Shalom News North America



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

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October 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
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Integrity of Creation

Season of Creation and Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

The Season of Creation formally ends on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of ecology. Mirroring the theme of the Season of Creation, Let Justice and Peace Flow Like a Mighty River, may our ecological transformation and good works continue to flow out to others in love and respect for all the earth's communities throughout the year. Watch the Canticle of Creation video below. What is God calling you to next?

Join the ecumenical prayer service on October 4, 9:00 am EST or consider using this Blessing of the Animals prayer service.



Integrity of Creation

Forgiveness of debt and the restructuring of debt must be included on the US agenda for COP28

Advocate for Climate Justice at COP28

Severe climate-change-related weather events impact most those who are impoverished in developing nations. Poor countries bear a heavy financial burden even though they contributed the least to the climate crisis itself. To help ease that burden (and take some responsibility for the climate crisis-inducing actions of developed countries) Catholic Climate Covenant and other Laudato Si' Action Platform partners are calling upon U.S. officials to include debt forgiveness and restructuring as key components of their agenda for COP28 (the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference). Click here to learn more and take action to support this climate justice initiative. Click here for the SSND *Shalom* International Solidarity Reflection on climate justice.

ACTION.
DELIVERS.
HOPE.

Integrity of Creation

World Vegetarian Month

The World Vegetarian Day (October 1) was first established in 1977 by the North American Vegetarian Society and was further endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union in 1978. It evolved into a **Vegetarian Awareness Month**. The vegetarian diet has proven health benefits, saves animals' lives and helps to preserve the Earth. This month, let us learn more about plant-based eating and try more vegetarian meals. Learn more.
Recipes: UK Vegetarian Society; North American Vegetarian Society





Integrity of Creation



World Food Day, October 16

World Food Day is celebrated on the founding anniversary of the *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*, October 16, 1945. The UN recognizes that "food is a requisite for human survival and well-being and a fundamental human necessity." This year, the focus is on water as essential to life on Earth. It covers the majority of the Earth's surface, makes up over 50% of our bodies, produces our food, and supports livelihoods. What we eat and how it is produced all affect water.
Together, we can act and be the change.





Integrity of Creation

CLIMATE AMBITION SUMMIT 2023

UN Climate Ambition Summit, September 20 2023

As the climate crisis worsens, “first mover and doer” leaders gathered to share credible actions, policies and plans –not just pledges. Topics included: decarbonization and climate justice; net zero transition plans; implementation of adaptation and early warnings for all. In his concluding remarks, Secretary-General António Guterres called the Summit a “Summit of Hope”: if these “first-doers and movers” can do it, everybody can.
Read the Chair’s Summary.
Watch the sessions.



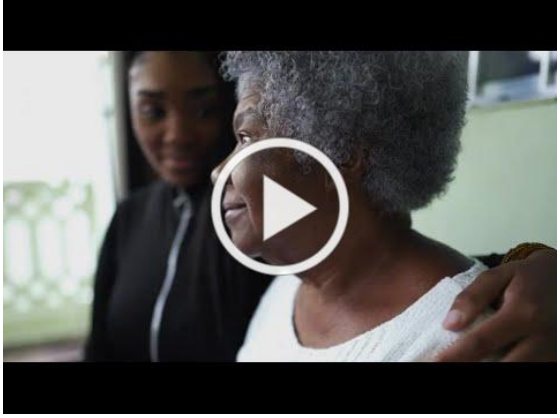
Human Dignity

Respect Life

October is Respect Life Month in the USA.
Respect for Life Week was May 7-13, 2023 in Canada.
Love creates and embraces us tenderly. As we are immersed in the gift and call of universal communion, respecting all life in the womb of creation is a major challenge and opportunity for our conversion. Read more.







