



# 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

## *Boundless Charity Embraces Earth: The Company of Charity and the Laudato Si' Action Platform*

In two ZOOM gatherings on November 11 and 13, 2021, over 100 sisters and associates from the 14 Congregations in the Sisters of Charity Federation in the US and Canada gathered for *Boundless Charity Embraces Earth: The Company of Charity and the Laudato Si' Action Platform*. We gathered to share how the Charity charism could be a resource for us as we engage in Pope Francis's seven-year journey to integral integrity expressed in the LSAP. In his introduction, Fr. Terrence Moran (JPIC Director, Convent Station) mentioned that the Vincentian charism began in response to climate refugees. 17th century Europe experienced a little Ice Age which disrupted agricultural cycles forcing French peasants into Paris and creating the human misery to which Vincent and Louise responded. How will the Charity charism respond to the climate crisis of our time? Our conversations were sparked by three brief but impactful talks. Sr. Carol De Angelo (SC NY) invited us to connect with the energy of "comprehensive compassion" which fuels the 13.8-billion-year evolution of the Universe. John Shively (JPIC Director, SC Leavenworth) explored how Pope Francis's notion of integral ecology calls us to new ways of loving that embrace both ecological sustainability and economic justice. Sr. Carol Jean



Willie (SC Cincinnati) summarized the recent ICCP report on climate change and its urgent call to action. We then had 50 minutes of cross-Congregation conversations in small and large groups that sparkled with energy. We committed ourselves to share information and resources as each Congregation develops its own LSAP plan. And we'd like to explore ways in which we can make a common Federation commitment -planting trees, exploring Green Burials,

reducing the carbon footprint from air travel, using our corporate voice in a focused way to advocate for Earth with governments and industries. We left more deeply convinced that our Charity charism impels us to act efficaciously in favor of, in the words of Pope Francis, the poorest of the poor-Earth.



Sr. Cj Willie shares on the ICCP climate change report.



At this link you can find the Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity 2021 Advent calendar *Another World Is Possible*.

[https://0e4f0307-8157-4c79-9229-37922dbe65e9.filesusr.com/ugd/a2bb32\\_c8676b96dd7f42acb2de922f87d5a16d.pdf](https://0e4f0307-8157-4c79-9229-37922dbe65e9.filesusr.com/ugd/a2bb32_c8676b96dd7f42acb2de922f87d5a16d.pdf)



## Greening Your Christmas

December is a gift-giving time for most Americans and most of us don't give much thought to the environmental impact of our holiday practices. In the United States, an additional five million tons of waste is generated over Christmas, **four million** of which is wrapping paper and shopping bags. Most of that paper and ribbon, not easily recyclable, ends up in landfills. Landfills are the third largest source of human related emissions of the dangerous greenhouse gas methane. After CO<sub>2</sub>, methane is the biggest contributor to global warming. Here are some ideas to mitigate the holiday waste:

- Use colorful pages from magazines or the Sunday comics to wrap small gifts.
- If you do buy wrapping paper, look for ones made of recycled paper.
- Ribbon is a plastic product. Substitute reusable cloth or lace, natural yarn, or butchers twine.
- Many areas have Christmas tree take-back programs where the trees are mulched and used in landscaping or for compost.
- Be creative with meal leftovers. Here's a recipe for a burger which uses all the traditional holiday treats

<https://people.com/food/linton-hopkins-turkey-stuffing-cranberry-burgers/>



"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 those 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 the status of persons, tortured, exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world. He is mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst."

Thomas Merton, "The Time of the End Is the Time of No Room" in *Raids on the Unspeakable*



The Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity wishes you and your families a blessed Christmas and renewed energy in 2022 for working for a more just, peaceful, and flourishing world for all of Earth and Earth's creatures.