, or ethnicity had been a victim of wage theft at some point in their working lives.

This point underscores the disturbing truth that wage theft is deeply-rooted in our economy that many workers don't even realize that they have been victimized or that there are steps that they can take to fight back.

In Brooklyn, Worker Justice Project organized a demonstration outside of the apartment of Samuel Just, owner of a cleaning service, who was arrested after former employees, some of whom had worked more than 24 hours without rest, filed a complaint about not being paid for their work. Despite the arrest, Just only agreed to pay after days of protesting in his neighborhood.

In Michigan, The Micah Center spent four months campaigning for a week of wages for a worker who had been victimized by a notorious local contractor. The campaign was finally able to secure payment to the worker and provide an important example of how to fight back for other workers who had not been paid by the contractor.

In Nashville, Workers Dignity concluded a successful year-long campaign to force Marriott Hotels to pay its hospitality workers wages they were owed for cleaning rooms, forcing the billion dollar corporation to pay up.

And just in the past few weeks in California and New York, Governors Brown and Cuomo have signed

legislation to combat wage theft and other forms of worker injustice.

These victories are cause for celebration. But they are also just the tip of a very large iceberg. Wage theft in America costs workers hundreds of billions of dollars every year. According to a recent study from UCLA, in Los Angeles alone, workers lose \$26 million every week to wage theft. It's wrong and it needs to end.

That's why the IWJ network is launching a national website to help end wage theft in America for good. The website will feature tools for individuals and organizations to recover stolen wages and templates to pass anti-wage theft legislation at the city, county, and state levels. We'll also work to pass a national standard to outlaw wage theft. It's an ambitious project, but we're confident that working together, we can ensure every worker is paid what they are owed.

On Nov. 18 workers and communities across the country participated in a National Day of Action to stop wage theft. Visit www.wagetheft.org for more information.

Ready To End Theft Against Workers?

Help build the Wage Theft website with a gift today: <http://bit.ly/EndWageTheftWebsite>

IWJ Board

President: The Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry • Vice-President: Bishop Howard Hubbard
Board Development Chair: Ms. Kathy Saile • Fundraising Chair: Mr. Jules Bernstein
Communications Chair: Mr. Naeem Baig • Organizing Chair: The Rev. Troy Jackson

Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali • Mr. Patrick Carolan • Rabbi Laurie Coskey • Mr. Phil Cubeta • The Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel • Imam Taha Hassane • The Rev. John Franklin Hay • Mr. John Hill • Rabbi Jill Jacobs • Ms. Colleen Kilbride • Mr. Jeff Korgen • The Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker Langston • Ms. Susan Leslie • The Rev. Michael Livingston • Dr. Joseph A. McCartin • Mr. Ralph McCloud • The Rev. Doug Mork • Mr. David H. Moskowitz • Mr. Todd O'Malley • Mr. Marcos Lucio Popovich • The Rev. Frank Raines III • Ms. Edith Rasell • Mr. Fred Redmond • Rabbi Elizabeth Richman • Mr. Corey Saylor • The Rev. Jim Sessions • Ms. Marilyn Sneiderman • The Rev. Bill Somplatsky-Jarman • Dr. Jerry Taylor • The Rev. David Wildman
Special Advisors: Bishop Jesse DeWitt • The Rev. Jim Lawson • The Rev. Joseph Echols Lowery • Rabbi Robert Marx

IWJ Staff

Janel Bailey • Sung Yeon Choimorrow • Cathy Junia • Rudy López • Laura McCann • Julian Medrano • Marién Casillas Pabellón • Ian Pajer-Rogers • Thomas Shellabarger • Mayumi Swanson • Jana Winch • Allison Zidek

For detailed Board and Staff information visit: www.iwj.org/about/board or www.iwj.org/about/staff

Faith Works is produced by IWJ's Communications Department. For questions, corrections and story suggestions contact Communications Director, Cathy Junia, at cjunia@iwj.org or call 773-728-8400 x40.

