



JUST Love

FEBRUARY 2022



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

February is Black History Month. Here are a few suggestions for how to celebrate:



1. Support Black owned businesses. Find some here <https://www.miiriya.com/>

2. Learn About Noteworthy Black Figures and Their Contributions. Find a number of less well-known figures profiled here <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/people-african-american-history/>

3. Donate to charities that support Anti-Racism equity and equality <https://breadrosesfund.org/grants-scholarships/blackledorganizing/>

4. Participate in a virtual Black History Month event or activity <https://teambuilding.com/blog/virtual-black-history-month>

5. Use one of these prayer every day during Black History Month
<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/prayers-for-black-history-month1>

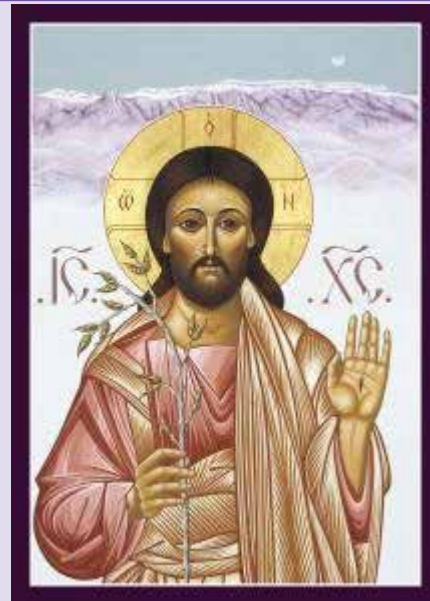


Single plastics are almost as damaging to Earth's life systems as climate change. Check out this list of products compiled by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet that offers alternatives.

<https://csjcarondelet.org/justice/earth/products/>

For example, these laundry detergent sheets eliminate the need for large plastic detergent bottles <https://www.earthbreeze.com/collections/frontpage>

These reusable mesh bags eliminate the need for plastic produce bags in supermarkets <https://www.outdoorstribes.com/products/10-reusable-produce-bags>



"I invite us to have a conversation together about what it means to follow the risen, nonviolent Jesus who calls us to be peacemakers, put down the sword, and love everyone, even the enemies of our nation."

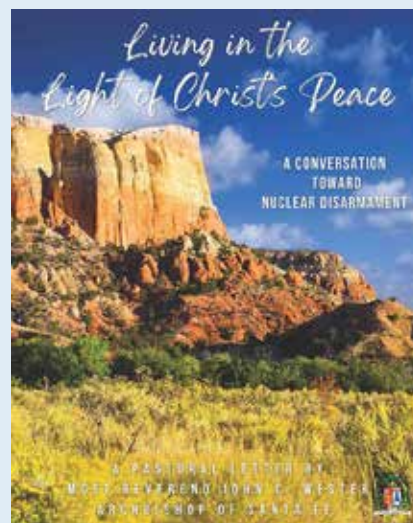
Archbishop John Wester

(Icon of Nuestro Señor de la Sandias by Fr. William Hart McNichols)

On January 11, 2022, Archbishop John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, NM issued a pastoral letter *Living in the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament*. His pastoral letter is a powerful and prophetic call, following the lead of Pope Francis, for the abolishment of nuclear weapons. Wester states, "We need to figure out concrete steps toward abolishing nuclear weapons and permanently ending the nuclear threat. If we care about humanity, if we care about our planet, if we care about the God of peace and human conscience, then we must start a public conversation on these urgent questions and find a new path toward nuclear disarmament." His call is all the more impressive since his Archdiocese is the location of two nuclear research facilities in Los Alamos and Sandias.

The text of the pastoral letter and the press conference presenting the pastoral letter can be found here <https://archdiosf.org/living-in-the-light-of-christs-peace> Here are some of the suggestions for action from the pastoral letter; steps each of us can take:

- Share the letter and start a conversation about how we can work for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Hold a session (perhaps virtual) in your parish to discuss the letter.
- Pray daily for the abolition of nuclear weapons.
- Express your support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>
- Ask your pastor to include prayers for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for world peace at Mass in the Prayers of the Faithful
- If you have investments, please use your money consciously. See <https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/> on how NOT to invest in nuclear weapons.



Dates to Commemorate in February February is African American History Month

2 World Wetlands Day celebrated today because in 1971 the United Nations Convention on Wetlands was signed. "My temple is the swamp... When I would recreate myself, I seek the darkest wood, the thickest and most impenetrable and to the citizen, most dismal, swamp. I enter a swamp as a sacred place."

Henry David Thoreau

4 Birthday (1913) of Rosa Parks "The bus was among the first ways I realized there was a black world and a white world."

8 Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita/International Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking. At this link find a prayer service for the feast <https://www.snjmusontario.org/wp-content/uploads/Prayer-Services-In-Honor-of-St.-Josephine-Bakhita.pdf>

14 St. Valentine's Day – Make sure your chocolates are Fair Trade <https://www.fairtradeamerica.org/shop-fairtrade/>

20 World Day of Social Justice - Check out the peace, justice, and ecology web page of the Sisters of Charity. Find something there that inspires you to action <https://www.scnj.org/peace-justice-ecological-integrity>

22 Execution of Sophie and Hans Scholl, student resisters to the Nazis. "I will cling to the rope God has thrown me in Jesus Christ, even when my numb hands can no longer feel it." Sophie Scholl