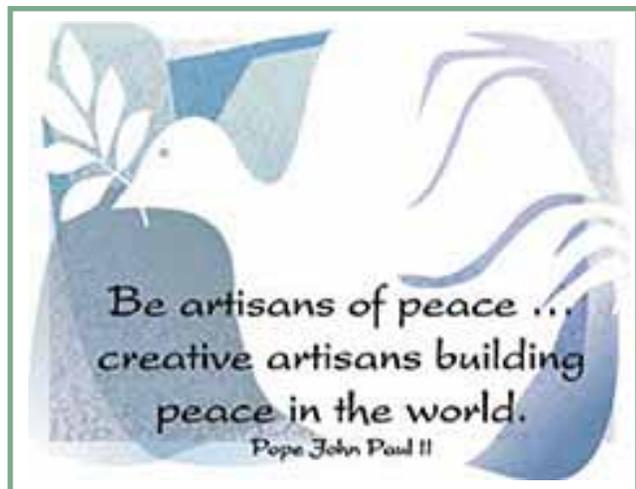


# JUST Love



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



**ARTISANS OF PEACE** – Each month *JustLove* invites a reflection from a Sister of Charity or Seton Associate who is an artisan of peace, justice and ecological integrity.

At a recent meeting, the members of the Justice, Peace and Ecological Integrity Committee were asked to share a dream we have for the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth and Seton Associates to grow in faithfulness to the conviction, “that a life of charity requires a faith that does justice.” I thought to myself: What could my dream be? After all, I am new to this Committee. I have no prior experience in social justice nor

do I have much knowledge about social justice issues! But as I reflected a little more deeply on this question, I had to admit that my perspective on social justice has changed since joining the JPEI Committee. I have come to see that working towards correcting social injustice is an integral part of our lives as Sisters of Charity. In fact, all our documents suggest that social justice is part of our charism, to be on the side of the poor and oppressed. *Toward Boundless Charity* calls us to “strive to respond to the great needs existing in our complex society by being responsible members of the world community, collaborating with all who work to make life more human.” (D. 2.) I take that to mean that social justice work is not simply an “add on,” something else to do in addition to our ministry. It is our primary responsibility as Sisters of Charity. Fueled by this new energy and perspective, I find I now have an increased interest in advocacy, particularly in letter writing. I use Network’s website ([www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)) for finding in-depth information about social issues and sample letters to send to legislators. So, if you are like me, (have an interest in social justice but don’t know where to begin) consider writing a letter to your legislators on an issue that you feel is unjust and would like to see changed. Choose an issue that touches your life, your ministry or the lives of someone you know. Taking that first step towards correcting some injustice may just change your perspective on social justice too.

Patricia Mennor, SC

May is traditionally Mary’s month and many of us have memories of May Crownings and rosary processions and novena devotions. The image of the Miraculous Medal revealed to Daughter of Charity Saint Catherine Laboure is especially dear to the Company of Charity. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth used to have the custom of wearing the medal on the left side of their capes on Nov. 27, the Feast of the Miraculous Medal – a rare bit of accessorizing of the austere habit! The medal shows Mary as the woman of the

Apocalypse treading the serpent underfoot – symbol of the Queen of Peace who disarms every violent and harmful power. Catholic Worker artist Brian Kavanaugh makes this image powerfully contemporary as he depicts Mary with a drone aircraft under her feet. Perhaps as a May devotion this month, you might educate yourself on this new and morally doubtful instrument of contemporary warfare. May Mary, Queen of Peace, energize us with her own spirit to advocate against the instruments of death and to promote the flourishing of life.