Tis the Season to Give Thanks and Give Back

NOVEMBER

A Month of Action: Hungry for Justice

Please visit www.iwj.org or sign up at <http://bit.ly/iwjactivist> to receive updates and information on upcoming actions and events

- 11/26 **Thanksgiving Day** – Remember the workers who make holiday celebrations possible. Go to www.iwj.org for sample prayers and suggested activities with the family.
- 11/27 **Black Friday** – Give back to your community. Volunteer at our local soup kitchen or food bank. Support struggling Walmart workers in your community by delivering a letter to their store manager. Resources at www.iwj.org.
- 11/29 **First Sunday of Advent** – Lift workers up in prayer this season. Download an Advent devotional at www.iwj.org.
- 11/30 **Cyber Monday** – Participate in online actions supporting warehouse workers. More info at www.iwj.org.

DECEMBER

- 12/1 **Giving Tuesday!** Chip in for Justice @ <http://bit.ly/FallFW>
- 12/7-14 **Hanukkah** – Download prayer guides at www.iwj.org
- 12/15 **IWJ Faith Works Awards Celebration** – Washington D.C.
- 12/25 **Christmas Day** – Give a gift to IWJ: <http://bit.ly/FallFW>
- 12/28 **Ooops!** – Don't miss out on your chance to give TO change <http://bit.ly/FallFW>
- 12/31 **COUNTDOWN to 2016!** – You have until midnight to give: <http://bit.ly/FallFW>

Share Your Blessings...

Behind every bountiful celebration and wrapped present is a worker who barely makes enough to enjoy the products of their labor. Honor the hopeful and loving spirit of the season by supporting workers' efforts to improve their conditions at work and in their communities.

MAKE A GIFT HERE: <http://bit.ly/FallFW> or use the enclosed envelope to send in your contribution.

*** Gifts of \$250 or more will receive a 2016 IWJ wall calendar ***

*Everybody can be great...
because anybody can
serve.*

You don't have to
have a college degree to serve.

You don't have to
make your subject and verb agree
to serve.

*You only need a
heart full of grace.
A soul
generated by love.*

– Martin Luther King, Jr.



STOP WAGE THEFT

NOW

Website LIVE!

Thanks to the support of 20-plus donors (and counting) we successfully relaunched WAGETHEFT.ORG on Nov. 18. The new site will serve as the hub for the IWJ Network's campaign against wage theft.

Thanks again to the first set of donors who made the launch possible. Please check out what you helped make happen!

More work needs to be done! Support the full build out of the new site. Give to <http://bit.ly/wagetheftwebsite>.

Inside Scoop

We're happy to share some changes in our leadership team: former Worker Center Coordinator, Marién Casillas Pabellón joined the team as Organizing Director, as the Rev. Sung Yeon Choimorrow moved over to fill in the newly created role of Director of Strategic Partnerships.

The organization also welcomed two new additions to the Communications and Development team: Ian Pajer-Rogers, Digital Advocacy and Fundraising Strategist; and Laura McCann, Individual Outreach Coordinator.

FYI...

Do you know the HUMAN cost of chicken?

Find out here:
<http://bit.ly/poultryreport>

"We're not asking you to stop eating chicken. We're simply asking to be treated as human beings."

–Bacilio Castro
Former poultry worker



Please consider making a generous contribution to IWJ. Mail in your gift using the enclosed envelope or donate online at <http://bit.ly/FallFW>.



1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 728-8400
www.iwj.org

Come Celebrate With Us!

faith WORKS

IWJ Annual Awards

**December 15 • St. Mark's Episcopal Church,
Washington D.C.**

For tickets visit: <http://bit.ly/faithworksawards>

For sponsorship and ad placement, contact **Laura McCann**
at LMcCann@iwj.org or (773) 728-8400 ext. 30



The Rev. Clete Kiley,
*Director for Immigration Policy,
UNITE HERE; Special Advisor
to the Archbishop of Chicago*



**The National
Organizing
Committee
for the Fight
for \$15**



Mr. Mario Mercado,
Organizer, Worker's Dignity

IWJ Affiliate Network

For detailed contact information, please visit www.iwj.org.

