Introduction

What does it mean to be “Companions in a Mission of Reconciliation and Justice”?

In urging all Jesuits to a renewed emphasis on the mission of reconciliation and justice, the 36th General Congregation reminds us that “reconciliation is always a work of justice, a justice discerned and enacted in local communities and contexts” (GC 36, d. 1, no. 21).

This document intends to invite Jesuit communities and works to engage in that discernment and enactment, sensitive to the ways in which God labors in their local context. By bringing to light the call for reconciliation in all its forms, “reconciliation with God, with one another, and with creation” (GC 36, d. 1, no. 21), we hope to help bring about the “profound spiritual renewal” of the Society to which God invites us in this and in all times (GC 36, d. 1, no. 18).

The study comprises two parts. Part I takes a deep look at the social and economic dimensions of Tampa, a look that “allows us to understand reality more deeply and thus to serve more effectively” the people of the city (GC 36, d. 1, no. 33, quoting Adolfo Nicolás, SJ). The data below are meant to train our eyes of faith on the daily “suffering, vulnerable faces of people, indeed in the suffering of creation,” in Tampa (GC 36, d. 1, no. 20).

Part II presents questions that are meant to inspire reflection on how we can know and follow God’s will for us in light of the social and economic challenges of Tampa set forth in Part I. By holding up the reality of the city to the call of the Gospel to attend to the cry of the poor and the earth, these questions are meant to promote “apostolic audacity” and a “generous personal response” as a life and mission (GC 36, d. 1, no. 19).
PART 1: Local Context

Population

The City of Tampa is the third largest city in Florida with a population of over 360,000 (Jacksonville is the largest, followed by Miami and then Tampa). It is part of Hillsborough County, which has a population of about 1.4 million, and is a part of a 4-county metropolitan statistical area with over 3 million inhabitants.

Tampa is a “majority minority” city, with non-Hispanic Whites comprising 46% of the city’s population.

Figure 1: Tampa Population: 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Change From 2005</th>
<th>Median Age</th>
<th>Youth Share</th>
<th>Female Share</th>
<th>Foreign-born Share</th>
<th>Limited English Proficiency Share</th>
<th>Married Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>361,477</td>
<td>+15.5%</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>19.93 mil.</td>
<td>+11.7%</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages, U.S. Census Bureau’s Statistical Atlas, and LEP.gov.
Notes: 1 – Latino/Hispanic persons are not included in any other category.

Figure 2: Population by Race/Ethnicity

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages and the Census Bureau’s American FactFinder.
Notes: 1 – Latino/Hispanic persons are not included in any other category.
Religion

The number of Catholics in Hillsborough County decreased by about 21% from 2000 to 2010. Their share of adherents fell from 16.6% to 10.7%. In 2010, there were about 131,000 Catholics in Hillsborough County. There was also a decline in mainline Protestants, while there was a significant growth in the Evangelical Protestant community, up 40%. In 2010, there were nearly 224,000 Evangelical Protestants in Hillsborough County. There was also significant growth in the number of Muslims, which in 2010 numbered about 21,000 and made up about 1.7% of the county’s population.

**Figure 3: Hillsborough County Religion: 2000 and 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>&quot;Nones&quot; Share</th>
<th>All Denominations</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Congregations</td>
<td>Adherents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,229,226</td>
<td>60.2%</td>
<td>1005</td>
<td>488,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>998,948</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>417,425</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: 1 – Data from the decennial Religion Census is provided by county. Tampa is part of Hillsborough County. 2 – “Nones” refers to those respondents who did not identify with any formal religion. This includes non-believers, as well as believers who are unaffiliated with any faith/denomination.

Education

About one in ten Hillsborough County children (5-18) are enrolled in private/parochial school (see Figure 4 right). A closer look reveals that a significantly larger proportion of white children than children of color attend private or parochial schools. While 15.1% of white children are in private school, just 4.5% of black children and 7.3% of Hispanic children are in private school. Diving deeper into the data, we find that 60% of all private school students are white (38% of public school students are white).

