



# JUST Love

MARCH 2017



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

Most of us remember past Lents as times for Olympian feats of self denial; giving up sweets and other favorite foods or other such grim activities. The liturgical reforms of Vatican II and especially the restoration of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) have helped us to relearn the connection of Lent to the gracious gift of God we received in baptism. Lent is about gracious gift not grim endurance. The gift of God's life is mediated through



## LIVING A LAUDATO SI' LENT

God's good creation. In baptism, we are bathed in Earth's waters, anointed with the fruit of Earth's olives and fragrant perfumes, clothed in a garment of Earth's fabrics, receive a candle blazing with Earth's fire. And in baptism we are embraced by the community of the Church and commit ourselves to join with these people to be the instruments of God's

peace and justice on Earth. Baptism commits us to what Pope Francis calls "integral ecology" – a way of life that promotes all of Earth's creatures.

The Sisters of Charity Federation has recently established a *Laudato Si'* Committee whose mission is to:

- 1) promote study and on-line conversations to deepen our commitments to *Laudato Si'*;
- 2) choose topics and coordinate calls among Sisters and Associates;
- 3) form a sub-committee that will collect data on current carbon footprints at our facilities and promote assessment of carbon footprints in places where they are not yet determined.

The members are Carol De Angelo, SC (NY), Maureen Houlihan, DC, Cecilia Hudec, SC (Halifax), Terrence J. Moran (Saint Elizabeth), Debbie Weber, (SC Cincinnati) Caroljean Willie, SC (Cincinnati)

Our Lent Calendar this year, attached to this issue of *JustLove*, invites us to a "*Laudato Si'* Lent" – a 40 day journey of ecological conversion, of taking our place, joyfully and humbly, in the community of Life.



As part of your Lenten reflection, use and share the following statements on welcoming immigrants and refugees:

Sisters of Charity Federation:

<http://famvin.org/en/2017/02/11/sisters-charity-federation-statement-re-executive-orders/>

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth:

<http://famvin.org/en/2017/02/11/sisters-charity-federation-statement-re-executive-orders/>

## Our Continuing Series on the UN Sustainable Development Goals...

Sustainable consumption and production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Sustainable consumption and production aims at “doing more and better with less.” It involves engaging consumers through awareness-raising and education on sustainable consumption and lifestyles.



**FACT** Each year, an estimated one third of all food produced, equivalent to 1.3 billion tons worth around \$1 trillion – ends up rotting in the garbage cans of consumers and retailers.



Monitor what you throw away every week. If you throw away half a loaf of bread, freeze half a loaf when you buy it to keep it fresh.

**FACT**

Less than 3 per cent of the world’s water is fresh (drinkable), of which 2.5 per cent is frozen in the Antarctica, Arctic and glaciers.



Check all faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks. Install water saving showerheads and ultra-low-flush toilets. Take shorter showers. Never use your toilet as a wastebasket. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving

**FACT**

Many home cleaning products are expensive and toxic.



Do some research on healthy and cheap alternatives, e.g. white vinegar and baking soda are excellent cleaners for tubs, sinks, showers, toilets.



Available from the PJEI Office

- ♥ Kate Hennessy, *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved by Beauty - An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother* – a beautifully written and revelatory account of the life of Dorothy Day by her youngest granddaughter.
- ♥ Eileen Markey, *A Radical Faith: The Assassination of Sister Maura* – the first biography of Maryknoll Sr. Maura Clarke, churchwoman of El Salvador. Tracing her life from her NY childhood, through her years on mission in Nicaragua and El Salvador to her tragic death.
- ♥ Robert Shore-Goss, *God Is Green: An Eco-Spirituality of Incarnate Compassion* – a comprehensive look at Christian life through an ecological lens calling us to conversion to Jesus “the green face of God.”
- ♥ *The Boy Who Found Gold* – an hour long DVD profile of contemporary iconographer and priest William Hart McNichols.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **The Nonviolent Life** – a three session series, March 15,22,29 6:00-7:30 pm in the Founders Room in the motherhouse, using the book *The Nonviolent Life* by Fr. John Dear. Each session will include prayer and reflection, a short video and discussion. Each participant will receive a copy of the book. To register call 973-290-5404 or email [tmoran@scnj.org](mailto:tmoran@scnj.org).
- **Faithing a New Future into Reality** – a retreat day at Genesis Farm, Blairstown, NJ, Saturday, May 20, 2017. Speaker: Sr. Ann Braudis, MM. The day will include prayer, presentations, a tour of Genesis Farm and time to enjoy its beautiful land, a delicious vegetarian lunch made from local produce. Cost: \$10.00. Please make out check to Sisters of Charity and send to Fr. Terrence Moran, PJEI Office, PO Box 476, Convent Station, NJ 07961-0476.