

# Servite Coalition for Justice



## Mission Statement

*We Servites are rooted in the Scriptures, where Mary is the liberating response to oppression and poverty. Through this woman, we have an entry point for confronting injustice, beginning with the injustice to women.*

The **Servite Coalition for Justice (SCJ)** — laity, sisters, and friars of the Servants of Mary in the United States of America — strives to bring about a just and peaceful world by:

**Sponsoring retreats** to further their own conversion process, such as:

- Conferences and presentations entitled “Putting Mary Back into History” (1992)
- A retreat centered on Servite Ministry in a hurting world (1994)
- An inter-cultural retreat conducted by Sister Corona Mary from India (1998)
- A combined Servite retreat reflecting on the Magnificat for friars, laity, and sisters (2002)

**Organizing OSM Intercommunity Public Policy Network** focused on global Servite issues, as well as issues impacting women and children (1993-2002)

**Undertaking a U.S. Social Justice Survey** of OSSMs and OSMs and sharing results at UNIFAS-USA (2000)

**Planning programs** to raise consciousness, build support networks, and promote social justice actions—including:

- Assisting Servites to experience first hand the situation in Nicaragua (1988)
- Organizing a conference entitled “Fashioning the Servite Charism for the Third Millennium” (1991)
- Participating in UNIFAS, national and international Servite gatherings, in Montreal (1993), Chicago (2000), Mexico City (2006), Portland (2007), and Rio de Janeiro (2010)
- Initiating and organizing a border experience in El Paso involving Servites from Canada, Britain, Ireland, Mexico, and the U.S.A. (1996)

- Organizing an awareness experience in Brazil, focusing on Servite missions and Amazonian Rain Forest issues (2005)
- Arranging a speaking tour in seven U.S.A. cities for Sister Lina Boff, OSM, PhD, renowned theologian at the Pontifical University, Rio de Janeiro (2006)
- Featuring Dr. F. Javier Orozco, SFO’s presentation, *Mary, Lowly Servant of Creation*, in honor of SCJ’s 25th anniversary celebration (2009, English; 2010, Spanish)

**Establishing networks and connections** with:

- Communities of Secular Servites; Servite women religious of Blue Island, Ladysmith, Plainfield, Omaha; Friars Servants of Mary, U.S.A. Province
- Justice and Peace Secretariat of the Servite Order

**Publishing** in booklet format:

- John Pawlikowski, OSM’s presentation *Putting Mary Back into History* (1997)
- Lina Boff, OSM’s book *Mary and the Feminine of God: For a Marian Spirituality*, originally published in Portuguese in Brazil (2007)

**Translating** Heitor Turrini, OSM’s, book *Amazonia Desconocida* from Portuguese into English (2008)

**Preparing Seven Sorrows Rosary Meditations** (Spanish and English, in brochure format) focusing on life (2004)

**Giving presentations** on social justice teachings, issues, and actions (ongoing)

## History of the Coalition

The coalition was formed after the joint 1983 Servite Celebration marking the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Servites, the Order of Servants of Mary. SCJ is an effort to build on the collaboration experienced in that event. Moreover, the SCJ seeks to focus Servite energy on works of justice and peace. For further information, contact Cecilia Fandel, OSM: 1-773-973-4812; <cecilia.fandel@rcn.com>.

*Servants of Mary for Justice and Peace*



*Servite Coalition for Justice*  
U.S. Servants of Mary  
Laiety, Sisters, and Friars