



JUST Love

MAY 2018



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

The Burning of Paper Instead of Children: The 50th Anniversary of the Catonsville 9

On May 17, 1968, the Catholic social justice tradition took a new and dramatic turn when 9 Catholic activists entered a draft board office in Catonsville, MD, removed draft files, burned them in public and then prayed and waited to be arrested. A civil disobedience tradition was unknown to American Catholics, largely immigrants who were happy to have “made it” in America, fiercely patriotic, and largely supportive of their country’s war. The action of the Catonsville 9 and their subsequent trial and imprisonment was a searing examination of conscience for American Catholics in the Vietnam era. This excerpt from the statement crafted by Daniel Berrigan, SJ explains their motivation and remains a challenge to us today: “ Our apologies, good friends, for the fracture of good order, the burning of paper



The Catonsville 9 (left to right) David Darst, FSC, Marjorie Melville, Thomas Melville, George Mische, Philip Berrigan, Tom Lewis, John Hogan, Daniel Berrigan, SJ, Mary Moylan)

instead of children, the angering of the orderlies in the front parlor of the charnel house. We could not, so help us God, do otherwise... The time is past when good men can remain silent, when obedience can segregate men from public risk, when the poor can die without defense. We ask our fellow Christians to consider in their hearts a question which has tortured us, night and day, since the war began.

How many must die before our voices are heard, how many must be tortured, dislocated, starved, maddened? How long must the world's resources be raped in the service of legalized murder? When, at what point, will you say no to this war? We have chosen to say, with the gift of our liberty, if necessary our lives: the violence stops here, the death stops here, the suppression of the truth stops here, this war stops here.”

Resources on the Catonsville 9

- ☮ The website for the 50th anniversary of the Catonsville 9 has extensive links to explore their story and message <http://www.catonsville9.org/>
- ☮ “The Holy Tradition of Going to Jail for Jesus,” by Shane Claiborne gives an introduction to the Christian tradition of civil disobedience https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-holy-tradition-of-going-to-jail-for-jesus_us_596e068ee4b07f87578e6be5
- ☮ Watch here the trailer for a full length documentary on the Nine “Hit and Stay.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHbZBkhwHPQ> The movie can be ordered on Amazon or borrowed from the PJEI Office (pjei@scnj.org)
- ☮ Franciscan iconographer Robert Lentz has just completed an icon of Daniel and Philip Berrigan. The icon in different formats is available here <https://www.trinitystores.com/artwork/philip-and-daniel-berrigan-br-r-lentz-ofm> The PJEI office will send you a holy card on request while supplies last (pjei@scnj.org)

NO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS: BECOMING AN ALLY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE



Workshop presenter
Christopher Doucot (left) with
Father Terrence Moran

On Saturday, April 21, the Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity hosted an enthusiastic group of sisters and associates for the workshop NO INNOCENT BYSTANDERS: BECOMING AN ALLY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE presented by Christopher Doucot of the Hartford, CT Catholic Worker. Chris masterfully traced the history of white racism in the United States and how racism became entrenched in the economic, political, and cultural structures of our society. Chris compared anti-racism work to the Eucharist. Just as we process to receive the Eucharist at liturgy so people of privilege must go to people of color in order to learn to be allies in the struggle for racial justice. Only then will the body of Christ be “re-membered.” Seton Associate Joan Schildwachter commented on the day, “What a profound experience! His presentation was powerful and enlightening. His personal presence was solid and inspiring. I am so glad I attended.” Workshop participants received a copy of book which Chris co-authored with Shannon Craigo-Snell *No Innocent Bystanders; Becoming An Ally in the Struggle for Justice*. It is available for purchase from <https://www.wjkbooks.com/Products/0664262627/no-innocent-bystanders.aspx>



The Sisters of Charity Ecospirituality Reflection group invites you to its annual retreat day at Genesis Farm, Blairstown, NJ, Saturday, May 19, 2018, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

FREE HEARTS, FLOURISHING EARTH

In his poem, *America Is Hard to Find*, Father Daniel Berrigan speaks of what we long to be - "free form men and women," but are not because militarism, consumerism, racism, etc. hold primacy of position in the nation's ethos and way of life. Along the way, we are destroying something else he speaks of in his poem: "wild strawberries, swans, deer and heron," our brothers and sisters in nature. How are we to be "free form men and women" in these days of the sixth mass extinction? In these days where the quest for massive power and wealth seem unstoppable? How are we to be people of hope?

PRESENTER

Dr. Anna Brown is a peace and environmental activist and a Zen practitioner. She is chair of the Political Science Department at St. Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ and Director of the King/Kairos Social Justice House.

For more information or to register tmoran@scnj.org



DATES TO CELEBRATE IN MAY

1 International Workers' Day/St.

Joseph the Worker "Jesus is born and lives in a family, in the Holy Family, learning the carpenter's craft from St Joseph in his workshop in Nazareth, sharing with him the commitment, effort, satisfaction and also the difficulties of every day. This reminds us of the dignity and importance of work. Work, to use a metaphor, "anooints" us with dignity, fills us with dignity, makes us similar to God, who has worked and still works, who always acts." ~ Pope Francis

4 (1961) First Freedom Ride – 7 African American and 6 white activists leave DC for the segregated Deep South.

9 (1877) Birthday of Peter Maurin, co-founder with Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker movement; "I want a change, and a radical change. I want a change from an acquisitive society to a functional society, from a society of go-getters to a society of go-givers."

13 Mother's Day – read the stirring original Mother's Day anti-war proclamation <https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/holidays/mothers-day/the-original-mother-s-day-proclamation>

17 50th Anniversary of the

Catonsville 9 "May the fires of Catonsville be fed and fed by the lovers of life." ~ Daniel Berrigan, SJ

20 Pentecost Sunday - Coming of the Holy Spirit conquered the fear of the disciples and compelled them to mission. From what fear do I need to be released in order to be a missionary of peace, justice, and the integrity of creation in the world?

24 4th Anniversary of *Laudato Si'* – Use "Six Weeks with *Laudato Si'*" to grow in your implementation of its radical vision for the world http://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/SIX_WEEKS_WITH_LAUDATO_SI_2.pdf

27 Trinity Sunday - "The ever-creating God of life, source of endless possibilities, continues to draw the world to an unpredictable future, pervaded by a radical promise: at the ultimate end of time, the Creator and Sustainer of all will not abandon creation but will transform it in an unimaginable way in new communion with divine life." ~ Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