



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



Pope Francis, generally a pope of surprises, took the world by surprise when, on September 21, while addressing participants in a meeting of Latin American university rectors in the Vatican, he announced the publication on October 4 of *Laudate Deum*, an apostolic exhortation that would be a follow up to his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*. It is addressed to “my brothers and sisters of our suffering planet,” (2). In the six sections, much shorter than *Laudato Si'*, one can hear Pope Francis’s sense of urgency, even exasperation, about the climate crisis. LD includes a “Climate Science 101” in which Francis challenges both climate change deniers and those who acknowledge the science but whose response has not been proportionate to the crisis. As in *Laudato Si'* he derides the “technocratic paradigm”: “everything that exists ceases to be a gift for which we should be thankful, esteem and cherish, and instead becomes a slave, prey to any whim of the human mind and its capacities,” (22). He reviews the history, with its lights and shadows, of the UN Climate Conferences and looks to COP28 in Dubai

where he hopes we will move beyond, “the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes,” (56). He appeals to people of faith in a special way: “The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?” (65). His closing words issue a prophetic critique to the over-developed North, “If we consider that emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries, we can state that a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long term impact,” (72). With passion and prophecy, Pope Francis once again entreats us to join, “this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home,” (69).

The full text of *Laudate Deum* can be found here:
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html



By Rose Marie Berger

They will not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain..." —Isaiah 11:9

God of Comfort,

send your Spirit to encompass all those whose lives are torn apart by violence and death in Israel and Palestine. You are the Advocate of the oppressed and the One whose eye is on the sparrow.

Let arms reach out in healing, rather than aggression.

Let hearts mourn rather than militarize.

God of Justice,

give strength to those whose long work for a just peace might seem fruitless now. Strengthen their resolve.

Do not let them feel alone. Show us how to support their work and bolster their courage. Guide religious leaders to model unity and reconciliation across lines of division.

Guide political leaders to listen with their hearts as they seek peace and pursue it. Help all people choose the rigorous path of just peace and disavow violence.

God of Love,

we lift up Palestine and Israel — its people, its land, its creatures.

War is a monster that consumes everything in its path.

Peace is a gift shared at meals of memory with Christians, Muslims, and Jews.

Let us burn incense, not children. Let us break bread, not bodies.

Let us plant olive groves, not cemeteries.

We beg for love and compassion to prevail on all your holy mountains.

God of Hope,

we lift up the cities of the region: Gaza City and Tel Aviv, Ramallah and Ashkelon, Deir El Balah and Sderot, so long divided, yet so filled with life and creativity.

Come again to breathe peace on your peoples that all may recognize you.

God of Mercy,

even now work on the hearts of combatants to choose life over death, reconciliation over retaliation, restoration over destruction. Help us resist antisemitism in all its forms, especially in our own churches. All people, Israelis and Palestinians, deserve to live in peace and unafraid, with a right to determine their future together.

God of the Nations,

let not one more child or elder be sacrificed on altars of political expediency.

Keep safe all people from unjust leaders who would exploit vulnerability for their own distorted ends.

Give wise discernment to those making decisions to pursue peace.

Provide them insight into fostering well-being, freedom, and thriving for all.

Teach all of us to resolve injustices with righteousness, not rockets.

Guard our hearts against retaliation, and give us hearts for love alone.

Strengthen our faith in you, O God of All Flesh,

even when we don't have clear answers, so that we may still offer ourselves nonviolently for the cause of peace.

Amen.



JPIC DATES TO COMMEMORATE IN NOVEMBER

1 All Saints Day – Who are the social justice saints you have known?

2 All Souls Day Pray today for all people who have died victims of oppression, injustice, violence.

3 St. Martin de Porres, patron of inter-racial justice.

8 Birthday (1897) of Dorothy Day “Those who cannot see Christ in the poor are atheists indeed.”

9 Birthday (1914) Thomas Berry, CP “The universe is composed of subjects to be communed

with, not objects to be exploited. Everything has its own voice. Thunder and lightning and stars and planets, flowers, birds, animals, trees; all these have voices, and they constitute a community of existence that is profoundly related.”

13 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, patron of immigrants.

16 Jesuit Martyrs of El Salvador Watch this short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkFHD34oXwk&t=4s>

19 World Toilet Day Having a clean and maintained toilet can add on to the health and comfort of life in so many ways. Happy World Toilet Day.

24 Observe International Buy Nothing Day and resist the consumerism of Black Friday.