



# 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

## Climate Change and Discernment

People of many religious traditions are familiar with the practice of discernment – the process of sifting through our frequently confused and conflicting inclinations in order to choose a path that leads to fuller life and deepening intimacy with God. In Deuteronomy 30:19, God makes the stakes of discernment clear: “ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.” By the choices we make today as we face the unprecedented challenge of climate change, we decide whether our children will live; whether their future will be a blessing or a curse. We invite you to bring to prayerful discernment on a regular basis the following questions of a climate checklist. A climate checklist is informed by straightforward principles. The guidelines are yes or no questions. Every action either moves toward a desired outcome or heads away from it.

- Does the action create more life or reduce it?
- Does it heal the future or steal the future?
- Does it enhance human well-being or diminish it?
- Does it prevent disease or profit from it?
- Does it create livelihoods or eliminate them?
- Does it restore land or degrade it?
- Does it increase global warming or decrease it?
- Does it serve human needs or manufacture human wants?



Does it reduce poverty or expand it?  
Does it promote fundamental human rights or deny them?  
Does provide workers with dignity or demean them?  
In short, is the activity extractive or regenerative?  
How you apply, score, or evaluate these principles is up to you. Most of what we do does not tick all the boxes. However, like a compass, it shows us the direction and where to go. By employing the guidelines, you pivot and begin, action by action, bit by bit, step by step to create regeneration in your life. What am I eating? Why? How am I feeling? What is happening in my community? What am I wearing? What am I buying? What am I making? And so on.

Adapted from Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation by Paul Hawken. © 2021.



To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jesuit peace activist Daniel Berrigan, a new initiative has been formed: The Daniel Berrigan Collective: Promoting Contemplation, Community, and Resistance. Check out its website <https://www.berrigancollective.org/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Daniel-Berrigan-Collective-110084261312455>. The DBC's first initiative was a ZOOM session *A Transfusion of Hope: A conversation between older and younger activists*; a recording of the session can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzeWloPa4nM>.



The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, the Sisters of Charity of New York, and ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River) are sponsoring a monthly ZOOM series *The Journey to Integral Ecology: The Seven Goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform*. The series has had a great response, drawing 70-100 participants to each session from across the USA and several other countries. If you missed any of the sessions you can find recordings at this link [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCImrLRD1M\\_xE-oebX3bfD5g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCImrLRD1M_xE-oebX3bfD5g).

### Actions you can take...

On January 11, wear a blue heart, even just a construction paper cutout, and when people ask you about it, have a conversation about human

trafficking. For more information on the Blue Heart Campaign <https://www.unodc.org/blueheart/>

- Distribute copies of the Sisters of Charity trafficking prayer card; available in English/Spanish/ Haitian Creole. Ask for copies at [tmoran@scnj.org](mailto:tmoran@scnj.org)
- Further your education on the issue of trafficking. Some helpful websites: -The Polaris Project <http://www.polarisproject.org> Trafficking Resources from the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center <http://www.ipjc.org/links/trafficking.htm> ECPATUSA <https://www.ecpatusa.org/>



- Talk about this issue with others and ask your parish or other community to sponsor a workshop on human trafficking.
- Change your language – use the term “prostituted woman” instead of “prostitute”

- Purchase products made by trafficking survivors: <https://survivormade.org/>
- Send a letter to hotel chains you frequent to make sure they have signed The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism <http://www.thecode.org/>
- Enter this number in your cell phone so you can call if you see someone you suspect is a victim of trafficking: The National Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 to report a tip or connect with anti-trafficking resources near you.



**4 Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** - Use the prayer of the Charity Earth Network to celebrate the feast [https://0e4f0307-8157-4c79-9229-37922dbe65e9.filesusr.com/ugd/a2bb32\\_deb76bc7ce674f7cb474f60e4dd67ad6.pdf](https://0e4f0307-8157-4c79-9229-37922dbe65e9.filesusr.com/ugd/a2bb32_deb76bc7ce674f7cb474f60e4dd67ad6.pdf)

**9 Baptism of the Lord** - We use water as an instrument of God grace in Baptism. What are we doing to safeguard the health and integrity of the world's waters? Check out the work of the NJ ministry Waterspirit <https://www.waterspirit.org/>

**11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** - Check out the resources of US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking <https://sistersagainstrafficking.org/>

## Dates to Remember in January

**21 Martin Luther King Day** - “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

**22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children** - “How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties?” - Pope Francis

**30-February 2 Catholic Schools Week** - Pray for those who minister in any way in Catholic Schools especially those sponsored by the Sisters of Charity.

**31 Inspire Your Heart With Art Day** - Check out the justice and peace art resources of the Syracuse Cultural Workers <https://www.syracuseculturalworkers.com/>