



# Shalom News North America

*An instrument of hope, formation, and action concerning priority matters of social justice.*



May 2019



[Human Life and Dignity](#)  
[Economic Justice](#)  
[Integrity of Creation](#)  
[Peace and Non-Violence](#)

## Integrity of Creation

### *Laudato Si'* Calls Us

On May 24 we commemorate the fourth anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si'*, which challenged us to become aflame with zeal to care for our common home. For SSND, the messaging of *Laudato Si'* reminds us of a quote from *You Are Sent*, "As the desire of Jesus that all be one becomes more fully our own, our striving for unity embraces *all* humanity and the *whole* of creation." We invite you to spend some time this month [reflecting on \*Laudato Si'\*](#). May it inspire you and all of us to action, so that ours will "be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life." (207)

### Take Action to Address Climate Change

Pope Francis published *Laudato Si'* in advance of the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference. In it, he drew special attention to the importance of international negotiations and global climate action for the common

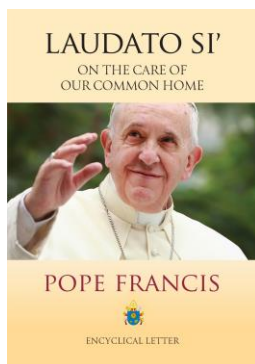
good. He wrote, "Reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and responsibility, above all on the part of those countries which are most powerful and pollute the most." The U.S. House of Representatives is currently considering H.R. 9 the *Climate Action Now Act*. If passed, H.R. 9 would acknowledge the U.S. commitment under the international Paris Climate Agreement to reduce carbon pollution and require the

President to develop and submit to Congress a plan on how to achieve this goal. [Learn more, let your voice be heard.](#)

### Endangered Species Day (5/17)

Endangered Species Day is an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the importance of protecting endangered species and everyday actions they can take to help protect them. Resources for education, reflection, prayer and action can be found in this [Faith Community](#)

[Engagement Toolkit](#) from Creation Justice Ministries. Resources for the classroom including (science and art lesson plans) can be [found here](#).



## Human Dignity

### Bishop Testifies About Border and Immigration Matters

Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso [testified before Congress](#) on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration on Tuesday. His testimony included a number of recommendations such as: addressing smuggling and trafficking networks, using regional approaches to address root causes of migration, improving border processing policies, supporting alternatives to detention programming for families and ensuring efficient due process for those seeking asylum. [Read full testimony here.](#) Let your voice be heard - [urge administration to welcome asylum seekers.](#)

### World Fair Trade (WFT) Day (5/11)

WFT Day is an inclusive worldwide festival of events celebrating Fair Trade as a tangible contribution to

sustainable development, especially the economic empowerment of small producers, gender equality in workplaces and responsible production practices. Learn more about [Fair Trade](#), the [10 principles](#) that Fair Trade Organizations must follow, and where you can [purchase Fair Trade Products](#).



### Mothers' Day (5/12)

On Mothers' Day, we celebrate the life-giving courage of women through the ages, honoring especially our blessed mother, Mary, who assists us in being Christ to all our brothers and sisters: "The reality of the Incarnation finds a sort of extension in the mystery of the Church-the Body of Christ. And one cannot think of the reality of the

Incarnation without referring to Mary, the Mother of the Incarnate Word" (*Redemptoris Mater*, 5). Click to [read about the relationship of Indigenous women and water](#) – "For Indigenous people in Canada ... women

especially are recognized as having a special role and connection with water as they are life-givers.” Click to [read inspiring interviews with three Syrian mothers who resettled in Canada](#) while pregnant.

### International Day of Families (5/15)

The theme for this year’s International Day of Families is “[Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG13](#).”

We [pray for all families](#) as they work

to develop a culture of care for the earth and all life – those who struggle to live with restraint in our consumeristic society, and those who are most viscerally affected by climate change and environmental degradation. “Another task for the family is to form persons in love and also to practice love in all its relationships, so that it does not live closed in on itself, but remains open to the community, moved by a sense



of justice and concern for others, as well as by a consciousness of its responsibility towards the whole of society” (Synod of Bishops' Message to Christian Families [1980], 12).

### World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (5/21)

Three-quarters of the world’s major conflicts have a cultural dimension. Bridging the gap between cultures is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development. The equitable exchange and dialogue among cultures and peoples, based on mutual understanding and respect and the equal dignity of all is essential for reconciliation among peoples and peace among nations. Learn more about [what cultural diversity is](#) and [why it matters](#). [Prayer resource](#). [Learn about Ramadan](#) with begins on May 5.

## Peace and Non-Violence

### Remembering the Holocaust – A Call to Conscience Today

April 28-May 5 has been designated [Holocaust Remembrance Week](#). We invite you to take time to reflect on this brief [video](#) which calls us not only to *remember*, but also to *act* to stop prejudice and genocide today. For resources to teach about the Holocaust [click here](#). Prayer resources can be [found here](#).

### Path of Nonviolence: Towards a Culture of Peace

On April 4-5, the Vatican’s Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Pax Christi International’s Catholic Nonviolence Initiative hosted a workshop titled “Path of Nonviolence: Towards a Culture of Peace.” Participants (including Ann Scholz, SSND) examined root causes of violence, hope for peace and reconciliation, and paths to conversion to nonviolence. The event continues the work of a 2016 conference in Rome on “[Nonviolence and Just Peace](#).” Their reflections will be shared with the Holy Father, with the hope for a possible encyclical that will address these issues and challenges. [Learn more](#).



### Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)

Did you know that some experts believe that a 10% reduction per year and per country of the resources invested in the arms and defense sectors, if redirected, could enable the achievement of the main elements of all the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals? The aim of GDAMS (4/15-5/9) is to convince governments to invest less money on the military and more on health care, education, employment and addressing climate change. [Learn more](#), [take action](#).

### U.S. Pulls Out of Arms Treaty

President Trump effectively “unsigned” an international arms sales agreement last Friday, moving to withdraw the U.S. from the United Nations’ Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The agreement sets

global standards for regulating transfers of conventional arms, from rifles to tanks and airplanes. It also requires nations to ensure the weapons they export do not end up being used for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or terrorist acts. The treaty, known as the ATT, has been in effect since late 2014. The U.S. signed on to the agreement but never ratified the treaty. [Read more](#).



**Shalom News North America** is an e-publication of the Shalom North America Contacts of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Email us at [tdewane@ssndcp.org](mailto:tdewane@ssndcp.org).