Human Dignity

World Teachers' Day, October 5

The theme for World Teachers' Day 2023 is "The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage". Since we have a deep sense of the significance of educating youth, we have particular concern and compassion to stand in solidarity with educators around the globe, especially as they cope with post-pandemic challenges. Let us remember the teachers who inspired, loved and helped us as we pray for those who educate in families, schools and life-situations everywhere.





Human Dignity



U.S. Indigenous People's Day, October 9

Indigenous Peoples' Day became a U.S. national holiday in 2021 to honor Native American peoples and to recognize their cultures and contributions to our society. It is celebrated on the second Monday in October; this year it is October 9, 2023. Explore Native Knowledge 360, a program of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. Learn why this newer holiday was established.



Human Dignity

The International Day of the Girl Child: October 11

Today's more than 1.1 billion girls are poised to take on the future. Every day, girls are breaking boundaries and barriers, tackling issues like child marriage, education inequality, violence, climate justice, and inequitable access to healthcare. Girls are proving they are unstoppable. This generation is poised to become the largest group of female leaders, entrepreneurs and change-makers the world has ever seen. The 2023 theme is "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Wellbeing".Learn more..

Human Dignity

International Day of Rural Women



On October 15, the United Nations observes the critical role of rural women, including indigenous women. Rural women ensure food security for their communities, build climate resilience, and strengthen economies. Yet gender inequalities, combined with a fast-changing economic, technological, and environmental landscape restrict their full potential, leaving them far behind men and their urban counterparts. Learn the facts.





Human Dignity

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, October 17

This day is an opportunity for people living in poverty to make their concerns heard. It's a moment for us to recognize that people who are poor are the first to use

their expertise to fight against poverty.
Many people living in extreme poverty work in the informal economy – unregistered, unrecognized and unprotected under labor legislation – and face difficult and dangerous conditions. The most excluded have no choice but to accept unacceptable situations.
The theme for 2022/23 is “Dignity For All in Practice.” “Using dignity as our compass will … help shape a global economy that prioritises the wellbeing of the people and planet over maximisation of corporate profits.” Read more.
Prayer.



Human Dignity



White Supremacy and American Christianity Webinar - October 21

Our friends with NETWORK are inviting us to join an upcoming webinar conversation about the danger white Christian nationalism presents and the importance of confronting it. The webinar (October 21, 12pm ET/11 am CT) will feature the third of three conversations between Father Bryan Massingale and Dr. Robert P Jones on the subject. *(You can view their first two conversations here.)*
Click here to learn more and register for the October 21 session. Click here to view our SSND-compiled list of resources concerning white Christian nationalism.

Peace and Nonviolence



International Day of Non-Violence (10/2)
The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. This day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness". The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative and partners are offering a five-week conversation series (beginning October 2) to explore the interconnected relationship of violence and the environmental crisis. The series draws inspiration from Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si’ and his visionary perspective on the role of active nonviolence in nurturing a harmonious relationship between humanity and all creation. Learn more/register here.



Peace and Nonviolence

October 24: SSND and the UN

Since October 24, 1833, we SSNDs have been called; we have been sent. “Our constitution calls us to be deeply inserted in our world, to address its basic needs and to lay down our lives that others may live.” *(YAS Foreword)*
On this date in 2023, we celebrate 190 years.
As World War II was ending in 1945, nations were in ruins, and the world wanted peace. They proceeded to draft and then sign the United Nations Charter, which created a new international organization on October 24, 1945, the United Nations. Read more.





Peace and Nonviolence

Disarmament Week: October 24-30



During Disarmament Week, the UN emphasizes the importance of disarmament and the critical role it plays in preventing and ending crises and armed conflict. In an address earlier this year, Pope Francis stated that while disarmament “may seem paradoxical to many” it must be “thorough-going and complete.” He emphasized that “we need to remain aware of the dangers of short-sighted approaches to national and international security and the risks of proliferation.” Click here to explore a variety of interactive online tutorials, quizzes, and maps addressing a range of important disarmament topics.





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.

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