**Figure 4: Hillsborough County Private/Parochial School and Public School Enrollment Rate**: 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Public School</th>
<th>Private School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages.
Notes: 1- The percentages refer to the proportion of all children ages 5-18 in Hillsborough County that are enrolled in school.
There are clear differences in educational attainment between different racial/ethnic groups (see Figure 5 below). The gap is particularly wide when comparing whites with Hispanics. There are three primary reasons for this educational achievement gap. First is the lack of educational opportunities for those with limited income or who face discrimination. In order to stay in school and be successful a young person must have the opportunities. Overcrowded schools with few resources and a bleak environment may find it hard to facilitate learning and nurture educational dreams. The second reason for the gap is the expense of higher education. The third reason is the significant foreign born population (15%), which likely would have had even more limited educational opportunities in their native countries. Why go to college or even dream of it if you know or believe you will not be able to afford it?

**Figure 5: Hillsborough County Educational Attainment¹ by Race/Ethnicity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Hispanic White</th>
<th>Black/African American</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>Total (All Races/Ethnicities)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A, No School</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No H.S. Diploma or GED</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.S. Diploma or GED</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s Degree</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or Higher</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages.
Note: 1 – Survey of adults 25 and older.

*Today’s prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others¹...who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors.* – Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

In 1973, this address was delivered to a group of Jesuit high school alumni who were predominantly male. We have adapted the text to include “men and women” to make its powerful message applicable for a contemporary Jesuit alumni audience.
Household Income

The median household income for whites in Hillsborough County is $62,236. For Hispanics/Latinos it is $40,626. And for blacks/African Americans it is $35,961.1

Regardless of race, we know that over half of all the income earned in Hillsborough County goes to households in the top 1/5 (quintile) of income earners. The bottom 1/5 saw just 3.2% of the income in Hillsborough County (similar numbers are found nationally). This income inequality significantly impacts people’s lives and life chances. Figure 6 further summarizes the overall income distribution in Hillsborough County.

Figure 7 shows the percentage of racial groups in the top 20% and the bottom 20% of income earners. About 23% of all white households have incomes that place them in the highest fifth of all income earners, whereas about 9% of black and Hispanic households have incomes at that level. Conversely, about one in three of both black and Hispanic households have incomes in the bottom 20%, whereas about one in six white households have incomes at that lower level.

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages.
Wages and Unemployment

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national unemployment rate for the 3rd quarter of 2018 was 3.8%. For Florida it was 3.6% and for Hillsborough County it was 3.4%.

In Florida, the African American unemployment rate of 6.1% was more than double the white unemployment rate of 2.9%. The rates for Hispanics and Asians were 3.6% and 3.3%, respectively. A report at governing.com placed Florida 40th out of the 50 states in median hourly wages ($15.77) in 2016. The state’s minimum wage does not help in this regard. It was $8.05/hour in that year. In 2018 it was $8.25. A person who worked 40 hours a week at $8.25 for 52 weeks in 2018 earned just $17,160. This is not enough to get a family of 3 above the official poverty threshold.

Florida is a “right to work” state, which means that workers are allowed to not join a union or pay union dues even if they benefit from a union contract. Such laws undermine unions and union wages, which are generally higher than non-union wages.

Poverty

The official poverty threshold (a level of income below which you would be identified as “poor”) was set decades ago and has only been adjusted for inflation. The original formula is widely seen as outdated and causing a gross undercounting of the population that is truly living in poverty. For example, a family of 4 in 2016 would have to have an income below $24,300 to be considered officially poor. This is ridiculously low. Yet even by this standard, millions of Americans are living in poverty and in recent years, an average of nearly 240,000 people have been living in poverty in Hillsborough County alone.

