



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



Those who benefit from the unjust structures of the status quo always want us to believe that these structures are inevitable and unchangeable; that “resistance is futile.” But, as British street artist Banksy reminds us, in fact “resistance is fertile.”

Every time we question systems that oppress, we are tilling fertile ground for creative conversations. Every time we act, even in a small way, we are sewing seeds of possibility

On May 1 we celebrated the 85th birthday of the Catholic Worker Movement. It has no central leadership, no board of directors, no strategic plan, no development committee, no operating manual other than the Sermon on the Mount and the works of mercy – yet at 85 years old it continues to flourish. Dorothy Day in the lyrical final pages of her autobiography *The Long Loneliness*, describes the beginnings:

“We were just sitting there talking when Peter Maurin came in. We were just sitting there talking when lines of people began to form, saying, “We need bread.” It was as casual as all that, I often think. It just came about. It just happened. We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know him in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone any

more. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship. We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community. It all happened while we sat there talking, and it is still going on.”

It all happened while we sat there talking... This summer take some time for a conversation like that. Gather with a few friends and talk about your wildest dream for the kingdom of God, your passion for a more just, peaceful, and verdant world. Sit there talking and see what happens. See what seeds of fertile resistance start to sprout.

Here a few organizations that began in the same way. Perhaps one of them might be a place where you can find a community of resistance waiting for you:

- ♥The Poor People’s Campaign-A National Campaign for Moral Revival <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>
- ♥Black Lives Matter <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>
- ♥The #MeToo Movement <https://metoomvmt.org/>
- ♥Movimiento COSECHA <http://www.lahuelga.com/>
- ♥The War Resisters League <https://www.warresisters.org/>
- ♥Campaign Nonviolence <http://www.paceebene.org/programs/campaign-nonviolence/>
- ♥Consistent Life Network <http://www.consistentlifenetWORK.org/>

A PRAYER FOR PERSERVERANCE IN THE JOURNEY TO RACIAL JUSTICE

God of the Journey, From Ur to the land of Canaan, From way down in Egypt’s land to the River Jordan, From the Sinai to Jericho’s walls, From the Door of No Return to the New World, You have journeyed with your people. You have ordered and guided our steps. You have strengthened us when weary and refreshed us when dry. You have kept us from stumbling and carried us when faint. Gracious



God as we remember the March from Selma to Montgomery, Keep our feet on the path of justice, peace and equality. May we never tire of this arduous journey, for ultimately it is the way of Jesus. Jesus who is our brother, our savior, our companion and our destination. With grateful and expectant hearts, we pray, AMEN.

The theme of World Environment Day is that same as Earth Day 2018 – **Beat Plastic Pollution**. As the illustration above indicates, our addiction to petroleum based one time use plastic products is consuming our planet. Here are some actions you can take to break you addiction to a throw away culture:



- Take the “Top Four” Challenge – refuse plastic bags, plastic bottles, takeaway coffee cups, and straws.
- Organize your family, parish, co-workers in a beach, stream, park, or roadway clean-up. You will be shocked at how much waste is plastic.

—Avoid plastic “micro-beads. Tiny plastic particles called microbeads are found in face scrubs, tooth pastes and body washes and are a growing source of ocean plastic pollution. Avoid products that include polythelene or polypropylene as ingredients.

—Read this article about what some Catholic parishes and hospitals have done to reduce plastic pollution. Why can’t you do the same?

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/environment/reducing-waste-catholic-parishes-hospitals-see-results-efforts-reduce-and-recycle>

3 Corpus Christi “Everything spoke to me of a Creator who satisfied all our hungers. It was also the physical aspect of the Church which attracted me. Bread and wine, water (all water is made holy since Christ was baptized in the Jordan), incense, the sound of waves and wind, all nature cried out to me.”
Dorothy Day



DATES TO COMMEMORATE IN JUNE

15 Eid al-Fitr – for Moslems the end of the Ramadan fast

21 Summer Solstice “In summer, the song sings itself.” ~Paterson, NJ poet William Carlos Williams

24 St. John the Baptist – Pray for the people of Puerto Rico on their patronal feast as they still suffer the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria.

5 World Environment Day – the 2018 theme is “Beat Plastic Pollution” <http://worldenvironmentday.global/>

8 Sacred Heart “From our contemplation of the Pierced Heart of Jesus in the heart of wounded humanity flows the desire to commit ourselves with greater passion and compassion to justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.” Religious of the Sacred Heart

26 International Day of Victims of Torture “Torture may be considered a kind of perverse liturgy, for in torture the body of the victim is the ritual site where the state’s power is manifested in its most awesome form. Torture is liturgy – or, perhaps better said, “anti-liturgy” – because it involves bodies and bodily movements in an enacted drama which both makes real the power of the state and constitutes an act of worship of that mysterious power.”
William Cavanaugh

9 Immaculate Heart Imagine a world governed according to the desires of the heart of Mary expressed in the Magnificat.

June is Torture Awareness Month

Every June, human rights and faith organizations join together to mark Torture Awareness Month because on June 26, 1987, the nations of the world took a major step against the immoral and abhorrent practice of torture. On that day, the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT for short) entered into force and the United Nations later declared June 26th the “International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.” Check out the webpage of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture for resources to raise consciousness about the victims of torture

<http://www.nrcat.org/torture-awareness-month-june>

