**Dear JVs, October 3, 2016**

It’s hard to believe that it’s been 2 months since we’ve said our in-person goodbyes at Camp Adams and many of you have already started your area visits with your Program Coordinators! This is the first of what we hope will be several resource letters we send this year. We send it on paper because we have found in the past that emailed newsletters weren’t sparking as many conversations and also contributed to that tension of technology and simple living. We hope this newsletter is full of interesting info, resources and ideas for you and your communities.

These resource letters are not all-encompassing – we can only cover a few resources related to the values. I especially feel this scarcity as we broach the vast conversation of racial violence in our country. There are some resources below to help move the conversation along in your communities, yet I recognize that we cannot possibly do justice for the lives lost to racial violence. We also lift up the amazing organizing of the Standing Rock Sioux as they protect their land from the Dakota Access Pipeline. As an organization and Jesuit Volunteers committed to social and ecological justice, we say that we are not separate from this violence; we must stand with those communities with marginalized identities. At the same time, it’s crucial to make time for care – for yourself, for your community mates, for those you serve at your placements.

These resources are contributed to us from staff, JVs, and Former JVs in our network. If you have a resource to share, please send it to me at [cchu@jvcnorthwest.org](mailto:cchu@jvcnorthwest.org). Please post this letter in a central location so everyone can read it! We will also post this letter on the JV resource page on our website: <http://jvcnorthwest.org/jvresources/16-17>

I look forward to seeing many of you during retreats throughout the year, and would love to see you if you’re in Portland or if I’m coming through your area. Please be in touch with the office!

Peace to you and your communities,

Carolyn

**Presidential Voting Year – Register Soon for Nov 8 elections**

Election Day is November 8, 2016! If you want to stay registered in your hometown, be sure to request an absentee ballot. Otherwise, to vote locally, you’ll need to register to vote at your current address before the deadline (which varies, state-to-state).

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| **State** | **Voter Registration Due – Postmark** | **Voter Registration Due – In Person** |
| Alaska | October 9 | October 9 |
| Idaho | October 14 | November 8 (election day) |
| Montana | October 11 | November 8 (election day) |
| Oregon | October 18 | October 18 |
| Washington | October 8 | October 31 |

You can learn more about applying for an absentee ballot from your home state, and about local issues that are on your ballot, by typing your current or permanent address into the homepage of this site: <http://www.vote411.org/>. You and your community mates can fill out voter registration cards, sign up for reminder texts, and declare your community a 100% voting community through this site, which is the website for Nuns on the Bus, <https://networklobby.org/election2016/>. With your resource letter, we’ve also included “An Ignatian Examen for Civic Life” from the Ignatian Solidarity Network. Please read this wonderful resource!

**In Solidarity with Standing Rock**

As allies with Native Americans and First Nations people, we lift up the work of the Standing Rock tribe and other Native communities as they protect their Sacred Lands from the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Find updates from the protest at democracynow.com or by using #NoDAPL. Where in your locales do you see a similar intersection of social, racial, and ecological justice?

**Continued Racial Violence**

With heavy hearts, we bear witness to the violence and trauma across the United States, especially in Columbus, Tulsa, and Charlotte. Since justice begins at home, we hope that your communities are engaging in dialogue of the Black Lives Matter movement and how to be agents of change to fight injustices. How you can bring national issues of justice back to your home and community? In what ways are you reflecting on your role as an agent of change or ally/accomplice in your JV house?

**Northwest Earth Institute’s EcoChallenge October 14-28**

EcoChallenge gives you the tools and inspiration to reduce your impact on the planet and contribute to a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future. Commit to one small, intentional change to better the planet for two weeks. Choose from pre-selected challenges in areas such as Transportation, Water, Food, Trash, and more, or create your own challenge. Sign up for the EcoChallenge here (<http://2016.ecochallenge.org/>) to engage solo or join a team. The staff of JVC Northwest participate in the challenge each year -- feel free to join the [JVC Northwest team](http://2016.ecochallenge.org/teams/jvc-northwest) or to compete against us!

**JVC Northwest Ruined Readers Book Club**

Maybe you remember talking to FJV Morningstar Stevenson at the Simple Living Fair at Orientation in August? Registration for the final meetings of 2016 of the Ruined Readers Book Club based on Spirituality *with Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Sign up on our website (<http://jvcnorthwest.org/60th/#book-club> ) starting October 3rd to participate in an in-person meeting, virtual meet up, or to receive self-guided reflection materials. To host a club in your community or for more information, contact Sarah Jones ([sjones@jvcnorthwest.org](mailto:sjones@jvcnorthwest.org) or 503.335.8202).

