

Title: June 8, 2013 Prayer Day

Tarrytown, NY

Several times a year, upon the invitation of the Vocation Committee of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, young women are invited for a day of prayer reflection and sharing.

On June 8, 2013 the theme of that day of prayer was focused on the new modern slavery that faces our world community. Sisters Kathleen Kanet and Virginia Dorgan within a carefully designed afternoon that included prayer and response presented the education resource of the Network for Peace “Modern Slavery the Secret World of Trafficking of Women.”

After the viewing of the video, the six young women and several members of the religious themselves responded to this question: “How does what you have seen and heard make you feel?” Some of the comments included anger that this kind of thing was actually happening, that so many vulnerable people could be enslaved by others for the sake of money. Anger was also felt at the reality of dire poverty which so many in our world face which makes the victims so vulnerable. Some felt confusion and helplessness in such a face of evil. Yet there was also gratitude that many people are working to end this terrible slavery. After some discussion all went for a quiet time of prayer with two questions to consider: “How does your faith relate in a situation like this?” and “What does your faith suggest that you do in such a situation?” After that quiet time the group met again and had a rich discussion and some open dialogue with one another. Some of the group with more experience in having been active in work to end this horrible situation shared their experiences and insight.

As the conversation continued participants began to articulate some actions steps they could take in their own situations. One stated that she would bring up the issue with friends and colleagues; another said that she would be more aware of how women were identified by the media. Instead of calling a woman a prostitute she could be identified as a woman who have been prostituted or sold. Another said she would contact the reporter when a woman who has been bought is identified incorrectly. One of the young women said she would bring the educational resource to her college campus during their week to end human trafficking. Another took the packet and

will use it with a group of teenagers with whom she works. In closing all expressed gratitude for the planning of the day and for the insights shared and many of those present took an educational manual to use in their home setting.