



JUST Love

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH



The Future of Immigration Activism...



Meet Catalina (Cat) Adorno. She is a Dreamer, brought to the United States as a child, and given temporary protected status through DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) – a program of the Obama administration, recently revoked by the Trump administration. Cat is a leader of a movement called COSECHA (Spanish for “harvest”). Movimiento Cosecha is a non-violent movement fighting for permanent protection, dignity, and respect for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. They believe that through direct action and economic non-cooperation, we can change what is politically possible. Cat and other members of COSECHA have engaged in civil disobedience to advocate for just immigration policies and, as undocumented people, have risked deportation. But they are willing to make this personal sacrifice because they want to be active agents in this struggle.

♥At this link read the moving letter that Cat wrote to her mother <https://www.facebook.com/notes/movimiento-cosecha/dear-mama-i-promise-i-wont-let-you-down-again-im-fighting-for-both-of-us-this-ti/1359148474180452/> - how she will no longer accept governmental policies that offer concessions to her and criminalize her mother.

♥For more information about COSECHA <http://www.lahuelga.com/>

It's important and instructive to recall and celebrate the great social justice advocates of the past – Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Daniel and Philip Berrigan. We need to gaze not just to the past. We need to look around us and to celebrate and support a new generation of leaders who are struggling today to build a future of justice, peace, and the flourishing of creation. *JustLove* in October celebrates a few of them. Who are others that you can name and support?

The Future of Religious Life...



Meet Karen Gargamelli (second from the right). Gargamelli left a successful law career to explore a new way of living a committed life in the Dominican tradition. Her search resulted in the founding of the Benincasa community (Benincasa is Catherine of Siena’s family name). Benincasa, housed in a former convent of the NY Sisters of Charity in Blessed Sacrament parish on Manhattan’s Upper West Side, promotes an idea of committed community less centered on vows and more focused on the idea of sharing prayer and a vision for peace and justice. In addition to a commitment to living together, the community focuses on hospitality. It opens what it calls “Christ rooms” to those who are in a crisis or a major life change and need somewhere to stay for a year or less. Benincasa is also a retreat center. There’s no charge for any of this—it’s free, part of the Benincasa ministry. In November 2016 the community also opened the Daniel Berrigan Center for Art & Activism.

♥Read a *US Catholic* article on Benincasa <http://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201708/model-committed-lay-life-dedicated-prayer-peace-and-justice-31133>

♥An article on Benincasa from NCR’s Global Sisters Report <http://globalsistersreport.org/column/trends/wineskins-old-and-new-mostly-new-38176>

The Future of Environmental Activism...


Meet Xiuhtezcatl (pronounced Shoe-Tez-Caht) Martinez - an indigenous environmental activist, hip hop artist, and youth director of Earth Guardians, a worldwide conservation organization. Martinez is one of 21 plaintiffs suing the federal government and Donald Trump administration for failing to act on climate change. The case began in 2015. A federal court rejected the government's move to dismiss the case.


♥Watch here his talk at the United Nations High Level event on Climate Change www.youtube.com/watch?v=27gtZ1oV4kw

♥Check out Earth Guardians 50 Simple Ways to Cut Carbon <https://www.earthguardians.org/50simplethings/>





Want to ramp up your social justice advocacy? We are accustomed to the “easy” advocacy actions of signing an online petition or letter. For a greater impact, consider writing a letter to the editor (LTE) of your local paper asking your senators or congressional representatives for action on an issue that you are passionate about. Politicians pay attention to letters to the editor and their power to form public opinion. Here are some tips for an effective LTE:

 Good LTEs are short (100-200 words) and simple, written in jargon free language that a diverse audience can comprehend.

 Edit your letter carefully.

 Use a respectful tone and avoid sarcasm and personal attacks.

 Begin with a “hook” – a reference to a previous LTE or article or make reference to why this issue is of personal concern to you.

 This is a helpful template to follow: Hook about what you are writing/Personal Connection –why this is important to you/ State the issue and note some facts/Give a local connection to the issue/Issue a call to action – what you want your representative to do/End on a positive note – “I am confident you will do the right thing,”

PEACE Dates in October JUSTICE

- 1 Respect Life Sunday** – Pope Francis says Immigration Reform is a Pro-Life issue: "The President of the United States presents himself as pro-life and if he is a good pro-lifer, he understands that family is the cradle of life and its unity must be protected. I think this law (DACA) comes not from parliament but from the executive. If that is so, I am hopeful that it will be re-thought."
- 2 Birthday of Mohandas Gandhi** (1869-1948) “Liberty and democracy become unholy when their hands are dyed red with innocent blood.”
- 4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi** – Do you know that Francis wanted every friary garden to have an uncultivated portion so that some of God’s wild beauty might be preserved in the world?
- 5 World Teacher’s Day** – Write a note of gratitude to a teacher who influenced you.
- 7 Our Lady of the Rosary** “As believers, we understand peace as a gift of God. This belief prompts us to pray constantly, personally and communally, particularly through the reading of scripture and devotion to the rosary, especially in the family. Through these means and others, we seek the wisdom to begin the search for peace and the courage to sustain us as instruments of Christ's peace in the world.” USCCB *The Challenge of Peace*.
- 11 Feast of Pope Saint John XXIII** “We are not on earth as museum keepers, but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life and to prepare a glorious future.”
- 17 Black Poetry Day** – Check out these African American poets: Amiri Baraka, Lucille Clifton, Rita Dove, Langston Hughes, Audre Lorde, Alice Walker.