



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



World Day of Peace – January 1, 2019

The theme of the 52nd World Day of Peace, to be observed on January 1, 2019, and of the Pope's Message for the occasion is "Good Politics at the Service of Peace." The Vatican's press release emphasized the responsibility of each one in politics. "Political responsibility belongs to every citizen and, in particular, to those that have received the mandate to protect and to govern." As part of taking that responsibility for peace, the Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity has undertaken the project of sending to every member of the 116th United States Congress, all 535 of them, a copy of Pope Francis's anti-war card showing the photograph of a young boy after the bombing of Nagasaki standing in line at a crematorium with his dead brother on his back. With this card we will encourage the members of congress to sign the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. For more information on the Treaty and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons <http://www.icanw.org/>

SISTERS OF CHARITY EARTH EXAMEN OF CONSCIOUSNESS

As a prayer practice for the New Year, we offer you an adaption of the traditional practice of examination of conscience at the end of the day – an Earth Examen of Consciousness that invites us to reflect each day on how we are growing in a more healthy relationship with Earth our mother and common home.

- As the day draws to a close, I pause to recall that I am in the presence:
...of our Creator God who looked with pleasure on everything that was made;
...of Jesus who delighted in the flowers of the field and the birds of the air;
...of the Spirit of wind and flame, the energy that fills the cosmos.
- I ask for the grace to see creation as God sees it – with delight in its wonders and with a heart broken by the cries of Earth and people in poverty.
- How have my life choices impacted creation today?



I recall some moments when I delighted in creation today – e.g. in a sunrise, a flower, an animal companion, in an experience of human goodness.

- I recall with gratitude some moments when I chose to live in loving relationship with creation – e.g. when I was careful in my use of water or electricity, when I made healthy food choices for myself and for Earth, when I chose non-violence in relationships and speech.
- I pray for the grace of conversion for the moments in my day when I failed to live in loving relationship with creation – e.g. when I too rushed or busy for wonder and awe; when I was wasteful or selfish; when I failed to treat people and other creatures with respect.
- I look with desire and hope toward tomorrow. What is one thing I might choose to do to live in deeper harmony with God, myself, other people, all creation? I conclude my prayer with a moment of contemplative silence. I rest in gratitude for the wonder of life. I call to mind our symbol of the pelican – a symbol which sees God as a nurturing mother. I pray that I may be a nurturing presence for all Earth's creatures.



Sisters Rita O'Farrell and Kathy Clementz (right) enjoy the presentation given by Dorothy Calvani.

The SC Ecospirituality Reflection Group was delighted with a presentation on December 3, 2018 from Dorothy Calvani on Sisters of Earth, a network of women who support each other in exploring the new cosmology and sustainability. Dorothy led us in several of the powerful rituals from the Sisters of Earth Conference last July. Directions for one of the rituals, The Truth Mandala, can be found at <https://workthatreconnects.org/truth-mandala/> - a beautiful way of getting in touch with our grief for the world and experiencing the love that underlies our griefs and sorrows.



Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Dates in January

1 World Day of Prayer for Peace – Repeat many times today as a mantra “May peace prevail on Earth.”

4 Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – “The nearer a soul is truly united to God, the more its sensibilities are increased to every being of Creation.” Resolve this year to increase your sensibilities for all creation – water, air, plants, animals.

6-12 National Migration Week – This year’s theme is *Building Communities of Welcome*.

7 Birthday of Sadako Sasaki the young Japanese girl, victim of the atomic bombing, who folded 1000 peace cranes <http://sadakosasaki.com/>

11 National Trafficking Awareness Day – Distribute some of the SC Trafficking Prayer Cards. Ask for them at pjei@scnj.org

22 National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn – “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” Psalm 139

27-31 National Catholic Schools Week – Write a card of thanks to a Catholic school teacher.