People of color are substantially more likely to be poor (see Figure 8). This is true across Florida and the United States. This is rooted in a history of racism/discrimination, at both the individual and structural levels. Discrimination based on race/ethnicity has been found both in the past and today to exist in virtually all areas of economic and social life—when applying for a loan, in the criminal justice system, and in education, for example.

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2016 5-year Averages.

Note: The numbers are five-year averages and represent the percentage of the respective populations living below the official poverty line established by the U.S. government.
Such experiences lead to more difficult economic circumstances, including a greater likelihood of living in poverty. It is also a fact of social life in America that, in general, the younger you are the greater your chance of being poor. Of all age groups, children are the most likely to be living in poverty. Young families starting out will generally have lower incomes, which is a part of the explanation for child poverty. This is, of course, exacerbated by the discrimination many people experience. Child poverty, as Figure 8 shows, is much higher in the black and Hispanic communities than it is in the white community. In fact, more than one-third of black children and nearly one-third of Hispanic children are living in poverty in Hillsborough County.

**Particularly Vulnerable Populations**

The data in Figure 9 include three measurements that depict special challenges faced by many young people and families in Hillsborough county. Typically, single-parent families must make due with less income and have one parent doing the household and childcare work that can be challenging even for two parents. Single-parent families, then, tend to be poorer and more stressed.

Disconnected youth are by definition not in school or employed and ultimately are at greater risk of future economic hardships.

Many families are considered to be “housing burdened”— meaning that they are paying more than 30% of their income on rent or mortgage. That means less money to spend on all of the other essentials of life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single-Parent Household Share</th>
<th>Disconnected Youth Share (Ages 16-19)</th>
<th>Housing Burdened Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.
Notes: 1 - Figures are for Hillsborough County. 2 - “Disconnected” refers to youth who are neither in school or working. 3 - “Housing Burdened” refers to households that are spending more than 30% of their income in rent or mortgage.

**Homelessness**

The Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative reports that on any given night (2017), there are about 1,549 homeless people in the county (a number arrived at following a comprehensive head count on a particular night of the year). These would be men, women and children who are living on the streets, in their cars, in an encampment or emergency shelter, or are in a transitional housing program. This represents a decline over previous years, particularly from 2016, when the count was 1817.

The 1,549 people in 2017 were:
- 40% female
- 20% under 18 (with their families or on their own)
- 40% with some form of disability
- 11% veterans

The problem of homelessness persists in the Tampa area and across the nation and is due largely to the lack of affordable housing (which is connected to both the cost of housing and wages earned). Also, for a number of homeless, their previous homes were seen as unsafe or unwelcoming.
The Social Welfare System

In Hillsborough County, less than a third (30.6%) of people living in poverty receive any form of cash assistance, most notably Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Just over half (52.3%) of those in poverty receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly known as “food stamps”). The bottom line is that many people living in poverty receive little or no public assistance. The maximum TANF benefit in Florida for a family with one parent and two children is $303 per month or $3,636 per year. This is about 18% of the poverty level. Even if a family receives both cash assistance AND food stamps, they would still not even be close to getting out of poverty.

Note: 1- SSI is a program available to low income disabled and elderly individuals who meet certain specific eligibility requirements.

Health

Florida has an uninsured rate (nearly 13%) that is significantly higher than the national average (8.8%). This has a great deal to do with the state’s refusal to expand Medicaid coverage as provided for by the Affordable Care Act. The uninsured rate for the Tampa area is even higher than the state’s average. Lack of health insurance coverage causes people to delay the care they need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough County</td>
<td>14%(^1)</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: 1 – County data is for 2016 and supplied by the Small Area Health Estimates Program of the Census Bureau.

Birth Indicators

Rates of unintended pregnancies, abortions, and teen births have been on the decline for a number of years across the country. Teen birth rates are at historic lows. The abortion rates for Florida are higher than the national average.

