Shalom News North America



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

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May 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

Ecological Economics & Responsible Purchasing

Goal #3 of the Laudato Si' Action Platform (Ecological Economics) includes a call for us to focus on the impact the production and distribution of goods and services have on

people and planet (now and in the future) and to reflect that concern in our purchasing decisions. It challenges us to examine our own levels of consumption and waste, serving as a profound reminder of "the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers" *(LS 206)*. As both Pope Francis and Pope Benedict have reminded us, "Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act." Click here to learn more and explore actions you can take to practice responsible purchasing and support ecological economics.



Integrity of Creation

Joint Ecological Ministry (JEM)

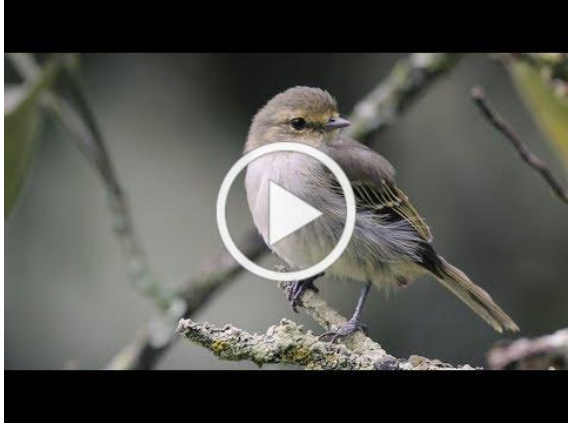
Religious Congregations in Canada are collaborating to promote biodiversity and address the climate crisis. SSND *Shalom* in Canada is a member of the Joint Ecological Ministry (JEM). JEM is offering a "learning & lobbying" opportunity for their members. On May 15, there is a Teach-in Day on Zoom with topics: "The Problem of Climate Change in the Context of Canadian Public Policy" and "Levers for faith communities". Click here for more information and to register for the Monday sessions. On May 17, 18, SSND Associate Deirdre Pike will represent us as she joins JEM reps to lobby Members of Parliament in Ottawa. Please support this team and the politicians in prayer. Learn more about JEM and what they are doing. * Sign up for emails from JEM here.

Integrity of Creation

May 13 - World Migratory Bird Day



The second Saturday of May, is World Migratory Bird Day in Canada and the US. The day is marked on October 14, the second Saturday of October, in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. The two days reflect the cyclical nature of bird migration. The theme in 2023 is "Water: Sustaining Bird Life" and focuses attention on how the increasing human demand for water, pollution and climate change, are impacting the availability of clean water and the conservation status of many migratory birds. Learn more at World Migratory Bird Day | in the Americas





Integrity of Creation



Rachel Carson's birthday

On May 27, we thank God for the life of Rachel Carson (May 27, 1907 – April 14, 1964), whose influential book *Silent Spring* (1962) raised public awareness of the hazards of the pesticide DDT. The book led to a nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides and sparked the movement that led to the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Rachel Carson appreciated the interconnectedness of all life and understood how humans are within the web of ecology, not outside of it. Read more about her life here and at history.com.



Integrity of Creation

Stop Ecocide

An international campaign to criminalize acts of widespread environmental destruction is quickly gathering pace. Ecocide, which literally translates from Greek and Latin as “killing our home,” includes all forms of the mass damage of ecosystems, from industrial pollution to the release of microplastics into the oceans. The idea has become increasingly widespread, with Pope Francis, Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and French President Emmanuel Macron all endorsing the movement to recognize ecocide as an international crime. Learn more on Stop Ecocide International and Stop Ecocide Canada, Actions: Sign the International Petition. Get resources and support from canada@stopecocide.earth



Integrity of Creation

May 22 – International Day for Biodiversity



The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was adopted in December 2022... but how do we go from agreement to action? As we get closer to Biodiversity Day, you can learn about biodiversity and the KMGBF by reading about the targets and goals: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework or focus on the 2030 targets. #buildbackbiodiversity





Integrity of Creation



Laudato Si' Week 2023

Laudato Si' Week 2023 will be celebrated **May 21-28**, marking the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*. Pope Francis refers to the "Gospel of Creation" and invites us to recognize in creation a great act of God which is beneficial to the human race.

Consider joining the global community celebration by organizing a screening of the film, THE LETTER, a dialogue with Pope Francis. Visit this link for more *Laudato Si'* resources





Human Dignity

May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development



The day provides an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity. Acceptance and recognition of cultural diversity encourages dialogue, respect and mutual understanding. Dialogue concerns us all. It is indispensable for peace, stability and development. “Given the complexity of the ecological crisis and its multiple causes, we need to realize that the solutions will not emerge from just one way of interpreting and transforming reality.” (LS 63) To learn more about the day, click here.





Human Dignity



Red Dress Day, May 5, Canada

Red Dress Day, marks the National Day of Awareness to honour the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People, in solidarity with their family and loved ones. The name is inspired by Métis artist Jaime Black’s REDress Project installation, in which she hung empty, red dresses to represent the missing and murdered women.