Drone Fact Sheet from the Catholic Peace Fellowship of Philadelphia

<http://www.cpfphila.org/NL1207/NL1207%204.html>

Article on the morality of drones from the National Catholic Reporter

<http://ncronline.org/news/politics/'irresistible-attractions'-drones>

Prayer Service to End the Use of Lethal Drones – Baltimore/DC Pax Christi

<http://www.paxchristimetrodc.org/2012/06/prayer-service-to-end-the-use-of-lethal-drones/>





Perhaps you've heard the joke that at the last judgment Jesus is going to welcome the sheep on his right into their heavenly reward and say to the goats on his left, "Break up into small groups." We all spend so much of our lives at meetings. These guidelines from the Adrian Dominican Sisters invite us to look for ways to make our meetings greener and less harsh to Mother Earth:

### Guidelines for Event Planning

The questions below present guidelines for implementing our VISION in very practical ways. They may be used in planning events or gatherings for ourselves or others, a way of keeping us mindful and sensitive to right relationships. Depending on the situation, some may be more achievable than others.

## JUSTICE DAYS IN MAY

**1** Feast of St. Joseph the Worker and Labor Day in most countries of the world. Check out the website of the Catholic Labor Network <http://unionsandsocialjustice.wordpress.com/> and pray to St. Joseph for the rights of workers.

**3** 30 years ago today US Bishops issue *The Challenge of Peace*. "We are the first generation since Genesis with the power to virtually destroy God's creation. We cannot remain silent in the face of such danger. Why do we address these issues? We are simply trying to live up to the call of Jesus to be peacemakers in our own time and situation."

**5** **Cinco de Mayo** – Pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe for our immigrant brothers and sisters.

**12** **Mother's Day:** Do you know that the original 1870 Mother's Day proclamation by Julia Ward Howe was a prophetic call for peace? Read it here <http://www.peace.ca/mothersdayproclamation.htm>

**20** **Feast of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter**, conscientious objector to the Nazi Army, martyr for peace  
[http://www.dioezese-linz.at/redaktion/index.php?page\\_new=870](http://www.dioezese-linz.at/redaktion/index.php?page_new=870)

**24** **Day of Prayer for the Catholic Church in China** – Pray to the deceased Sisters of Charity who ministered in China to intercede for the Church in China today.

### Meeting Place Environment

To what degree do we

- gather at places that use energy-efficient electronics/appliances, lighting, heating, and air-conditioning (e.g., timers or sensors)?
- gather at places close to public transportation (buses, subway, shuttle to airport) or promote car-pooling?
- use chlorine-free paper, minimize use of colored paper, and, whenever possible, minimize use of paper by copying on both sides and asking people to share copies?
- keep decorations simple, reusable and made from natural items such as homegrown flowers and beeswax candles?

### Food and Beverages

To what degree do we

- use available local food sources?
- use organically grown food?
- use fair trade and/or local food cooperative beverages and snacks such as coffee, tea and chips?
- use alternatives to bottled water and soda?
- avoid serving a boxed lunch that uses paper and plastic rather than providing a buffet lunch?
- use china and silverware or biodegradable tableware rather than Styrofoam, paper or plastic and/or request that participants bring their own mugs?

### Ritual and Communication

To what degree do we

- use inclusive, non-violent language throughout prayer, ritual and in all communication aspects of the gathering?
- avoid images of dark, black or night to connote evil, sinful or negative images?
- avoid the use of militaristic language such as being in the trenches, shooting an email to someone, using bullets in a listing, killing two birds with one stone, targeting, strategizing . . . ?

Read the entire document at [http://www.adriandominicans.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Bh\\_uLTrRe8U%3D](http://www.adriandominicans.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Bh_uLTrRe8U%3D)

## New Resources in the PJEI Office:

*Half the Sky – Turning Opression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* – NY Times columnist Nicholas Kristof and his wife Sheryl Wu Dunn travel the world profiling women who transform oppression into opportunity – two DVD series

*Not Less Than Everything: Catholic writers on Heroes of Conscience from Joan of Arc to Oscar Romero*, edited by Catherine Wolf – a wonderful collection of essays by Catholic writers on their heroes – Joan Chittister on Hildegard of Bingen; Charles Curran on Bernard Haring; Alice McDermott on Horace McKenna, SJ; Tobias Wolff on Franz Jagerstatter.

To borrow these resources call the PJEI Office at 973-290-5404 or email [tmoran@scnj.org](mailto:tmoran@scnj.org)