



JUST Love



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

Sisters of Charity Renew their Commitment to Immigrants

Ministry with immigrants has been a consistent focus of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth from our founding in 1859 to the present. It's no surprise then that this long lasting concern surfaced at our joint Assembly with the Sisters of Charity of New York in April 2023: "Together in Charity, meeting our graced future, we commit to continuing our legacy of Charity by forming a core committee on immigration with representative from New York, New Jersey, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and other areas where we minister, to expand our understanding of immigration and to challenge ourselves to increase advocacy on systemic and direct service levels." Over the past year, this joint committee has surveyed sisters and associates in both Congregations to become better informed about efforts that already taking place. A group formed of representatives of all the aforementioned counties works with the Root Causes Initiative <https://faithinactioninternational.org/tag/root-causes-initiative/> to address the policies of the United States government that are push factors for immigration from other countries. Since immigration is a tendentious issue in the 2024 presidential campaign, we hope to offer educational opportunities for our sisters and associates to counter dangerous and inflammatory misinformation about immigrants and asylum seekers. As one of our



sisters has said, "My most difficult conversations about immigration are at holiday dinners with my family!" An article in the National Catholic Reporter *The US is at a crossroads on immigration. What should the Catholic Church do next?* by J. Kevin Appleby offers the following helpful suggestions. Read the whole article at the link below for more detail.

1. Defend the Church's mission without fear.
2. Respond to dehumanizing language about immigrants.
3. Explain the Church's teaching on borders more effectively.
4. Highlight the contributions of immigrants more frequently.
5. Stick to the church's policy positions, but become more flexible as to how they are achieved.

Stay tuned as we plan to offer education events for our sisters and associates to help make those holiday conversation less heated and more filled with light. The whole article can be read at this link:

https://www.ncronline.org/opinion/guest-voices/us-crossroads-immigration-what-should-catholic-church-do-next?fbclid=IwAR0E-9uRnWYRy5ppjbNsI-IYEHIsiC47w4z64HXuuFf0xXw8j_2pGrF8_3M



Many religious congregations have adopted the practice of "Meatless Mondays." Reducing our consumption of red meat is an important action we can all take to the crisis of global warning.

Check out this booklet from the Sisters of Mercy that gives some delicious recipes to try for your Meatless Monday https://www.sistersofmercy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-Mercy-Meatless-Mondays_compressed.pdf



Praying with a Deck of Cards Sister Roberta Feil, SC

For years Fr. Terrence Moran in our Peace Justice and Ecological Integrity Office has gifted us with prayer cards for so many various Church and world needs. They are a reminder to be advocates for immigrants, war torn areas of our world, persons trafficked, those who are without a home of their own, including people, animals and other Earth creatures.

Most days I make the opportunity in my day to pray with these cards. They are reminders to me of what our community values and calls us to be mindful of as activists for change in our world.

At times they are an Examen for me on how I live my day:
Did I respond to take “*actions for justice*” when asked?
Do I seek forgiveness when I *have failed to respect another*?
Do all the sisters in my home *feel the warmth of human community*?

Do I pray for leaders of nations to *promote peace*?
Have I remembered the *suffering of Haiti* today?
Do I see *God's image before me in the diversity of people* I've met this day?

Did I delight in the beauty of creation today?
How might I do better in my ecological decisions and my personal food print?

As Pentecost approaches let us pray with the Nuns Against Gun Violence asking the Spirit to, “Pentecost us.”

On April 11, Saint Elizabeth University was privileged to host renowned Fordham University theologian Fr. Bryan Massingale for the lecture “Striving for Racial and LGBTQ Justice: What is the Role of the Church?” Here are some quotes for your reflection.

- Racism is a soul sickness that forms communities of cold, callous indifference.
- White Christian nationalism is a form of religious faith that believes that the United States is meant to be a place of privilege for white, cisgender men.
- There are many Americans who would rather live in a White dictatorship than in a multicultural democracy.
- White Christian Nationalism is a minority movement (only about 30% of the population) that can only survive through the erasure of democracy.
- In some states a University student ID is not a valid form of identification for voting but a hunting license is.
- Whiteness is not a skin color. Whiteness is a social status. Courts have adjudicated the limits of Whiteness. Whiteness is tied to gender and sexuality. Gay men are not “White enough.”
- The crucial question is not whether American Catholic believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist but whether they believe in the real presence of Christ in Black and Brown bodies.
- We must work for a world where Black lives can breathe free.

Information about Fr. Massingale and some of his articles can be found on the Fordham website <https://www.fordham.edu/academics/departments/theology/faculty/bryan-massingale/>



JPIC Dates to Remember in May

1 St. Joseph the Worker “Joseph, You who come from the peripheries help us to convert our gaze and to prefer what the world discards and marginalizes.” Prayer to Joseph of Pope Francis

11 Death (1981) of Bob Marley, Jamaican musician and peace activist <https://www.billboard.com/music/music-news/bob-marley-birthday-70-protest-songs-6465429/>

12 Mother's Day – Read the original Mother's Day Proclamation, an anti-war manifesto <https://peacealliance.org/history-of-mothers-day-as-a-day-of-peace-julia-ward-howe/>

15 International Conscientious Objectors Day-

Learn about Ben Salmon, the only US Catholic jailed as a conscientious objector to World War I <https://www.bensalmon.org/>

19 2015, Pope Francis issues his landmark encyclical Laudato Si'. Check out our Six Weeks with Laudato Si' calendar https://www.scnj.org/_files/ugd/a2bb32_6395e038741246f38c6552fb8ab5d634.pdf

19 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