



JUST Love

MAY 2021



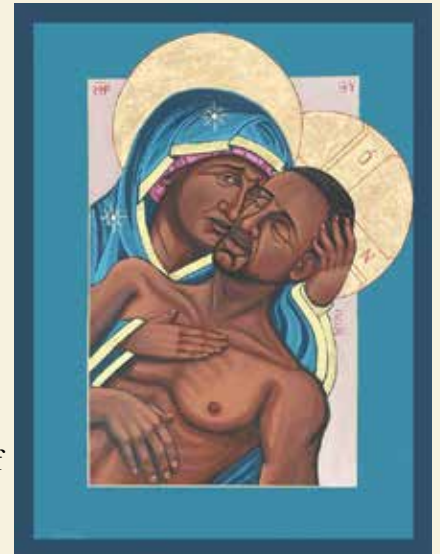
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

Every issue of *JustLove* is headed by an artistic representation of the Mother Pelican nursing her young...and we haven't repeated an image once in 9 years! This month shows how the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth have something in common with the State of Louisiana – we both have the nursing Mother Pelican on our seal. The original seal of Louisiana was an eagle but it was changed to the pelican in 1812 when Louisiana became a state; perhaps in acknowledgment of the state's Catholic heritage.

May – Mary's Month and Mary's Challenge

May in Catholic tradition is the month of Mary. Many of us remember May Crownings and the hymn *'Tis the Month of Our Mother*. In the Hail Mary we ask for Mary's prayers now and at the hour of our death. May *JustLove* goes to press shortly after the April 20 conviction of Derek Chauvin in the murder of George Floyd. Perhaps the most piercing words of the murdered man, heard around the world, were his cries to his mother, "Momma! I'm through." Iconographer Kelly Latimore calls this icon "Momma." He uses the traditional image of the Pieta, Mary cradling the body of her murdered son, and places Floyd in the arms of his mother. The icon reminds us that the passion of Christ continues; surely in the victims of murder but also in the more subtle but equally deadly systemic violence of racism, economic disparity, unequal access to health care. The energy of Mary was present in another person at Floyd's death—in the brave teenager Darnella Frazier who recorded the murder on her cellphone, posted it on Facebook, and ignited a worldwide, multi-racial; multi-generational protest. Mary of the Magnificat speaks of bringing down the mighty from their thrones and exalting the lowly. Mary surely comforts her afflicted children but she is more concerned with a world where her children would not suffer affliction.

May the example of Mary, the example of Darnella Frazier empower us not to be passive witnesses to injustice but rather active agents of change. More than rosaries, novenas, and crowns of flowers – this is the devotion Mary of the Magnificat wants in May, wants every day.



-Kelly Latimore icon can be purchased here <https://kelly-latimore.pixels.com/featured/mama-kelly-latimore.html>

-Learn about the status of national efforts to reform policing <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/criminal-justice/news/2020/07/16/487721/assessing-state-police-reform/>

-Learn about the militarization of policing that has led to increased violence and less safety

<https://www.charleskochinstitute.org/issue-areas/criminal-justice-policing-reform/militarization-of-police/>



At this link you can find the Earth Day issue of the Charity Earth Network Newsletter. This edition includes an armchair tour of the Federation Congregations with good news about what each is doing for care of creation. Be inspired at how Boundless Charity embraces Earth! <https://www.scnj.org/newsletters>

LAUDATO SI' GOALS

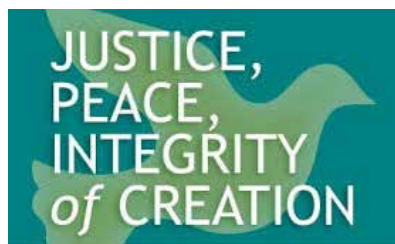


In the spirit of integral ecology, hope for the Earth and the Poor.

in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*. The graphic above gives the seven broad goals of his plan: Response to the Cry of the Earth; Response to the Cry of the Poor; Ecological Economics; Adoption of Simple Lifestyles; Ecological Education; Ecological Spirituality; Emphasis on Community Involvement and Participatory Action. Religious Congregations are invited to join in this process of conversion. The process will connect with the charism of Boundless Charity and enliven our mission by building on what we are already doing.

The launch of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform will take place this month on May 24. The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth will invite sisters, Seton Associates, and partners in mission to participate fully in this process. As a first step you are invited to read *The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are one: Statements on Care of Creation Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth* https://0e4f0307-8157-4c79-9229-37922dbe65e9.filesusr.com/ugd/a2bb32_1908fe1a6adb4c428a0ff6b8eec0d359.pdf. How can we live more deeply these statements about creation care that we have made over the years?

Climate activist Bill McKibben was once called by an interviewer, "the most important writer on climate change in our time." McKibben answered, "No! That would be Pope Francis." No other world leader brings to the planetary climate crisis the sense of urgency that Pope Francis does. And none have as comprehensive vision as he has of what a sustainable and just world would look like. Pope Francis is particularly concerned that some segments of the Catholic Church have been slow to respond to his message in *Laudato Si'*. To respond to this lethargy, Pope Francis is calling the Church to a seven-year journey to a sustainable future



JPIC Days to Remember in May

1 St. Joseph the Worker/International Worker's Day
"The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative." USCCB

4 50th Anniversary of the First Freedom Ride. The first Freedom Ride took place on May 4, 1961 when seven blacks and six whites left Washington, D.C., on two public buses bound for the Deep South. They intended to test the Supreme Court's ruling in *Boynton v. Virginia* (1960), which declared segregation in interstate bus and rail stations unconstitutional.

9 100th Birthday of Jesuit peace activist and poet Daniel Berrigan (May 9, 1921 – April 30, 2016) "The gift we can offer others is so simple a thing as hope."

9 Mother's Day Did you know that the original purpose of Mother's Day was anti-war protest to honor the mothers who had lost husbands and sons in the carnage of the Civil War. Read the original Mother's Day Proclamation here <https://peacealliance.org/history-of-mothers-day-as-a-day-of-peace-julia-ward-howe/>

24 Publication in 2015 of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*. Renew your acquaintance with this magnificent document by using our "Six Weeks With *Laudato Si'*."

https://0e4f0307-8157-4c79-9229-37922dbe65e9.filesusr.com/ugd/a2bb32_6395e038741246f38c6552fb8ab5d634.pdf

31 Feast of the Visitation Pray Mary's Magnificat. How are you the answer to Mary's prayer for a world where the lowly are raised up and the hungry filled?