



JUST Love

APRIL 2021



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

The recently released feature film *The Mauritanian* is the true story of Mohamedou Ould Slahi. After being arrested in Mauritania, Mohamedou is brought to Guantánamo Bay under the pretense of him being a prominent Al Qaeda recruiter responsible for bringing on the men who hijacked the planes on September 11. He was held without charges and repeatedly tortured for 14 years. His memoir *Guantánamo Diary*, published while he was imprisoned, became an international bestseller. Ironically, while in Guantánamo, he was not allowed to see a copy of his own book. The movie focuses on the attempts of a defense lawyer Nancy Hollander (Jody Foster) to obtain Mohamedou's release and the attempts of an Army prosecutor Lt. Colonel Stuart Couch (Benedict Cumberbatch) to make the government's case against him. A particularly powerful scene shows Couch attending a baptism in an Episcopal church. He hears the questions of the rite as directed to him, "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" A religious man, Couch realizes how deeply he has compromised his own baptismal vows by attempting to mount a false case without evidence against a man who made a coerced confession after repeated torture. In February, the Biden administration announced a multi-departmental review of the prison in Guantánamo with a view to closing the camp.

As April *JustLove* goes to press, we are nearing the end of Lent and the celebration of the Paschal Triduum. The triduum culminates in the central celebration of the liturgical year – the Easter Vigil – in which new members are received into the community of faith through the Sacraments of Initiation and in which all participants renew the vows of their Baptism. In our pandemic world, it's unclear how full our celebration of the Easter sacraments will be. Nevertheless, we are



invited, like Lt. Colonel Crouch, to examine our lives in terms of our baptismal commitment. Do we continue to live an unsustainable lifestyle based on fossil fuel consumption when God's precious creation is burning? Are we striving to be actively anti-racist and to repair the injustices suffered by people of color? What are we doing to address the social inequities in healthcare, employment, housing that the COVID-19 pandemic has made so apparent? Do we defend the right to life for all – unborn and born alike? May our celebration of the dying and rising of Jesus compel us to a life of renewed discipleship. With the Spirit of Jesus, may we renew the face of the Earth.

**The Mauritanian can be viewed on
Amazon Prime**

**[https://www.amazon.com/
gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.
fabbe188-6ec5-b58e-4050-
ffe3415b96fo?autoplay=1&ref_=atv_cf_
strg_wb](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.fabbe188-6ec5-b58e-4050-ffe3415b96fo?autoplay=1&ref_=atv_cf_strg_wb)**

**For information on the advocacy efforts
to close Guantánamo and end torture,
check the website of Witness Against Torture
<http://witnessagainsttorture.com/>**

**Read Guantánamo Diary
<http://guantanamo-diary.com/>**

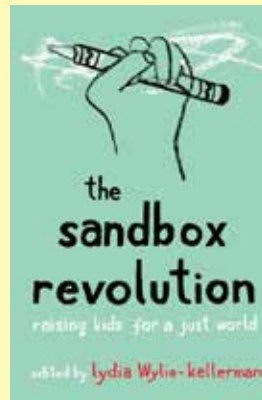


Earth Corner

DIGITAL POLLUTION

We often think that using digital technologies is Earth friendly because we are not using paper and saving trees. However all our devices have a significant environmental impact. Our devices represent 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions – the same as air travel! The manufacturing of these devices uses enormous amounts of energy and involves pollution involved in mining activities. Only 20% of discarded devices are recycled. Here's a few actions you can take:

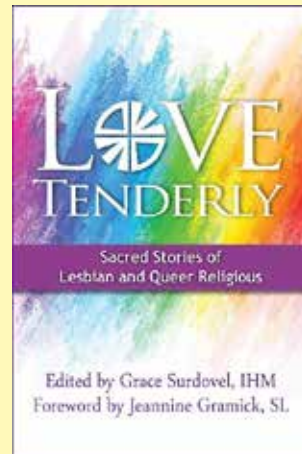
- Clean out your email; unsubscribe from electronic newsletters that you don't read.
- Turn off your camera during online meetings if the audio is sufficient.
- Download rather than stream videos.
- Type directly into the address bar to find a page you often visit rather than use a search engine.



The Sandbox Revolution calls upon our collective wisdom to wrestle with the questions, navigate the challenges, offer concrete practices, and remind parents of the sacredness of the work of raising children for a world of peace and justice.



Mutual Aid, an idea that inspired Dorothy Day, invites us to join together to help one another meet basic human needs while connecting to wider movements of social change.



Love Tenderly is an anthology written by twenty-three vowed women religious who embrace their sexual identity as lesbian or queer. Readers will be inspired and challenged to deeper consideration of their own psycho-sexual-spiritual journey.

JPIC Days to Remember in April

4 Murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. (1968) "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

10 Birthday (1930) of Dolores Huerta, founder with César Chávez of the United Farmworkers.

"Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world."

15 World Art Day Art is a powerful force for social change. Support an artist and buy an original piece of art.

22 Earth Day <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/>

30 Death of peace activist Daniel Berrigan (2016) "One is called to live nonviolently, even if the change one works for seems impossible."