



2015 ADVENT JOURNEY TOWARD PEACE, JUSTICE AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY FOR SISTERS OF CHARITY, ASSOCIATES, AND FRIENDS



“Jesus lived in full harmony with creation...His appearance was not that of an ascetic set apart from the world, nor of an enemy to the pleasant things of life.” Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #98

November

- 29 First Sunday of Advent** – Use natural candles in your Advent wreath.
- 30** How will you live in full harmony with creation this Advent, taking time to savor the pleasant things of life?

December

- 1** World AIDS Day – 35 million people are currently living with HIV/AIDS – bring them to prayer and to action.
- 2** 35th anniversary of the US Churchwomen of El Salvador “Find something worth living for...even worth dying for.” Ita Ford, MM.
- 3** Feast of St. Francis Xavier: Mother Seton wrote: “If I were I a man, the whole world itself would not be enough for me. I would be treading the footsteps of a St. Francis Xavier; the waters of a deep sea and the heavens would be explored. But I must await the hour of freedom.” What will you do with your hour of freedom? What depths will you explore?
- 4** Enjoy a brisk walk and breathe the winter air.
- 5** Feed the birds.



From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole. Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #99

- 6 2nd Sunday of Advent** - Keep your eyes alert this week for Christ at work in a hidden manner in the natural world.
- 7** Marvel at the winter night sky.
- 8** Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Traditional day on which the Sisters of Charity renew their vows – what deep commitment do you want to renew today?
- 9** Feast of St. Juan Diego “Our Lady of Guadalupe continues to build up the Kingdom by reminding poor people that they are worthy of an apparition.” Mark Zwick

- 10 **Human Rights Day** – What is a right that you enjoy. How will you advocate for someone who doesn't enjoy that right?
- 11 Include a message of justice, peace, sustainability in your Christmas cards.
- 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe:** “Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.” (Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego)



“Living our vocations to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to the life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’* # 216

- 13 **3rd Sunday of Advent** – Examine your conscience and your lifestyle based on this quote from Pope Francis.
- 14 Try a new soup recipe and share some with a neighbor.
- 15 Plan ways to give yourself for Christmas.
- 16 In the winter, St. Francis would leave out wine and honey for the bees. How will you be a gift to non-human creatures this Christmas?
- 17 The best things in life aren’t things.
- 18 Enjoy some poetry.
- 19 Resist consumerism and the Christmas rush.



“The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dew drop, in a poor person’s face.” Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’* # 233

- 20 **4th Sunday of Advent** - Find the mystical meaning in something common and everyday.
- 21 Pray for peace and reconciliation in Palestine and Israel.
- 22 Winter Solstice – eat by candle light tonight to celebrate this most ancient of human feasts. Get up tomorrow to greet the dawn.
- 23 Feel the love in which you are held.
- 24 Massage your hands or feet and rejoice in the human flesh you share with Jesus.
- 25 **Christmas Day** “Jesus comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours.” Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’* 236