This is a human rights crisis of gender-based and racialized violence in Canada. 4,000 Indigenous women, girls and members of the 2SLGBTQQIA (two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual) have gone missing or were murdered in Canada between 1980 and 2012. On May 5, we honour them by pressing publicly for justice and an end to the violence.

The Final Report from the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered

Indigenous Women and Girls, released in 2019, concluded that the staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls amounts to race-based genocide. Action: Raise awareness.





Human Dignity

Climate Justice



Climate justice is a call for inclusion, representation, reparation and protection of the rights of the most vulnerable populations affected disproportionately by climate change, especially children and women. In February 2023, forty indigenous leaders met Pope Francis, calling for climate justice. They argued that extractive and exploitive industries are responsible for the unequal access to basic human rights and lack of environmental sustainability.

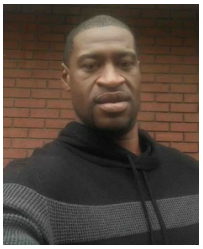
***Prayer**: God of all the earth, as climate chaos wreak havoc on lives and all other creatures, we raise our voices and call for justice for those who suffer most but are least responsible for the causes of the climate crisis.*

Read the SSND International Solidarity Reflection on climate justicehere.

Watch the video below to learn about Inclusive & Equitable Communities.



Human Dignity

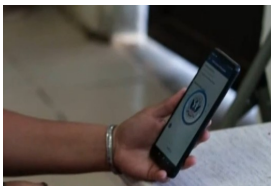


Remembering George Floyd – May 25

The killing of George Floyd prompted a nationwide reckoning with racism unlike anything in the past half century. It drew world-wide attention to issues within American society far beyond policing. May 25, the third anniversary of George Floyd's tragic death, provides us a time for reflection on racism within ourselves as well as our country. It is also a reminder to

consider police training, the stark economic inequalities and racial segregation in American society, limited opportunities for education and employment for African Americans, the many racial disparities, including those relating to crime and the black/white wealth gap which remains the same as in 1970. Click here for a reflection.

Human Dignity



Title 42 Expulsions End May 11

The Title 42 expulsion policy that was put in place in March 2020 to bar migrants from entering the U.S., including those seeking asylum, will end on May 11, the date that the Department of Health and Human Service's public health emergency for COVID-19 expires. Read about Title 42, how it has been applied to different categories of migrants, and what will happen when it is lifted. Watch the video below to learn about the new and problem-plagued Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) cell phone app that migrants can use to apply for asylum before entering the U.S.



Human Dignity



Called to Action – Immigration Podcast Series

The history of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in North America is inextricably connected to the immigrant experience. SSND initially came to the U.S. in 1847 and to Canada in 1871 as immigrants to respond to the educational needs of German immigrants and have continued to minister and walk with immigrants ever since. Through this season's SSND Called to Action podcasts produced by the Central Pacific Province, we will be discussing a wide range of important and timely immigration-related topics via a variety of perspectives. Click here to give this highly informative and engaging podcast series a listen. (Also available through Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other podcast providers.)

Human Dignity



Health Care Threatened in Ontario

Privatization in health care means transferring ownership and responsibility of providing health care and services to the private sector. The Ontario Conservative government of Premier Doug Ford is implementing steps to privatize health care. Although

Ontarians will not have to pay out of pocket for health-care services, there are concerns about the private structure being put in place. Private clinics and hospitals do not increase the total amount of resources available. They may in fact increase the cost of healthcare: major hospitals now spend millions more per year on nurses from private agencies to do the same hospital work but at higher pay. Private clinics also threaten to siphon off skilled healthcare workers from the public system and make staff shortages there even worse. It could also erase an important part of Canada's identity. Learn more about the issue: Ontario Health Coalition; consider this: Five ways to ease pressures on Ontario's health-care system; watch the January episode of *The Agenda,* "Checking in on Ontario Health Care" (below).



Peace

International Day of UN Peacekeepers



Celebrated annually on May 29, the International Day of United Nations peacekeepers honors the uniformed and civilian people's contribution to the organization and the 4,200 peacekeepers who have lost their lives under the UN flag since 1948 - 75 years ago. The theme for the year is "Peace Begins with Me". Since 1948, more than 2 million men and women have served in 72 peacekeeping operations. Read more about the 75th Anniversary. Read about the important role that women play in peacekeeping.



Peace and Nonviolence

Challenge of Peace – 40th Anniversary

On May 3, 1983, 20 years after the issuance of the



encyclical *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)*, the Catholic bishops of the United States published their landmark pastoral letter, *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response,* a political and moral analysis of war and peace in a nuclear age. In the letter, the bishops rejected nuclear war and called upon the U.S. to reverse the arms race. They reminded the faithful that "peacemaking is not an optional commitment. It is a requirement of our faith. We are called to be peacemakers, not by some movement of the moment, but by our Lord Jesus." (CP, #333) This month we invite you to give the pastoral a fresh read. And also consider spending time withthis reflection by Cardinal Robert McElroy on the 40th anniversary of *The Challenge of Peace* and the need to renew Catholic teaching on war and peace.



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.

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