Deanna Rose's interest in social justice began with her educational ministry at St. Mary Magdalene's Parish in San Diego (1977-83) when she learned that four women and the bishop of El Salvador were murdered.  She invited a Jesuit professor of moral theology, from the University of San Diego, to give a talk to parishioners on the issues involved. Had some of the participants in this navy town had access to rotten tomatoes, they would have thrown them at the priest ! Lesson learned. Be careful. Over the course of the next forty years she continued to open her eyes, ears, mind, and heart. She learned to seek counsel !

When she and Nancy Koke were part of Sacred Heart Community Service in San Jose, CA (mid ‘80’s), she directed an after-school and Saturday afternoon program for Hispanic migrant children, with the aid of a college volunteer. An experience etched in her memory was one Saturday afternoon when she walked through the neighborhood, collecting the children like a Pied Piper, and came upon a family living in a garage with a newborn, a single light bulb hanging from the ceiling. They evidently cooked outdoors, water needs fulfilled by a hose, while a common bathroom for several tenants was up a flight of stairs across a parking lot. The baby’s name was Victor Hugo !

Ministries continued through liturgical & educational efforts (including drama!) with the parish social justice committee at St. Peter's Church in Pacifica, CA (the ‘90’s). One of the dramas was Bread for the World’s “Lazarus”, acted and sung by a variety of parishioners & musicians, including children, for the public, to raise awareness in the town. Later came nine years of service, in collaboration with MSC (Missionaries of the Sacred Heart) brother, sisters and priests,  on six Indian Reservations in Riverside County, CA, while living on the Soboba Indian Reservation (the 2000’s). Earlier there had been brief but creative engagements with the children of Sursum Corda Village in DC during breaks in graduate theology studies, also a short “dip” into the Little Sisters of the Assumption Health Care program in Harlem, NYC, both so eye-opening.

Her greatest concern now is the need to address the pain and injustice still being perpetrated on Native Americans because of the Doctrine of Discovery, particularly the historical trauma experienced as a result of generations of Government Boarding School experiences.  Parents do not know how to “parent” because they themselves did not experience being parented, due to having been separated from their own parents during those years when forcibly sent to the boarding schools far from home & family, during several years of childhood. Thus the “historical” aspect of the ongoing trauma through the generations, even till now. So much healing is needed.

At this writing (Fall 2021), Deanna Rose has been involved for 5 years with a province JPIC Reflection Group on Indigenous Justice, as its chair, now working on offering a study of the book, GRAVE ON THE PRAIRIE, authored by Maureen Chicoine, RSCJ, online, so members of the Sacred Heart Family can know a bit about RSCJ history of some 37 years with the Potawatomi in Kansas. Maybe in 2022. Last year the group presented a Power Point expose on the Doctrine of Discovery, entitled “Waking Up to Original Sins of Christian Imperialism”, to the Philippine Region (Latin America, the Antilles, & US-C provinces).

Read more about Deanna Rose's journey by clicking on the links under her picture.