



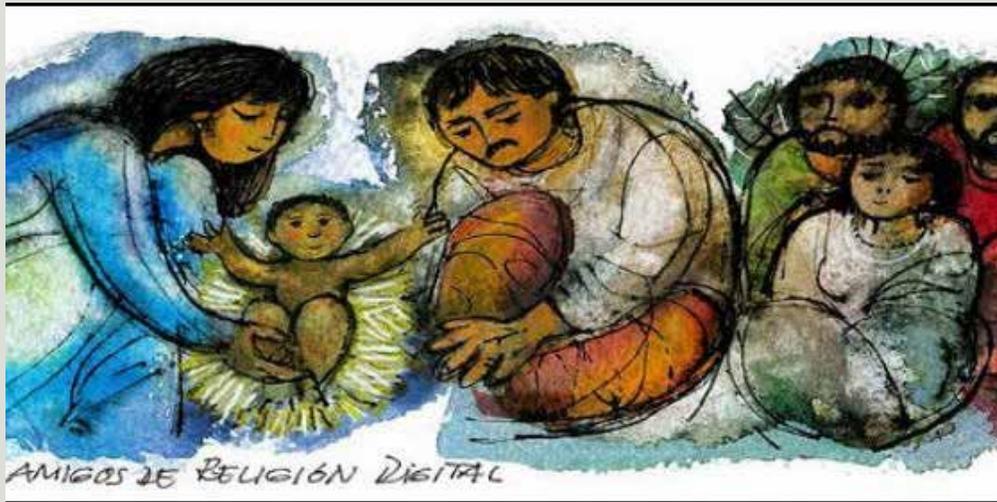
JUST Love

DECEMBER 2018



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

We devote the December 2018 issue of *JustLove*, to images and readings that you might contemplate during the season of Advent. We also invite you to use the Advent Calendar https://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/Advent_Calendar_2018.pdf; This Advent we invite you to journey with Pope Francis and his *Rejoice and Be Glad: On the Call to Holiness in Today's World*. In the words of Dan Berrigan, "So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope."



Daniel Berrigan *Advent Credo*

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

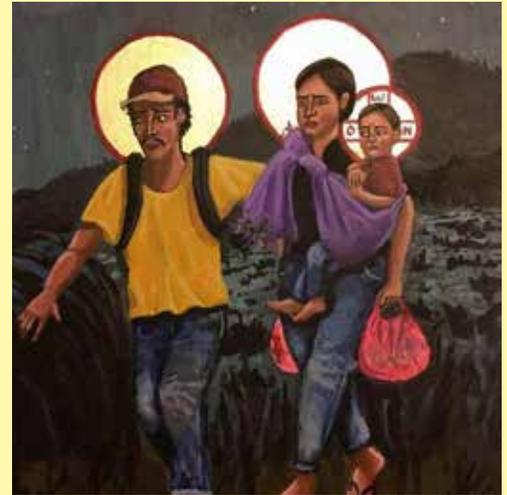
So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

From *Testimony: The Word Made Flesh*, by Daniel Berrigan, S.J. Orbis Books, 2004.



This image of Mary of the Cosmos celebrates the beauty of our embodiment and the sacredness and holiness of all matter in the cosmos. In this icon, the universe is flowing through Mary, (mother, matter, mater) whose body is made of the star stuff of the cosmos. In her iconographic form with Earth at her center, the planet becomes the birthing bed of Jesus. The Mother of love and compassion looks out to us with outstretched arms inviting us to become life bearers for the planet.
- Sr. Bernadette Bostwick

“Into this world, this demented inn in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited. But because he cannot be at home in it, because he is out of place in it, and yet he must be in it, His place is with the others for whom there is no room. His place is with those who do not belong, who are rejected by power, because they are regarded as weak, those who are discredited, who are denied status of persons, who are tortured, bombed and exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world.” - Thomas Merton



"The Spirit of God dwelling in the world with quickening power deconstructs dualism and draws in its place a circle of mutuality and inclusiveness. Instead of matter being divorced from spirit and consigned to a realm separate from the holy, it is an intrinsic part of the cosmic community, vivified, indwelt, and renewed by the Creator Spirit. The Spirit creates matter. Matter bears the mark of the sacred and has itself a spiritual radiance. Hence the world is holy, nature is holy, bodies are holy, women's bodies are holy. For the Spirit creates what is physical — worlds, bodies, senses, sexuality, passions — and moves in these every bit as much as in minds and ideas. About the Creator Spirit this can be said: loves bodies, loves to dance. The whole complex, material universe is pervaded and signed by her graceful vigor." - Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ



The Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth wishes you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with hope, peace, and promise.