# Shalom News North America




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

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**September 2023**

Dear Friend,

In the encyclical *Laudato Si',* Pope Francis emphasizes that the social and ecological challenges of our day are interrelated (integral ecology). As you read through this month's newsletter, and the social and ecological concerns it highlights, consider how these concerns are related to the Laudato Si' Goals and SSND becoming a Laudato Si' Congregation.

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Shalom North America Contacts

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## Integrity of Creation

### World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (9/1)



This day of prayer started among the world Orthodox Christian community in 1989 with the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. In an ecumenical gesture of global significance, Pope Francis announced in 2015 that the Catholic Church will also recognize

September 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Click here to read and reflect upon Pope Francis' message for this year's day of prayer. All are welcome to participate in a Global Ecumenical Prayer Service lead by faith leaders from around the world on September 1 at 9 am Eastern via YouTube. Canadians are also invited to join in a worship service at Noon Eastern (via Zoom) focused on climate justice and the care of creation organized by *For the Love of Creation*. Click here for more information and to register.




## Integrity of Creation

### Season of Creation (9/1-10/4)

The ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home during the annual Season of Creation celebration that begins with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (9/1) and ends with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (10/4). With growing urgency, we are summoned to make visible peace with Earth, and on Earth, at this time when justice calls us to repentance, a change of attitude, and action. This year's theme for the Season of Creation is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" drawn from the Prophet Amos' proclamation, "Let justice flow like a stream, and righteousness like a river that never goes dry." We are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological integrity, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. Click here to download the 2023 Season of Creation Celebration Guide and here for a prayer resource.




## Integrity of Creation and Human Dignity

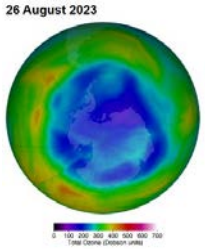
## Harvest of Justice: Farm Workers & Racism



Harvest of Justice is a National Farm Worker Ministry sponsored initiative to build awareness about issues affecting farm workers in the United States. It begins on Labor Day (9/4) and extends to World Food Day on October 16. The 2023 theme “Farm Workers & Racism" explores how our food system is rooted in racism and how farm workers today still suffer from that legacy. Resources for reflection and engagement can be found here. In Canada, farm workers experience some of the same injustices. Learn more here.

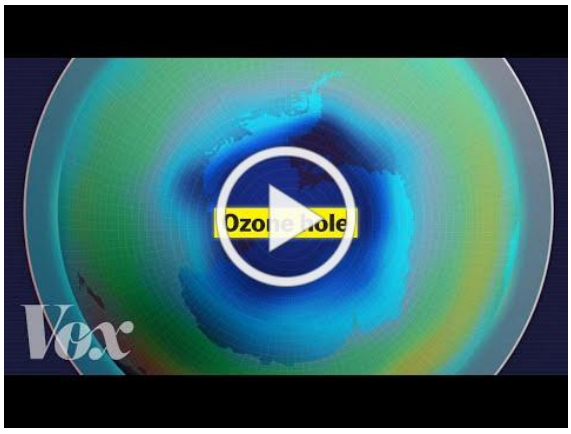


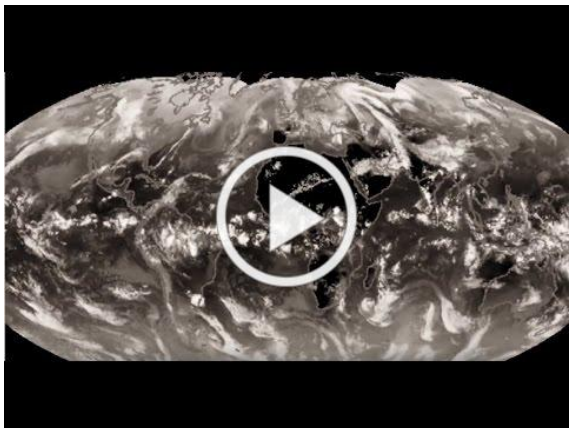

## Integrity of Creation




### World Ozone Day (9/16)

World Ozone Day marks one of the rare times that world governments universally ratified a treaty and acted on it. Adopted on September 16, 1987, *The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer* is a landmark multilateral environmental agreement regulating the production and consumption of nearly 100 human-made ozone depleting substances (ODS). When we despair over the lack of progress in dealing with the climate crisis, remember that we have acted together globally in the past. We can do it again. Read more.



## Integrity of Creation

### UN Sustainability Development Goals Summit




The United Nations will convene the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit September 18-19 in New York City. This will mark the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and accelerated action is needed by all to secure a sustainable future. We invite you to take time this month to review the 17 SDG's and consider ideas for personal action.






## Integrity of Creation

### Food Loss and Waste (9/29)




Globally, around 14 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17 percent of total global food production is wasted (11 percent in households, 5 percent in the food service and 2 percent in retail). The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (9/29) is an opportunity to call to action both the public (national or local authorities) and the private sector (businesses and individuals), to prioritize actions and move ahead with innovation to reduce food loss and move towards restoring and building back better and resilient-ready, food systems. Let us take action to stop food loss and waste – for the sake of people and planet. Click here for a resource and action guide.






## Human Dignity




### International Literacy Day (9/8)

Literacy challenges persist around the world with at least 763 million young people and adults lacking basic literacy skills in 2020. The recent COVID-19 crisis and other crises, such as climate change and conflicts, have made progress difficult to achieve. In low- and middle-income countries, the share of 10-year-old children who could not read and understand a simple text with comprehension

has increased from 57 per cent in 2019 to an estimated 70 per cent in 2022. This year's International Literacy Day theme is "Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies." Click here to learn more.

