



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 8, 2024

St. James Catholic Church

*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

"Small enough to know your name, big enough to make a difference."

Reflection from Sr. Michele Morek

When I was asked by my editor at Global Sisters Report if I wanted to join the 2018 tour of Nuns on the Bus, I needed the assurance of the Prophet Isaiah in Sunday's first reading "Be strong, fear not"—that God would come to save me and "the eyes of the blind will be opened." The theme of the 2018 tour was on tax justice, and I was not sure if I could help open the eyes of the blind or ears of the deaf on that topic!

But the tour—sponsored by Network Lobby, the Catholic social justice advocacy organization founded by Catholic sisters in 1972—was a great success, traveling from Los Angeles to Mar a Lago, with 54 events in 27 days. From the Network staff, the 9 other sisters on the bus, and the sites we visited, I learned a lot. As Saint James said in the second reading, "God chose the poor of the world to be rich in faith." Or in my case, God chose a retired biology professor to be schooled in tax justice.

I was on the bus for the first and last weeks. My favorite sites were Father Greg Boyle's Homeboy's Industries (a gang rehabilitation project in L.A.) and our visit with the Culinary Workers Union in Las Vegas, where we actually joined the workers in household canvassing for candidates. We lobbied with legislators along the way (some were glad to see us, others not so much!) and did town halls in churches and public buildings. The people we met were so diverse and interesting--What an amazing experience!

After some virtual bus tours (because of COVID) the Nuns on the Bus are hitting the road again in a real bus. The 2024 tour theme will be "Vote Our Future." This time, the Nuns will be joined by 15 interfaith and lay friends, and the tour will visit 20 cities from Philadelphia to San Francisco. (Sorry, no stops in Kansas City this time.) The tour will be from September 30 to October 18.

Why don't you take some time to go away from the crowd with Jesus to have your "ears opened" (see Mark's gospel 7:31-37) and follow them at www.nunsonthebus.org ?