**Spiritual Direction**

Have you thought about spiritual direction this year? Curious to know what it is? A spiritual director is someone who can help deepen your faith by helping you notice the everyday workings of God, the spirit, or higher power in your life. They may not offer advice or solve your problems, but can help bring issues from the dark into the light, blow on some coals or reflect back what they’re hearing you say. If you’re interested, ask your PCs for a list of spiritual directors in your area or who offer over-the-phone spiritual direction. Also, Jack Kennedy, whom you met at Orientation is willing to offer spiritual direction at a sliding scale. If you’re interested, you can contact him at (503) 320-1651 or at jackmkennedy@msn.com.

**The Jesuit Post**

Forty-six weeks out of the year, the Jesuit Post (<www.thejesuitpost.org>) digitally publishes Jesuit, Catholic perspectives on modern issues and challenges. Jesuits in formation cover a wide range of topics with humor and humility. Several FJVs write for the Jesuit Post, including Garrett Gundlach (Portland, OR ’09-10) and Bill McCormick (Omak, WA ’07-08). Check out their blog or subscribe to receive their posts in your inbox!

**A note from the #SocialMedia team: send in your favorite photos!**

We wanted to put out a request for any photos from your JV adventures thus far: whether of community outings, how you’re living out the values, or, the elusive SERVICE PHOTO! Thanks to those who’ve already sent or shared in some fun photos – FJVS, potential applicants, and friends love to see what you’re up to, so if you send them, we’ll share them!

Ways to share photos:

* Email photos (full-size) directly to Christie: [ccostello@jvcnorthwest.org](mailto:ccostello@jvcnorthwest.org) – this makes her day.
* Tag @jvcnorthwest on Instagram if you’re ok with us potentially reposting your photo
  + If your account is private, we won’t be able to see your tagged photo! Please send us a direct message of the photo to ensure we see it/can repost it

You can also keep using #jvcnrothwest – we won’t repost those, but might ask if we can for specific ones ☺ Media releases are in your community binders, email Christie if you need more!

**Justice Café from the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center in Seattle**

This is a monthly event you can host in your JV house or broader community, if interested. The program comes out as a monthly host “kit” which addresses a different social justice topic through an opening reflection, ice breaker activity, more information, conversation starter questions, ideas for action, relevant Catholic Social Teaching, and a closing reflection. JV communities have used it as a community night resource or as a way to reach out to the larger community. Monthly topics for this year include: Healing from Mass Violence, Food Justice, Building Interfaith Relationships, Housing & Homelessness, Community Peacebuilding and Building a Sustainable Future. Check out their Facebook page (IPJC Justice Café) or contact Elizabeth Murphy at [emurphy@ipjc.org](mailto:emurphy@ipjc.org) or (206) 223-1138 to get involved.

**Fall Recipe Suggestion**

Fall has arrived! In Portland, that means overcast skies, all day mist and drenching rains, and the fair-weather bike riders have found drier ways to commute. Here’s a pumpkin chili recipe to celebrate the arrival of big sweaters, colorful leaves, and cozying at home!

**Pumpkin Chili (serves 8-10)**

3-pound pumpkin (ideally pie pumpkin)

1/2 cup unsalted butter (or olive oil to make vegan)

1/2 cup olive oil

1/2 cup finely ground cornmeal

2 bell peppers, chopped

1 large onion, chopped

6 garlic cloves, minced

2 tablespoons tomato paste

4 cups vegetarian broth

2 (10-ounce) cans diced tomatoes

3-4 cups of cooked beans

2 cups frozen corn

1 tablespoon chili powder

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon cumin

Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Balsamic vinegar, to taste

If your food budget allows, add green onions, shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream (or yogurt)

Peel the pumpkin or squash and cut into 1-inch pieces. To make it easier to peel the pumpkin, cut in half, remove the seeds (and set aside for roasting!), then microwave each half cut-side down in a shallow dish of water for 5 minutes, or roast the halves at 450°F for about 15 minutes. When the pumpkin is cool enough to handle, shave off the skin with a sharp knife.

In a large soup pot (it should hold at least 6 quarts), heat the butter and olive oil over medium heat. When melted, whisk in the cornmeal until smooth, then stir in the chopped pumpkin, turnip, bell peppers, onion, garlic, and tomato paste. Cook, stirring frequently, for about 10 minutes.

Add the broth, diced tomatoes, beans, and corn. Stir in the chili powder, cinnamon, and cumin. Bring back to a simmer then reduce the heat and cook for at least 1 hour, or until the pumpkin and veggies are tender. (It gets even better if simmered longer — a whole afternoon, if you have the time.)

Before serving, taste and season with salt and pepper and a dash of balsamic vinegar. Serve hot with chopped green onions, shredded cheddar cheese, and sour cream (or yogurt).