BECOMING NEIGHBOURS, a Joint Apostolic Ministry

"Together in Ministry for a better Toronto"

Greetings to all of our dear Becoming Neighbours friends,

These days as we journey into immersing ourselves more fully into the grace of the Easter Triduum, a journey leading us through the passion and death of Jesus to the Resurrection of Christ, our thoughts and prayers are united with each one of you. Through our many encounters with you, we are so aware of how the power of the Resurrection moves our lives through the gift of the grace of the Spirit. This struck us even more poignantly with the deaths of Sisters SUSAN DALY, GSIC; CLARICE GARVEY, OLM; VERONICA O'REILLY, CSJ, prophetic witnesses of women aligning themselves with the marginalized, feisty, compassionate women who passionately loved God and the poor.

For all of us connected with the ministry of Becoming Neighbours, the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus is constantly being witnessed in the lives of so many newcomers whom we are privileged to accompany and who accompany us in our collective journey. The Easter Triduum presents the opportunity for us to express our love and gratitude to each one of you for the witness of your PRAYER, PRESENCE, and SOLIDARITY.

As you know, last Thursday April 11, the Ontario Provincial budget was released. Unfortunately, as anticipated, the Legal Aid budget has been seriously affected. In addition to cutting all provincial funding for the Immigration and Refugee program, there has been a 30% cut overall to the provincial funding for Legal Aid Ontario (LAO). This will have serious effects for all areas of poverty law--family, criminal, employment, income, housing and the list goes on. As of yesterday, Tuesday April 16, Legal Aid Ontario stopped accepting new immigration and refugee clients, stopping all funding for new legal services for immigration and refugee clients, except for the preparation of asylum claim forms.

"**WHAT CAN WE DO?** THERE ARE MANY THINGS AT THIS POINT:" See Attachment.

Conscious refugees are the "Crucified" of today,
let us sit vigil with one another and engage in "remembering,"
making present the Christ who unites us beyond death to NEW LIFE.

Lois Anne Bordowitz, FCJ Peter McKenna, SCJ

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