Shalom News North America



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

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June 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

Integral Ecology for Young Adults



Wholemakers, a new integral ecology 10-session curriculum for use in young adult ministry, is now available for free download and use. A collaborative project sponsored by Catholic Climate Covenant and the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Wholemakers was created by young

adults for young adults, weaving together the latest in climate science with insights from Catholic tradition to equip participants to be the faithful protagonists of transformation the world so urgently needs. Learn more here, access the curriculum (for free) here.

Integrity of Creation



Sustainability Recommendations from Women Religious Leaders

The International Union of Superiors General (UISG) have published a policy brief outlining nine recommendations to address the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Sister Patricia Murray, Executive Secretary at UISG stated, “The role of women religious has traditionally been limited to education, healthcare and community development. Yet there are many areas of advocacy for systemic change in which Catholic Sisters can play an active and leading role, particularly in relation to the environment. The potential for religious involvement must be fully harnessed. Time is running out, and humanity cannot afford to procrastinate any longer.” Read the full policy brief here.

Integrity of Creation

World Bicycle Day (6/3)



Today we celebrate the bicycle, an important part of any strategy to decrease CO2 emissions in growing cities. Supportive infrastructure, such as bicycle lanes, are critically important. By enabling the use of bicycles to get around, communities improve air quality, road safety, and the health of residents. Whether you are a bike rider or not, we all can support community planning and initiatives that make cycling a safe and comfortable choice for transportation. Learn more.





Integrity of Creation



World Environment Day (6/5)

This year we commemorate the 50th anniversary ofWorld Environment Day. The theme this year focuses on solutions to plastic pollution. Plastic is produced almost entirely from virgin fossil fuel. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production, use and disposal of single-use plastics is projected to be 19 % of the global carbon budget by

2040; the industry will account for 20% of oil consumption by 2050. Key to solving plastic pollution is to employ a circular approach to the lifecycle of plastic products. Plastic introduced into the economy should remain there, not in the environment. Click here to review the new UN report, *Turning off the Tap: How the world can end plastic pollution and create a circular economy.* Explore more about this year's observance of World Environment Dayhere.





Integrity of Creation



World Oceans Day (6/8)

With this year's theme, *Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing*, we will discover how Earth is more than it may seem and generate a new wave of excitement towards cherishing and protecting the ocean and the entirety of our blue planet. The ocean connects, sustains, and supports us all. Yet its health is at a tipping point and so is the well-being of all that depends on it. We need to work together to create a new balance with the ocean that no longer depletes its bounty but instead restores its vibrancy and brings it new life. This year, it's time to put the oceans first. Click here to learn about (and register for) the live UN World Oceans Day Broadcast on June 8 at 10 am (Eastern). Click here for more information on World Oceans Day and a prayer resource.



Integrity of Creation



2023 Laudato Si' and the Catholic Church Conference

In this free biennial conference sponsored by the Catholic Climate Covenant and Creighton University, scholars will explore the goals of the Laudato Si Action Platform (LSAP), faith-based organizations will speak to their relevant work, and moderators will conduct Q & A sessions. The first session on June 14 will feature a keynote by

Christiana Figueres, formerly with the UNFCCC, who brokered the Paris Agreement in 2015. The last session will honor Laudato Si champions in the U.S. on July 27th. Learn more and register for the free conferencehere.

Human Dignity



World Day Against Child Labor (6/12)

All of us are called to increase investment in social protection systems to help prevent child labor. While significant progress has been made in reducing child labor over the last two decades, progress has slowed over time. Today, 160 million children are still engaged in child labor – some as young as age five. Government social protection systems are essential to fight poverty, vulnerability, and eradicate child labor. Social protection is both a human right and a potent policy tool to prevent families from resorting to child labor in times of crisis. Learn more.





Human Dignity

Global Slavery Index



The 2023 Global Slavery Index provides an assessment of the extent to which a country's population is vulnerable to modern slavery. These 160 national assessments of vulnerability help to inform our estimates of the prevalence of modern slavery, can inform the allocation and direction of anti-slavery efforts, and help to identify future areas of research. Since its last edition in 2018, the report estimates another 10 million people have become caught in modern slavery, taking the total to 50 million. Read more.



Human Dignity

Forced Migration and Human Trafficking

You are invited to attend a webinar on the intersection of human trafficking and migration presented by U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd on Wednesday, June 14, at 2 pm (Eastern). Click here to register for this free webinar.

As a related note, U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (which SSND helps sponsor) recently held a video contest for high school students focused on the theme "What would you do?" to raise awareness, educate, and empower students on how to identify and prevent human trafficking. Click the links below to view the videos that received the top two awards.