- About 59% of all pregnancies (to women 15-44 years of age) in Florida are unintended. The national percentage is 45\(^1\).
- The abortion rate in Florida is 20 for every 1000 women, 15-44. Nationally, the abortion rate is 14.6\(^2\).
- The teen birth rate in Florida is about 19.3 births for every 1000 females, 15-19. The national rate is 20.3\(^3\).

Sources: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Guttmacher Institute, and the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Notes: 1 – Share of all pregnancies for women 15-44 years old. 2 – Per 1,000 women 15-44 years old. 3 – Births per 1,000 women 15-19 years old.
Infant Mortality

Infant mortality refers to babies that do not live to their first birthday. The reported rate is the number who die for every 1000 live births. Infant mortality rates in Florida and the Tampa area are higher than the national average. Of particular interest are two points:

1. Black infant mortality is about three times higher than for non-Hispanic Whites.
2. The Hispanic infant mortality rate is about 50% higher than white infant mortality rate in Hillsborough County.

Nationally, there is only a small difference between white and Hispanic infant mortality. In Florida, the African American infant mortality rate of 10.4 is well over double the rate for whites, which stands at 4.3. The Hispanic and Asian infant mortality rates are 5.5 and 3.0, respectively.

Maternal Mortality Rate

Maternal mortality refers to deaths due to complications from pregnancy. The rate is the number per 100,000 births. The United States has the highest maternal mortality rate (20.7) in the developed world. Florida’s rate (23.8) is above the national average. There is a significant racial gap in Florida’s maternal mortality rate, which is presented in Figure 13.

Drugs

Florida is certainly a state facing serious problems related to drug abuse. Its overdose death rates for opioids and for all drugs are higher than for the nation as a whole.

Source: Statista and the Florida Department of Health. Kids Count Data Center of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
Note 1 - According to the CIA’s World Fact Book and the Population Reference Bureau, there are well over 40 nations with a lower infant mortality rate than the United States and we continue to fall behind. (Examples from the World Fact Book: Japan, 2.0; Ireland 3.6; Cuba, 4.4, Canada 4.5)
**Firearm Death Rate**

The United States has the highest firearm death rate in the developed world. In 2016, the rate was 11.8 deaths per 100,000 of the population from all firearm related causes—suicide, accidents, homicide. Florida's rate was above the national average at 12.6. (Alaska has the highest rate at 23.3 and Massachusetts has the lowest at 3.4.)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Violence and Crime**

Overall, violent crime rates in Tampa are above the national and state averages (see Figure 15). The rate of property crime in Tampa, however, is below the rates found in the state, as a whole, or in the nation. However, the murder rate in Tampa is of particular concern. It is roughly double the rate found in the State and Nation. The prevalence of street crime in Tampa is largely a confluence of poverty, racial inequity, and limited educational and economic opportunities. The good news is that in Tampa and around the country crime in general has been in decline for many years and some rates are around their historic lows. Nevertheless, crime remains a problem and indications are that it may be starting to increase again.

**Incarceration**

Florida has higher incarceration rates than the nation as a whole, including a particularly high rate for African Americans. This disproportionate incarceration of blacks/African Americans reflects the national pattern. On the other hand, the Hispanic incarceration rate in Florida is below the national average. Florida’s overall high incarceration rate is costly in many ways. For one thing, it costs Florida taxpayers about $2.7 billion to fund the corrections system each year. According to Community Resources for Justice (CRJ), over the past decade Florida is sending fewer people to prison each year, but because of mandatory minimum sentencing and other factors, average sentences are getting longer.

**Figure 15: Reported Crime Rates (per 100,000): 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Property Crime Rate</th>
<th>Violent Crime Rate</th>
<th>Homicide Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2,362</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>5.3 (actual #: 17,284)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>2,512</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>5.0 (actual #: 1057)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>1,744</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>10.2 (actual #: 39)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Report 2017. Notes: 1 – The rates in this chart represent the numbers of crimes reported to the police and recorded by the FBI. Most crimes go unreported, it should be noted. 2 – The property crimes here refer to Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson. 3 – The violent crimes are Murder/Non-negligent Homicide, Forcible (not Statutory) Rape, Aggravated Assault, and Robbery.

