



# 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

## Trinitas Hospital: A Welcoming Community, Bethany Joseph

When I came to work at Trinitas as an out, Jewish, gender non-conforming lesbian, I will admit I had my apprehensions. How accepting could or would a Catholic hospital truly be? As it turns out, the Trinitas family welcomed me with open arms and I have felt safe and respected here. When I was asked to join the LGBTQIA+ committee a little more than a year ago, I was quietly excited that this was happening at Trinitas. The LGBTQIA+ committee was formed in response to the New Point Campus team identifying a need for more education around serving LGBTQIA+ patients, and transgender patients in particular. To their credit, New Point leadership responded immediately to the staff bringing this need to the fore, and spearheaded the formation of this committee. The committee began with reviewing the policies that had implications for LGBTQIA+ patients, many of which were outdated. New policies and procedures were needed to provide guidance for the entire Trinitas team and to provide safety for our patients. The LGBTQIA+ committee has worked with the Education department to create new learning modules for the entire Trinitas team. To be able to serve LGBTQIA+ patients, we need to see, acknowledge, protect and understand them first. Change has steps, building blocks, and comes with great patience. We are now working on updating bathroom signs to be inclusive and to signal LGBTQIA+ people that we are seen - that we are welcome and we are safe here. The cafeteria



has been helping to celebrate Pride month (June) this year with rainbow themed treats. Committee members are participating in Pride events in the local area to advance Trinitas's journey to understanding, to acceptance and to culturally competent care for LGBTQIA+ patients.

When a patient comes to Trinitas for any reason, they have the very

reasonable expectation of being treated with respect. It is part of the history of this institution and is in the fabric of who we are as Trinitas staff. We provide care to every patient that comes to us for help, and we treat every patient with respect and dignity. In order to do this for LGBTQIA+ patients, we needed to make a start, state a position, an intention, and take steps toward our future as a safe, affirming and welcoming place to receive care. Patience means we are taking small steps, but thanks to the staff, Administration and Board of Directors, they are meaningful, powerful and timely steps toward our future.

For further information on the Church and Transgender people:

James Martin, SJ, The Church and the Transgender Person  
[https://outreach.faith/2022/05/the-church-and-the-transgender-person/?fbclid=IwAR1xsqL2NT\\_xU9MbJPWhZC\\_6Ldq1aOtdEhFlz5Y5iQrx8HzHYgVfRKPHpY](https://outreach.faith/2022/05/the-church-and-the-transgender-person/?fbclid=IwAR1xsqL2NT_xU9MbJPWhZC_6Ldq1aOtdEhFlz5Y5iQrx8HzHYgVfRKPHpY)

## Some Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Summer



§ Because of air conditioning, American energy use increases by 33% in the summer. The Department of Energy suggests 78° setting. § Stop using plastic party supplies. Americans use 40 billion plastic utensils a year! Have charity on Earth and use real plates and cutlery. § It's important to use sunscreen but most commercial brands contain coral-bleaching chemicals oxybenzone and octinoxate. Here's an easily obtainable alternative: Aveeno Positively Mineral Sensitive Skin Sunscreen SPF 50. § Plan a staycation. Air travel is the single most dangerous thing we do to contribute to global warming. Investigate the places of natural beauty that you can visit close to your home.

## Living Our Public Stand on Racism



The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth are living into our Public Stand on Racism. This banner at the gates of our Convent Station property, using the words of

the Penitential Rite at the beginning of mass, expresses our contrition for our participation in the sin of racism. We have stated the practice of doing a “land acknowledgement” at the beginning of Congregation gathers to ponder the history of white settler colonialism and slavery that underlies our country’s history. At our April Congregation day we took a collection of \$2000 to donate to the NAACP in memory of our Sister Louis Marie Bryan (+2012) one of the founding members of the National Black Sisters Conference <https://www.nbsc68.com/>

**Thanks to Call to Action <https://www.cta-usa.org/> for these suggestions about actions we can take to oppose white supremacy:**

- Support Black-owned businesses and businesses owned by communities of color.
- Contact your diocesan offices and demand that church leaders speak out against white supremacy in the pulpit and other means of communication.

- Attend vigils and solidarity events in your town or city.
- Educate yourself on the intersections of racism with sexism, ableism, classism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, and other dynamics of oppression.
- Share social media posts, especially those created by Black activists (and other activists of color). Some suggestions are: Black Lives Matter (nationally and local chapters), Poor People’s Campaign, Faith in Action, Race Forward, Color of Change, Showing Up for Racial Justice (national and local chapters).
- Vote — educate yourself on issues impacting communities pushed to the margins and hold our elected officials accountable at the local, state, and federal levels for actions and inactions.
- Amplify voices of color demanding equity and equality, especially in spaces that are historically and currently dominated by white bodies, voices, and experiences.
- We are all privileged and we all experience challenges; recognize what privileges you have and use them to advocate for change and justice.
- As many activist leaders have said and lived: solidarity is not a one-time event or action but an ongoing journey. We must mourn those who have been killed while also ensuring that we celebrate the gifts, experiences, and bodies of those pushed to the margins while they are alive.
- Most importantly, listen to the voices and experiences of individuals and communities impacted by white supremacy and other forms of oppression.

## JPIC Date to Commemorate in JULY

**4 Consider singing this adaptation of America the Beautiful - "How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies"** How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain; our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain. America! America! God's gracious gifts abound, and more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around. Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons: O may we never rest content till all are truly one. America! America! God grant that we may be a sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea. How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears, the courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years. America! America! God grant that we may be a nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty. How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea that dream of peace, nonviolence, all people living free. Americas! Americas! God grant that we may be a hemisphere where people here all live in harmony. (On her first trip west in the summer of 1893 the distinguished New England educator Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies." One hundred years later, in 1993, Miriam Therese Winter wrote new stanzas to clearly include all of the Americas.)

**5 Birthday of Blessed Rutilio Grande (1928-1977),** martyr of El Salvador. “If Christ is not to remain in the clouds then the Gospel has to grow little feet,”

**7 Birthday (1931-2005) of Sr. Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, martyr of the Amazon** “We must be poor with the poor and recapture a tender and kind relationship with Mother Earth. Then we will know how to act.”

**11 Feast of St. Benedict,** father of Western monasticism who taught his monks that the tools of the farm should be treated with the same reverence as the vessels of the altar.

**14 Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha.** Learn about St. Kateri Habitat Gardens and consider starting one at your home, school, or parish. <https://www.kateri.org/saint-kateri-habitat-2/>

**22 Feast of St. Mary Magdalene** “For those who prefer a Church with an exclusively male hierarchy, it is easier to deal with Mary Magdalene as a repentant sinner than as an apostolic woman who had a voice and used it,” Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ

**30 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** Check out the trafficking resources on the SC website <https://www.scnj.org/peace-justice-ecological-integrity>