



JUST Love

OCTOBER 2021



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



Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Public Commitment to the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform

On the feast of St. Francis, October 4, 2021, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth join other religious congregations and Catholic organizations in making a public commitment to the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Promoted by Pope Francis and under the direction of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the LSAP calls all Catholics to a seven-year journey to integral ecology and environmental sustainability. The LSAP will focus on seven sectors: families, parishes, schools, hospitals, businesses, organizations, and religious orders.

The LSAP also has seven goals: the response to the cry of the earth, the response to the cry of the poor, ecological economics, adoption of simple lifestyles, ecological education, ecological spirituality, and community involvement. In launching this signature initiative of his pontificate, Pope Francis said, "Our selfishness, our indifference and our irresponsible ways are threatening the future of our children...I therefore

renew my appeal: let us take care of our mother Earth ...let us overcome the temptation of selfishness that makes us predators of resources, let us cultivate respect for the gifts of the Earth and creation, let us inaugurate a lifestyle and a society that is finally eco-sustainable."

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth express their commitment in these words:

Our Foundress Mother Mary Xavier Mehegan, S.C. and our early sisters met the needs of their age with creativity and zeal. In faithfulness to our charism of moving toward *Boundless Charity*, we hear the urgent call to respond to the cry of Earth, called by Pope Francis, "the poorest of the poor." Therefore we commit ourselves as a Congregation to the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform and join in its seven-year journey towards integral ecology. In collaboration with the Seton Associates, our partners in mission, and others, we commit ourselves to deepen our reverence for the presence of God in creation, to ecological education and advocacy, and to promote sustainable lifestyles.



As we begin our seven-year journey of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, a good first step would be reacquainting ourselves with the landmark encyclical letter of Pope Francis that inspires it. The encyclical can be found here https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

You may want to use the SC "Six Weeks with *Laudato Si'*" calendar. If you read just 5 sections of *Laudato Si'* a day, you'll finish in six weeks. The calendar offers daily suggestions for reflection and action to motivate you in your six-week journey. The calendar can be found here https://oe4f0307-8157-4c79-9229-37922dbe65e9.filesusr.com/ugd/a2bb32_6395e038741246f38c6552fb8ab5d634.pdf



Congratulations to the honorees of The Mother Xavier Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity Award. This award, initiated in the 100th anniversary year of Mother Xavier's death, honors a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Seton Associate, partner in mission who exemplifies the "conviction that a life of charity requires a faith that does justice," (*Toward Boundless Charity*, C20). The recipient demonstrates a notable commitment to the values of peace, justice and



ecological integrity and the Vincentian focus on systemic change of unjust structures. We awarded 2 awards this year since last year's was prevented by COVID. Congratulations to 2020 honoree Sr. Margaret "Peggy" O'Neil, SC recognized for her many years of peace and justice building in El Salvador and to the 2021 honorees Sr. June Favata, SC, Sr. Margaret Killough, SC, and Ms. Mary Nolan, honored for their years of empowering young women at St. Vincent Academy, Newark, NJ.



Dates to Commemorate in October

1 Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux "Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practice the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness." Pope Francis

4 Feast of St. Francis/Launch of *Laudato Si'* Action Platform – "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us." Pope Francis

5 Birthday of peacemaker Philip Berrigan (1923-2002) "We Christians forget (if we ever learned) that attempts to redress real or imagined injustice by violent means are merely another exercise in denial - denial of

God and her nonviolence towards us, denial of love of neighbor, denial of laws essential to our being."

8 Indigenous People's Day – Watch the film "Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts." <https://www.anglican.ca/primate/tfc/drj/doctrineofdiscovery/>

12 World Farmers Day – Pray in thanks for the work of the farmers who bring food to your table, for justice and safe working conditions for agricultural workers.

15 Feast of St. Teresa of Avila "To reach something good it is very useful to have gone astray, and thus acquire experience."

18 Feast of St. Luke, patron of doctors. Pray for equal access to health care for all and for health care professionals in these difficult pandemic times.

24 United Nations Day – Send an email of gratitude to Sister of Charity of Nazareth Teresa Kotturan for her work as the representative of the Charity Federation NGO at the UN scfederationunngo@gmail.com

31 Halloween – In Celtic spirituality the veil between this world and the next is thinnest on Halloween. Remember your ancestors and wisdom figures today.