**Figure 16: Incarceration Rates (per 100,000 persons)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Prison Incarceration Rate</th>
<th>Jail Incarceration Rate</th>
<th>White Imprisonment Rate</th>
<th>Black Imprisonment Rate</th>
<th>Hispanic Imprisonment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>1,621</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sentencing Project. Notes: 1 – Figures typically reflect sentences of 1 year or more. Rates are for 2016. 2 – Figures typically reflect jail sentences of less than 1 year and served in local city or county facilities. Jail inmates also include those awaiting trial. Jail incarceration rate is for 2013. 3 – Rates by race/ethnicity are for 2014.
Florida’s voter registration and voter turnout rates lag the national rates, with the exception of Latinos/Hispanics. African-American participation rates in Florida are especially low (see Figure 17 below).

**Figure 17: Florida Civic Engagement: 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Hispanic White</th>
<th>Black/African American</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>Total (All Races/Ethnicities)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voter Registration Rate Florida</td>
<td>70.9%</td>
<td>66.6%</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>61.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Registration Rate United States</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
<td>65.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Turnout Rate Florida</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Turnout Rate United States</td>
<td>65.3%</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Environmental Challenges

The Tampa Bay area faces a number of environmental challenges. Of particular concern are various issues related to water, as might be expected. A particularly prominent concern, especially over the past few months, has been the K. brevis organism, or “Florida red tide.” Agricultural and urban runoff can act as nutrients for the organism and help it to spread. Toxic chemicals are released by these red tide blooms and they poison and kill marine life. They also pose a danger to humans, even those who do not venture into the water or eat contaminated shellfish. Merely being close to the red tide can make people sick, since the toxins can be airborne. Those with respiratory illnesses are especially vulnerable.

Tampa, like the rest of the world, is also facing climate change. Temperatures are heating up, ocean levels are rising, and flooding is a more regular occurrence. In Florida, the greatest threat from climate change comes in the form of hurricanes, which are predicted to grow in intensity in the coming years. Climate change threatens agriculture, industry, and, of course, human health. The financial toll will also be significant.

Pope Francis, in his Encyclical, Laudato Si’, reminds us of the importance of caring for God’s creation: “Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth.”

Note 1 – Among the rich Jesuit resources available on the environment is the International Jesuit Ecology Project. Their educational materials can be found at: www.luc.edu/ijep. Also, the Carmelites have created a useful high school curriculum and an adult study guide to teach Laudato Si’. Interested individuals, schools and parishes can check it out at www.laudato-si-for-all.com.
PART 2 - Reflections

Many national, state, and local authorities, businesses, and other organizations make policies that profoundly affect the people of the Tampa area, whom we strive to serve in the name of Jesus. As we reflect on these data, we ask how we as individuals and Jesuit communities and ministries can become more effectively involved in decisions bearing upon the common good.

So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead (James 2:17).

What is it for which you are spending your life?
- Sr. Joan Chittister, O.S.B.

Questions for Reflection

1. In view of the fact that 60% of the Tampa population is unaffiliated with any religious denomination (“nones”), and of our significant Jesuit resources, in what new ways are we called to reach out beyond our ministries to bring the reconciling Good News of Jesus Christ?
2. Given the significant educational inequalities that exist in the Tampa area (not to mention many other social injustices), is Tampa Jesuit and the Jesuit community doing all that we can do to assure that we are a vital force acting to challenge these injustices in word and deed and promote greater reconciliation?
3. Pope Francis has urged us “to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” What exactly does this demand of us in the context of the Tampa area?

Never, never be afraid to do what’s right, especially if the well-being of a person...is at stake.
Society’s punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.
—Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.