

Ursuline Sisters in Ministry: Raising Awareness

LOUISVILLE, Ky (June 29, 2009) - A vigil was held on Saturday, June 27, at the corner of Grinstead and Lexington, as part of three Louisville events meant to raise awareness about torture and its negative effects on individuals, communities, and nations. Several of the Ursuline Sisters made signs for the Saturday vigil decrying the use of torture. They were held by volunteers, which included Sister Mary Jo Gramig, and organizers.

During the vigil, which lasted from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., Lexington Road was lined by signs listing the countries where torture is used today. Right now, according to Marcy Allman, co-organizer of the Louisville events, about 190 countries continue to use torture, including the United States.



Marcy Allman, organizer of the torture awareness vigil, speaks

“These are people who were teachers or aid workers, not spies, and they were targeted and abused,” Marcy said. “They are being treated with atrocious behavior and horrifically tortured. We’re urging our government to investigate any role our country has played directly or indirectly – it’s not legal or just.”

“Most people are honking or showing peace signs or slowing down to read the signs,” said Ginny Schaeffer, who is the Director of the Angela Merici Center and co-organizer of the event. “We’ve only had an occasional person shout something rude. Most seem to be open and ready to learn.”



Signs laid out during vigil displayed many of the more than 190 countries still using torture today

“The world looks to America to be leaders in the world,” Marcy said. “There are military generals begging our government to stop the CIA because it puts out military in the field at a higher risk of themselves being tortured.”

She then paused, her eyes tearing up before she continued, “I love my country but I don’t want to be a part of inflicting suffering. We don’t want it done in our names, with our money and using our young people.”

View Photos Here:

http://ursuline.smugmug.com/gallery/8740702_VezJi#578230242_5fzGX