



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

Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

*Spirit of Life and Love,
which moves Human hearts,
minds, and hands
to care for our Neighbors
and our Mother Earth
fill our spirits with your Peace.
Empower us to know our own strength
To do Justice
To love Mercy
To walk Humbly.
May we remember old ways,
and create new ways,
to be people of Peace in the world.
And with blessing,
transform the World's pain
before it can be transmitted.
May it be so.*



As *JustLove* goes to press, we are entering the third week of the tragic situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian invasion. Incredibly, in a matter of weeks, 2 million refugees have been added to the world refugee population - 26 million people already on the move. The response of neighboring countries is heartening. Refugees are given immediate TPS (Temporary Protected Status) that allows them to work and to qualify for government benefits. But we need to ask ourselves – don't all refugees from war and violence deserve the same treatment? They rarely receive it; as the plight of Haitian refugees to the United States deported immediately back to Haiti demonstrates. Income from exports of petroleum and gas are the main financial support of Putin and other Russian oligarchs. Imagine how different the situation would be if 20 years ago countries had made the transition to sustainable energy. As Americans watch their gas prices spike to level highs, the crisis in Ukraine has not raised the price of solar or wind energy by one cent. While we rightly decry the lack of democracy in Russia, are

we equally energetic in fighting the multiple legislative threats to free access to voting in the United States? The treat of escalation of the Russian invasion to nuclear war makes all the more prophetic the pastoral letter of Sana Fe Archbishop John Wester calling for global nuclear disarmament <https://archdiosf.org/living-in-the-light-of-christs-peace> We pray and act for peace in Ukraine. We must also pray and act every day for education in nonviolence, for ecological sustainability, for vigorous democratic institutions. As Pope Francis says so beautifully in *Fratelli Tutti* (127): "Certainly, all this calls for an alternative way of thinking. Without an attempt to enter into that way of thinking, what I am saying here will sound wildly unrealistic. On the other hand, if we accept the great principle that there are rights born of our inalienable human dignity, we can rise to the challenge of envisaging a new humanity. We can aspire to a world that provides land, housing and work for all. This is the true path of peace, not the senseless and myopic strategy of sowing fear and mistrust in the face of outside threats."



April 22 is Earth Day. The theme of Earth Day 2022 is *Invest in Our Planet and Build a Prosperous and Equitable Future*. The theme reminds us, as Pope Francis so often does, that the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor are one cry. At this link, find 52 tips to how to invest in our planet <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/>

What Will You Take On for Easter?

Catholics are very accustomed to “give up” something for the 40 days of Lent. A more important question is what do we “take up” for the 50 days of the Easter season, this year from Easter Sunday on April 17 to Pentecost Sunday on June 5? Spend some time reflecting on these images and quotes and decide how you will be an active presence of Easter life, joy, and peace in the world.



“Nothing can resist the person who smiles at life – I don’t mean the ironic and disillusioned smile of my grandfather, but the triumphant smile of the person who knows that he will survive, or that at least he will be saved by what seems to be destroying him.”

~ Teilhard de Chardin

“After Calvary, men were afraid with a new fear, the fear of love. There was a laugh freed for ever and for ever.”

~ Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh

If I try to follow Jesus, “Come along,” he says, and that above all, “Come along into God’s kingdom — to our home country, where no one is beaten, no one is thrown out and shoved away. Look and see,” he says to me and shows how the lame begin to walk. He does not say, “close your eyes; I’ll do everything.”

~ Dorothee Soelle

“As Mary cradles the dead body of Jesus in the Pieta, Mother Earth cradles the body of Jesus awaiting resurrection.”

~ Terrence Moran