



Shalom News North America

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



March 2019



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Integrity of Creation

World Wildlife Day (3/3)

World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that conservation provides. At the same time, the Day reminds us of the urgent need to step up the fight against wildlife crime and human induced reduction of species, which have wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts. This year's theme "Life below water: for people and planet" aligns with goal 14 of UN Sustainable Development Goals. [Learn more, take action.](#)



International Day of Forests (3/21)

Forests cover one third of the Earth's land mass, performing vital functions around the world. Forests are the most biologically-diverse ecosystems on land, home to more than 80% of the terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects. The International Day of Forests reminds us of the importance of forests and their vital role in poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and food security. This year's theme is *Forests and Education*. [Learn more/take action.](#)

World Water Day (3/22)

The theme for this year's World Water Day is "Leaving no one behind." UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) includes a target to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all by 2030. By definition, this means "leaving no one behind." Stories, statistics, and ideas for action can be found [here](#). Read about our SSND [Haitian Water Initiative](#) and our [Global Partners: Running Waters](#) affiliated ministry. Enjoy this inspiring [World Water Day to Earth Day Reflection and Activity Calendar](#) and this beautiful [Reflections on Water](#) booklet.

Earth Hour (3/30) 8:30-9:30pm (local time)

Starting as a symbolic lights out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, inspiring millions of people to take action for our planet and nature. On March 30 from 8:30pm-9:30pm (local time) participants will switch off lights and electronics in solidarity with global efforts to protect the Earth. This year's theme is #Connect2Earth. Please consider taking part in this global movement – [learn more](#).

Human Dignity

Our Response to Emergency Declaration

On February 15, President Trump bypassed the U.S. Congress's prerogative to fund federal projects by declaring a national emergency, thus enabling himself, without Congressional approval, to transfer revenues from federal accounts to build a wall along the southern border of the United States. The Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Departments of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest and Central Pacific Provinces, reject President Trump's call for a state of

emergency. It is an abuse of his executive power. The real national emergency resides in our nation's failure to respond with compassion and competence to the needs of the vulnerable people at the U.S. southern border. [Read full statement](#).



International Women's Day (3/8)

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. The 2019 theme

Think equal, build smart, innovate for change
focuses on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure.

[Learn more, video reflections.](#)



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (3/21)

This year's theme is *Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies*. Racist extremist movements based on

ideologies that seek to promote populist, nationalist agendas are spreading in various parts of the world, fueling racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, often targeting migrants and refugees as well as people of African descent. [Learn more](#). Read about Canada's [cross-country conversation on racism](#), review [Pope Francis' address on xenophobia and racism](#), explore the [Open Wide Our Hearts](#) pastoral letter, sign up for NETWORK's Lenten guide [Recommit to Racial Justice](#).

Peace and Non-Violence

Nuclear Weapons Treaty (3/5)

The objective of the International Treaty on Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, enacted in 1970, was to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament. On February 1, President Trump withdrew the US from the treaty based on reports that a Russian missile system was not in compliance with the stipulations of the treaty. Russia responded by withdrawing from the treaty on the following day. While this dual action also poses [a great threat to Europe \(and the rest of the world\)](#), it is also seen as an indication that both countries have an apparent interest in a new nuclear arms race.

Lenten Resources

The [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) invites us this Lent to learn about the relationship between meat production and greenhouse gases.

Perhaps you'll be inspired to go beyond fasting from meat on Fridays to include even more plant-based meals? We invite you to participate in [a journey of prayer and fasting](#) for a conversion of heart and habits. As we forego some of the staples of our consumeristic framework, may we experience a transformation of consciousness and begin to embody the integral ecology paradigm

extolled by Pope Francis, which "is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness" (LS 230).

Gaudete et Exsultate: Rejoice and Be Glad (3/19)

This apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis is not a treatise on holiness for helping us understand the subject, but a meditation on how to respond to Jesus' invitation to be saints. It is meant to be practical. In Pope Francis' own words, he "proposes the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time with all its risks, challenges and opportunities...called to be holy by living our lives with love and bearing witness in everything we do." [Learn more, reflection guide, document](#).

Right to Truth: St. Oscar A. Romero (3/24)

The annual observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims pays



tribute to the memory of St. Oscar Romero who was murdered on March 24, 1980.

The day honors the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and pays tribute to those who have devoted their lives to the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all.

[Learn more](#), enjoy [this reflection on Saint Romero](#), and [these quotes](#).



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.