Interfaith Groups

Arkansas Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice – Little Rock, AR
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)—LA – Los Angeles, CA
East Bay Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy – Oakland, CA
Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice in San Diego – San Diego, CA
Interfaith Council on Economics and Justice – San Jose, CA
IWJ-Colorado/FRESC for Good Jobs and Strong Communities – Denver, CO
La Plata County Thrive! – Durango, CO
Connecticut Center for a New Economy – Hartford – Hartford, CT
D.C. Jobs with Justice—Interfaith Worker Justice of Greater Washington – Washington, DC
Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida – Immokalee, FL
DuPage Interfaith Worker Justice – Naperville, IL
Community, Faith and Labor Coalition – Indianapolis, IN
Interfaith Worker Justice of Kansas – Wichita, KS
Interfaith Worker Justice Southern Maine – Portland, ME

IWJ of Maryland – Baltimore, MD
Massachusetts Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice – Boston, MA
Interfaith Worker Justice of Rochester – Rochester, MN
Interfaith Worker Justice—New Mexico – Santa Fe, NM
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition – New York, NY
Labor-Religion Coalition – Latham, NY
Greater Binghamton Labor-Religion Coalition – Vestal, NY
Beloved Community Center – Greensboro, NC
Cincinnati Interfaith Committee on Worker Justice – Cincinnati, OH
Central Oklahoma Community Forum – Oklahoma City, OK
Religious Outreach Committee/Portland Jobs with Justice – Portland, OR
Labor-Religion Coalition of Western Pennsylvania – Pittsburgh, PA
Philadelphia Area Jobs with Justice – Philadelphia, PA
Interfaith Worker Justice of East Tennessee – Knoxville, TN
O.U.R. Vanderbilt – Nashville, TN
Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice of South Central Wisconsin – Madison, WI

Worker Centers

Winning our Wages Worker Center – Birmingham, AL
Arizona Worker Rights Center – Phoenix, AZ
Southside Workers Center – Tucson, AZ
Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center – Springdale, AR
Pilipino Workers Center – Los Angeles, CA
Young Workers United – San Francisco, CA
South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice* – Miami, FL
Economic Justice Coalition – Athens, GA
Workers Center for Racial Justice – Chicago, IL
Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa – Iowa City, IA
Food AND Medicine/Eastern Maine Worker Center – Brewer, ME
Southern Maine Workers' Center – Portland, ME
MassCOSH – Dorchester, MA
The Micah Center* – Grand Rapids, MI
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha – Minneapolis, MN
Greater Minnesota Worker Center – St. Cloud, MN
New Labor – New Brunswick, NJ
Damayan Migrant Workers Center – New York, NY

Restaurant Opportunity Center (ROC) of New York – New York, NY
Worker Justice Project – Brooklyn, NY
Tompkins County Workers' Center – Ithaca, NY
Don Bosco Workers, Inc. – Rochester, NY
Workers' Center of Central New York – Syracuse, NY
Western North Carolina Workers' Center – Marion, NC
Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center – Cincinnati, OH
Workers' Interfaith Network* – Memphis, TN
Workers' Dignity Project – Nashville, TN
Workers' Defense Project/Proyecto Defensa Laboral – Austin, TX
Fe Y Justicia Worker Center (formerly Houston Interfaith Worker Justice Center) – Houston, TX
Community to Community Development – Bellingham, WA
Madison Workers' Rights Center – Madison, WI
Voces de la Frontera – Milwaukee, WI

Support the work of IWJ!
Donate at
<http://bit.ly/FallFW>

* Both an Interfaith Group and Worker Center