



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

How Will We Be Seeds?

May is traditionally Mary's month. Last month on Good Friday a group gathered to pray the Stations of the Cross at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, CT. There are 15 nuclear submarines there, the largest contingent in the nation. We proclaimed the gospel of peace at a place preparing for ecocide. At each station, we prayed, "We adore you, O Christ and we bless you. By the power of your passion and resurrection, may we take the crucified victims down from the cross." Mary was very present there, in the words of the prayers and in the exceptional art work by Jackie Allen-Doucot of the Hartford Catholic Worker. The posters were hung on the fence surrounding the base as each station was prayed. We invite you during Mary's month to reflect on these images. How will we respond to the cry of Mother Earth, the poorest of the poor. How will we renew our faith in the God of the Magnificat? How will we be seeds?



The fourth station: Jesus meets his mother.

Jesus, child of Mary, is also a child of Mother Earth, called by Pope Francis, "the poorest of the poor." Earth wails in distress, despoiled by species loss, industrial poisoning of land, air, and water, by mining that rips wounds out of the body of Earth, the body of God. And

we build another mall, a shiny toy to turn our gaze from our Mother's desolation.



The thirteenth station: The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross

The body of Jesus is placed in the lap of his mother Mary, the same lap in which he was fondled as a child. She is crazed with grief. But her heart never stops singing the song that formed her life, "God will topple tyrants from their thrones

and lift up the lowly. God will fill the hungry with good things and send the rich empty away."



The fourteenth station: Jesus is buried

The body of Jesus is taken from the arms of his mother Mary and is placed in the arms of his mother Earth. The fertile body of Earth receives him and the crucified victim of empire begins to stir with new life. So many victims of Empire's repression in Latin America

found strength in the words "They tried to bury us, they didn't know we were seeds."

For more information on the Groton base <https://wagingnonviolence.org/2021/06/existing-and-resisting-in-the-nuclear-submarine-capital-of-the-world/>

For more information on the Hartford Catholic Worker <https://hartfordcatholicworker.org/> If you would like a copy of the text of the entire Way of the Cross, request at tmoran@scnj.org



May 21-28, 2023 is Laudato Si' Week. Find here resources to celebrate the extraordinary gift of Pope Francis's Encyclical <https://laudatosiweek.org/laudato-si-week-resources-2023/>. Encourage people to integrate more deeply the message of Laudato Si' by using the Sister of Charity "Six Weeks with Laudato Si'" calendar https://www.scnj.org/_files/ugd/a2bb32_6395e038741246f38c6552fb8ab5d634.pdf Watch our video series on the 7 Goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCImrLRD1M_xE-oebX3bfD5g



Sisters of Charity Roberta Feil, Eileen Eager, Maureen Dunne, Seton Associate Mary Gannon, and Fr. Terrence Moran, Director of the Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity joined thousands of people across the country to call on banks to stop investing in fossil fuels. This initiative was convoked by climate activist Bill McKibben and his organization Third Act which aims to mobilize people over 60 “in the third act of life,” as climate activists. The tactic of moral pressure on banks was very effective in ending apartheid in South Africa, We’re working that it will be equally effective in promoting the rapid transition to sustainable energy sources. From more information on Third Act <https://thirdact.org/>



Sisters of Charity, students of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth, Saint Elizabeth University, and Partners in Mission gather on Earth Day to bless and plant a dogwood tree on the motherhouse property. The prayer service was prepared and led by the students of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth.



JPIC DATES TO REMEMBER IN MAY

1 Feast of St. Joseph the Worker Today is the 90th birthday of the Catholic Worker. Learn more about it at the newly updated CW website <https://catholicworker.org/> . Do you know that the entire run of *The Catholic Worker* newspaper can be found online at the same site?

9 Birthday of Jesuit peacemaker Daniel Berrigan (1921). Check out the work of the Daniel Berrigan Collective for Contemplation, Community, and Resistance <https://www.berrigancollective.org/>

14 Mother’s Day Read the original Mother’s Day Proclamation, a stirring call for peace after the horrors of the US Civil War <https://peacealliance.org/history-of-mothers-day-as-a-day-of-peace-julia-ward-howe/>

15 International Conscientious Objector’s Day Learn about the work of the Catholic Peace Fellowship to support conscientious objectors to war <http://www.catholicpeacefellowship.org/wp/wordpress/co-support/>

28 Pentecost Sunday “Through the Spirit, the risen Christ is universally present in the world everywhere and in every moment, as pervasive as the air we breathe, as the sun or the rain that comes down on us, as the wind that blows around us, as the life that flows with our every breath.”

Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