Human Dignity

SSND Juneteenth Screening of *Who We Are*



School Sisters of Notre Dame, their associates and colleagues in mission, are invited to attend a special online Juneteenth screening of the award-winning documentary *Who We Are – A Chronicle of Racism in America* on Monday, June 19th from 6 – 8 pm (Central) - although viewing time is flexible. Using humor, heartbreak, passion, and outrage, Jeffery Robinson interweaves storytelling, interviews, archival and present-day video footage, to provide an illuminating and sobering account of racism in the United States, exploring the enduring legacy of white supremacy and our collective responsibility to overcome it. Click here to register for this special SSND Juneteenth screening of *Who We Are* using your email address and the code: WWA-NDCP. Click the video link below for a preview of the film.



Human Dignity



World Refugee Day (6/20)

The United Nations honors the strength and courage of refugees around the globe with World Refugee Day on June 20. Whoever, Whenever, Wherever, everyone has the universal right to seek safety. The UN 1951 Refugee Convention, also known as the Geneva Convention, and its 1967 Protocol, give rights to refugees built around the principle of non-refoulment – that refugees should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their lives or freedom. It also includes the refugees' obligations to the host country. Click here to download a reflection resource for World Refugee Day. Click here to urge Congress to support the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The latest edition of the SSND podcast series on immigration explores the root causes of forced and voluntary migration. Check it out here.

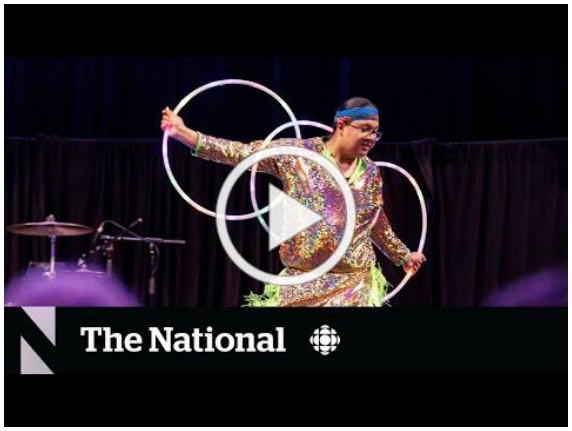


Human Dignity



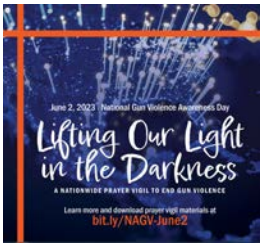
Indigenous History Month and Day (6/21) - Canada

Canadians are called to take to heart the solemn admission of both Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Pope Francis that Indigenous -- First Nations, Métis and Inuit -- suffered genocide in state and church history. We are responsible to learn history from their perspective, to value peoples, the land, all creation, and to commit ourselves to reconciliation. June is National Indigenous History Month and June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. Information and resources can be found here.





Peace and Nonviolence



Gun Violence Awareness Day

The recently formed collaborative group of women religious in the United States, "Nuns Against Gun Violence," are encouraging candlelight vigils across the U.S. for National Gun Violence Awareness Day on Friday, June 2. They have prepared materials, including a prayer service adaptable for community or individual use, an organizing guide, and social media images. Click here to access these materials. Pax Christi USA is sponsoring a webinar on gun violence on June 2 at 8 pm (Eastern). Click here to register. Consider urging Congress to take action using the SSND Voter Voice tool.

Peace and Nonviolence



Challenge of Peacebuilding in Ukraine and Beyond

Last week, our friends with the Franciscan Action Network hosted a webinar, “Ukraine: Peacebuilding, Nonviolent Resistance, and Unarmed Civilian Protection,” where panelists highlighted different nonviolent ways people are responding to the trauma and violence of war. Click below to watch a recording of the panel discussion. Let your voice be heard – use this link to urge your members of Congress to support peacebuilding, nonviolent resistance, unarmed civilian protection, and the Pope's call for diplomacy in Ukraine.



Peace and Nonviolence

Blessed Antonina Feast Day (6/12)



Blessed Maria Antonina Kratochwil and the other School Sisters of Notre Dame who were martyred during World War II are patrons of Shalom, the SSND international network for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. These women religious lived and died because of their faith. Some “disappeared,” some were raped, others were beaten and shot. We recognize the significant relationship between their lives and deaths, and all that living Shalom calls us to: to risk all in faith for a more just and truly human world. With Blessed Antonina we listen to the cries of all creation and we respond in solidarity. From June 3 to June 11, we invite you to pray this novena to Blessed Antonina, created by our Sisters in the Polish Province.

Next Month



You can expect to receive the July/August edition of *Shalom News North America* on July 10.

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

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.