



# JUST Love



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

## *St. Joseph's Healthcare System Supports Immigrants and Refugees*

*Sr. Patricia Mennor, SC*

Situated in the heart of Paterson, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center cares for patients and families from many diverse cultures. The staff of St. Joseph's is also as diverse as those they serve. Needless to say, staff has voiced increased frustration and stress stemming from recent political decisions affecting immigrants.

To show solidarity and support to the staff, a program was held on March 16th, 2017 at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center featuring Lori Nessel, Esq., from Seton Hall Law School. The presentation was a combination of education regarding President Trump's Executive Orders followed by a Q&A session. The program served to provide staff with concrete ways to assist clients and families who are dealing with the challenges of being an immigrant in today's society.



The website of New Jersey Alliance for  
Immigrant Justice has many useful resources  
for immigration advocacy  
<http://www.njimmigrantjustice.org/resources>

## **EARTH WEEK 2017**

The three communities on the Convent Station Campus, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, the Academy of Saint Elizabeth, and the College of Saint Elizabeth celebrated Earth Week 2017 together by attending a "Lunch and Learn" at the College. The presenter was Dr. Anna J. Brown, Associate Professor and Chair of Political Science Department, St. Peter's University, Jersey City. Dr. Brown is a long time activist for peace and justice and the program coordinator for King-Kairos Social Justice House. Dr. Brown's presentation was entitled, "The Fierce Urgency of the Now: Let Us Love Sister Earth, Create Community, and Act in these Dark Days of Climate Change." Using insights from climate science, poetry, and *Laudato Si'* of Pope Francis, Dr. Brown inspired us to practice resurrection and to be "Easter people in a Good Friday world." Our joint celebration of Earth Week will continue with a prayer service on Tuesday, April 25 in Holy Family Chapel.



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

The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. Our rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, much of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe, are all ultimately provided and regulated by the sea. Throughout history, oceans and seas have been vital conduits for trade and transportation.

Careful management of this essential global resource is a key feature of a sustainable future.

-Clean Ocean Action is a great resource for information and action suggestions on care for the Atlantic Ocean, especially the Jersey shore <http://www.cleanoceanaction.org/index.php?id=334>

-Check out Seafood Watch which will tell you the most sustainable kind of fish to eat in each state <http://www.seafoodwatch.org/seafood-recommendations/consumer-guides>

-4 Liters.Org gives great tips for conserving water <https://4liters.org/>



### THE NONVIOLENT LIFE

During April, sisters, associates and friends gathered for three sessions to reflect together on growing in active nonviolence using the book and videos *The Nonviolent Life* by Rev. John Dear. We began by the surprising discovery of how much interior violence a lot of us hold and learning to be nonviolent with ourselves. We then reflected on choosing active nonviolence in our relationships with all others, especially with our “enemies” – if only someone who pushes our buttons. In the third session we reflected on ways in which we can join the global movement of nonviolence – and were gratified to learn that one of the participants, Gerry Gannon, had joined with Dr. Martin Luther King in the March on Selma in 1965. The videos we used are available here <http://www.paceebene.org/2016/11/30/living-nonviolence-six-videos-by-john-dear/>



### Dates in May

**1 Feast of St. Joseph the Worker/ Birthday (1933) of The Catholic Worker** “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 places, to wash the feet of others, to love our brothers and sisters with that burning love, that passion which led to the cross, then we can truly say, 'Now I have begun' “ Dorothy Day

**3 National Garden Meditation Day** – When is the last time you enjoyed a public garden near you?

**5 Cinco de Mayo** - Contrary to popular belief, Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico's independence day. Mexican independence is celebrated Sept. 16. Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Mexican army's unlikely victory over the French forces of Napoleon III on May 5, 1862, at the Battle of Puebla.

**9 Birthday of 3 remarkable peacemakers:** Daniel Berrigan, SJ (1921); Sophie Scholl, (1921) German student and anti-Nazi political activist, active within the White Rose non-violent resistance group; Peter Maurin (1899) Co-founder with Dorothy Day of The Catholic Worker. Have a cupcake with three candles while you read something about each of them.

**14 Mother's Day** – Read the original Mother's Day Proclamation. Did you know that the day began as a protest against the carnage of the Civil War? <http://www.peace.ca/mothersdayproclamation.htm>

**15 International Conscientious Objectors' Day** - Around the world, peace and justice activists and organizers will be remembering the generations who refused to go to war, and raising awareness of the many who continue to be persecuted and imprisoned for refusing to kill.

**24 Anniversary (2015) of the publication of Laudato Si'**, Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on care for our common home. Read and reflect on Laudato Si' using our “Six Weeks With Laudato Si'” calendar [http://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/SIX\\_WEEKS\\_WITH\\_LAUDATO\\_SI\\_2.pdf](http://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/SIX_WEEKS_WITH_LAUDATO_SI_2.pdf)

**27 – June 25 Ramadan** – Fast in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters.