



JUST Love

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ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH



#NoWar2017



War and the Environment

Some statistics will give a flavor of the incredible wealth of the 2017 *World Beyond War Conference: War and the Environment* – 52 speakers, 4 musical groups, 2 movies, 2 delicious vegan lunches, and the boundless energy and creativity of the 200 participants. The Conference, held at American University in Washington, DC. September 22-24, focused on War and the Environment – both the environmental consequences of warfare and climate chaos as fueling violent conflicts – “No Oil for Wars. No Wars for Oil” as the slogan says. If you weren’t able to attend, all the plenary sessions, break-out sessions, and music are available online <http://worldbeyondwar.org/nowar2017/>. Watch a few and join in the effort, in the words of Steve Baggaly of the Norfolk Catholic Worker, to “beat swords into solar panels.”

“We need to push back against the narrative of fear. Fear is the gateway drug. We need to disrupt the path of fear that leads from scarcity to war. We need to rediscover the power of our vulnerability to connect us to one another and the world.”

Tim DeChristopher, environmental activist <http://www.timdechristopher.org/>



Building Cultural Diversity Competence – St. Joseph's Healthcare System Affinity Groups

Sr. Patricia Mennor, SC

Located in Paterson NJ, St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center serves a very diverse population. Because of the need to provide culturally sensitive care to its patients, St. Joseph’s utilizes programming and education provided by its various Affinity Groups.

Affinity Groups are composed of staff members who share a common experience through a similar racial, ethnic, cultural, or religious background. They work together to plan and execute programs that serve to educate others on different cultural beliefs and about how these cultural practices impact on patient care.

Presently, there are five Affinity Groups at St. Joseph’s:

Hispanic, Indian, Filipino, African American and Muslim.

Some of their initiatives this past year are as follows:

- Hispanic Heritage Fair and Día de los Reyes / Three Kings Celebration (Hispanic)
- Diwali Lamp Lighting Ceremony and Hindu Prayer Book (Indian)
- Simbang Gabi Mass and Filipino Festival (Filipino)
- Kwanzaa and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration (African American)
- Ramadan Iftar and Eid al-Fitr celebrations, Muslim Friday Prayer (Muslim)

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These groups bring a huge amount of energy and creativity to the organization and because of them St. Joseph's can say: DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH!



Diwali celebration at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center. Sr. Patricia Mennor, SC (second from left) Sr. Mary Pauline Hogan, SC (third from right)

Mary Gannon Receives the 2017 Mother Xavier, Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity Award



(Left to right) Fr. Terrence Moran, Gerry Gannon, Mary Gannon, Sr. Rosemary Moynihan, SC

At a joyful celebration at the October 7 Congregation Day, Seton Associate Mary Gannon received the 2017 Mother Xavier Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity Award. This award, initiated in 2015, the 100th anniversary year of Mother Xavier's death, honors a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth or Seton Associate 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. Mary, an alumna of St. Vincent's Academy in Newark, NJ, was honored for her many justice and peace activities; in particular, for her involvement in the founding of RAMP (Refugee Assistance Morris Partners) which in the past year has settled two refugee families in Morris County. Her husband Gerry, her collaborator in her many activities, was also honored with the gift of an icon of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Everyone at Congregation Day was moved by Mary's speech which highlighted how thoroughly she embodies the values of the Sisters of Charity, her former teachers and current friends and partners in mission.

JPIC Dates in November

- 3 Feast of St. Martin de Porres, patron saint of social justice.** On the first celebration of his feast on November 3, 1962, jazz composer, pianist and Catholic convert, Mary Lou Williams, introduced her oratorio, "Black Christ of the Andes," in honor of St. Martin and played it eight days later with the Dizzy Gillespie Quintet at Philharmonic Hall, marking the first appearance by African American performers at Lincoln Center.
- 8 Birthday of Dorothy Day (1897)** "The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us. When we begin to take the lowest place, to wash the feet of others, to love our brothers with that burning love, that passion, which led to the cross, then we can truly say, 'Now I have begun.'"
- 9 Birthday of Thomas Berry, CP (1914)** "The universe, by definition, is a single gorgeous celebratory event."
- 11 Feast of St. Martin de Tours, patron of conscientious objectors** - "I am a soldier of Christ and it is not lawful for me to fight."
- 13 Feast of Mother Cabrini, patron of immigrants** - "The great migrations underway today need guidance filled with love and intelligence similar to what characterizes the Cabrinian charism," Pope Francis
- 16 (1989) Martyrdom of Elba Ramos, Celina Ramos and six Jesuits of El Salvador**
<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Martyrs/UCA/index.html>
- 23 Thanksgiving** - Take a moment of silence and remembrance for ancestors and the people whose land you are occupying, before your meal.
- 24 Black Friday** - Turn Black Friday into Buy Nothing Day. Make quality time to practice self-care and care for others in lieu of shopping madness during your holiday.
- 26 Feast of Christ, King of the Cosmos** - "Yes, God so loved the whole blooming, buzzing, evolving, groaning cosmos that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection connects it forever with redeeming promise." Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