## Human Dignity

### World Day of Migrants and Refugees (9/24)



The 2023 theme for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) is "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay". In his message for this day, Pope Francis focuses on "the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one's native land". What can we do and what do we need to stop doing so that people are not forced to migrate? "We need to make every effort to halt the arms race, economic colonialism, the plundering of other people's resources and the devastation of our common home." Click here to read his entire message. Consider taking time to review the 2019 issue of our SSND publication, *In Mission*, which focused on the SSND response to people being forced to flee their homeland.





## Human Dignity




### National Migration Week - United States

National Migration Week is a uniquely US-based celebration of migrants that builds on the ideas put forth in the WDMR Papal Message – shaped according to the issues and circumstances found in the United States. Subsequently, "*Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay*" is the theme for this year's observance that begins on September 18 and concludes with the World Day of Migrants and Refugees on September 24. Click here for the 2023 National Migration Week resource put together by the USCCB Justice for Immigrants Campaign. Click here to review our 2023 SSND *Called to Action* podcast series on immigration issues in the United States.

## Human Dignity

### The Danger of (White) Christian Nationalism

Christian nationalism is a political ideology that seeks to merge Christian and American identities, distorting both along the way. It implies that to be a good American, one must be a certain kind of Christian – one not all that




consistent with many basic tenants of Christianity. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. Theologian Father Bryan Massingale shared in a National Catholic Reporter article this summer that "White Christian nationalism, as it is at work today, provides a Christian narrative for stigmatizing the most vulnerable…. It is at work anytime sacred symbols are used to exclude and dehumanize people because of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual expression, or religion." We agree with Fr. Massingale and his message that "Now is the time when we must speak with urgency about white Christian nationalist sentiment in this country." Click here to learn more and explore our SSND-compiled list of reflection and engagement resources.

## Human Dignity




### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (9/30)

Canadians are encouraged to wear orange on September 30 in honor of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and in recognition of the Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative tradition that began in 2013. A live national broadcast will commemorate the day on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on September 30. Watch the broadcast (check local listings) to memorialize the children lost to the residential school system and honour survivors and their families. Learning and commemorating the truth of Canadian history from First Nations, and Inuit and Métis knowledge keepers is an important part of the path to reconciliation. To that end, consider taking in the series of free virtual lunch and learn sessions throughout Truth and Reconciliation Week 2023 organized by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Click here to learn more/register.

## Peace and Nonviolence

### Catholic Voices Confronting Violence with Active Nonviolence

Throughout the month of September, Pax Christi International and the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative will be hosting a series of weekly roundtable dialogues to highlight ways that individuals and communities are challenging violence in their local contexts using the strategies, spirituality, way of life, and wisdom tradition of Jesus' nonviolence. The first of the *Catholic Voices Confronting Violence with the Power of Active Nonviolence* roundtables will be held on September 1 at 8 am (Eastern). Click here to learn more and register for the sessions.

## Peace and Nonviolence

### International Day of Peace (9/21)



The International Day of Peace is an inspiring reminder that, together, we can create Peace. Peace is possible. Give peace a chance! Created in 1981 by the UN General Assembly to strengthen cultures of peace

around the world, it has also become a 24-hour period of global ceasefire and non-violence for groups in active combat. We recognize the efforts of those who have and are continuing to work hard to end conflict and promote peace. A few suggestions for the day:

1. Observe the global “Minute of Silence” at midday to create a “peace wave” across the planet.
2. Host a global peace feast: Bring people together with a 'global' potluck, encouraging others to share a unique dish from various countries or cultures. Breaking bread together is one of the oldest yet most effective ways to bring peace into your life. Interfaith and intercultural discussions can make the evening even richer.
3. Foster cultures of peace through education: Learn and share about living peace once today.

Click here to read more. Click here for the SSND International Solidarity Reflection for September, *Just Peace and Gospel Nonviolence*.

## Peace and Nonviolence




### Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action (9/21-10/2)

Pax Christi International (of which SSND is a member) invites us to promote and celebrate nonviolence between September 21 (International Day of Peace) and October 2 (International Day of Nonviolence and Gandhi’s birthday). This year’s theme is ‘Blessed are the feet of those who bring nonviolence’. It calls for embracing the work of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative and the Vow of Nonviolence. Click here for more information and resources, and here (scroll down to Season Two) to check out SSND podcasts and reflections on Gospel Nonviolence and Just Peace.




## Peace and Nonviolence



### International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (9/26)

Achieving global nuclear disarmament is one of the oldest goals of the United Nations, yet today around 12,512 nuclear weapons remain. We invite you to take time to reflect on these thoughtful and challenging words from two U.S. and two Japanese Bishops who, this summer, agreed to “create a new initiative to promote the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.” Consider taking this illuminating online quiz on nuclear weapons put together

by our friends the Sisters of St. Francis. Explore ways you can support nuclear disarmament here.

## Quick Links

**Laudato Si' Action Platform**

**Education for Justice - SSND Link/Password**

**SSND Action Alerts**

**SSND International Solidarity Reflections**

**Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking**

**Justice for Immigrants**

**Catholic Climate Covenant**

**Hispanic Heritage Month**

**SSND Podcast - *Called to Action***

**Exploring Intersections - Racism, Migration, and Climate**

**Laudato Si' Movement**

**Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility**

**SSND Shalom International Network**

**SSND at the UN**

**USCCB Action Center**

**The SSND Shalom Network witnesses to the Gospel with audacity and hope as we collaborate to build just relationships and respond to the urgent needs of our times.**

**Shalom News North America** is an e-publication of the Shalom North America Contacts (SNAC) of the School Sisters of Notre Dame - Barb Paleczny SSND, Colleen Kammer, Ethel Howley SSND, Pat Stortz, and Tim Dewane. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcomed. Email us at tdewane@ssndcp.org.

Please only print this e-publication if necessary.