



JUST Love

MAY 2020



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

COVID 19 and the Apocalypse

When April *JustLove* went to press, we never could have dreamed the extent of the global pandemic as the May issue goes to press. It is commonplace to see this pandemic as a global apocalypse. It's important to consider the biblical meaning of Apocalypse. It doesn't mean primarily horrible devastation of unimaginable scale. Apocalypse comes from a Greek word meaning "unveiling." The author of the book of Apocalypse or Revelation, the last book of the Christian Scriptures, did not intend to predict the end of the world. He wanted to unveil the pretensions



of the Roman Empire of his own day. The Roman Empire held the known world under its cruel domination. The author of Revelation/Apocalypse proclaimed instead that the reign of God, despite all appearances to the contrary, was sovereign and triumphant. These weeks of global pandemic have been an apocalypse in the biblical sense - an unveiling of both evil and good. The inadequacies of our health system, the wage insecurity of so many people, the injustice of minimum wage salaries for people who now provide essential social services, the disproportionate effect of the virus on communities of color – all this has been clearly unveiled. Much good has come to light as well: the heroism of health care professionals, the mutual aid that ordinary people are providing to each other, the ways in which the hungry are being fed and those without shelter care for despite the requirements of social distancing, the creative ways in which families have celebrated Holy Week in their domestic churches. The bible tells us that Mary looked at the world and pondered events in her heart. Let's pray to have discerning hearts like Mary as we ponder our great unveiling. What kind of world will we work for after COVID-19?

Sisters of Charity: 160 Years of Justice and Peace

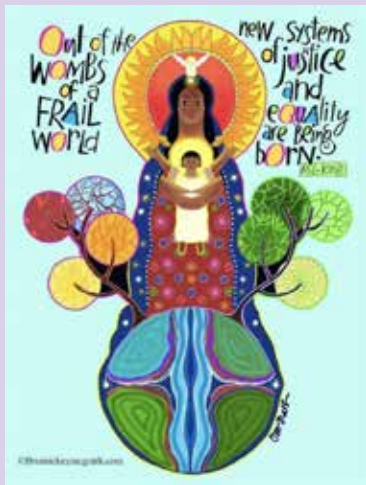


Perhaps the last gathering of the Sisters of Charity before the current quarantine took effect was the first (and only) session of the PJEI Office 2020 Lenten series on March 11 that celebrated our 160th anniversary year by looking at our tradition of activism for justice and peace. Sister Noreen Neary, Congregation archivist, gave an excellent presentation on the explosion of JPIC activism that took place after Vatican 2. It stretched from the streets of Newark and Jersey City to the UN World Forum on Women in China. At this link you can view her PowerPoint and get a taste of her presentation

https://www.scnj.org/images/justicepeace/1_SCSE_social_justice_Lent_2020.pdf. Sister Barbara Aires focused on



her work in corporate responsibility: religious congregations leveraging this power as shareholders to influence corporations toward justice. Sister Barbara was a pioneer in this movement. Find out more about the work of the Intercommunity Center on Corporate Responsibility at this link <https://www.iccr.org/>



May: Growth in Everything

Jesuit poet Gerard Manly Hopkins in his poem *May Magnificat* wonders why May is Mary's month. His answer-May is the month of "growth in everything." At this time of global pandemic when we often feel restraint, anxiety, and fear rather than growth, *JustLove* invites you to take some quiet time for contemplation of some images of Mary. Her *Magnificat* remains to this day the most vigorous act of confidence in the God of Justice, the God of the Poor. May Mary of the *Magnificat* renew our hope that "another world is possible."



JPIC Dates to Remember in May

1 St. Joseph the Worker/International Workers' Day. Read this Statement on Corporate Responsibility for workers during the COVID-19 pandemic from the Intercommunity Center on Corporate Responsibility <https://www.iccr.org/investor-statement-coronavirus-response>

3 World Press Freedom Day Send an email of thanks to a journalist whose work you admire.

8 Feast of Julian of Norwich Renew your faith in the words of Julian who also lived through a time of plague: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

10 Mother's Day Read the Original Mother's Day Proclamation by Julia Warde Howe, a vibrant call for peace after the civil war <https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/holidays/mothers-day/the-original-mother-s-day-proclamation>

15 Endangered Species Day <https://www.endangered.org/campaigns/endangered-species-day/> Spend some time in prayer of lament for the thousands of species that have been lost because of human greed and blindness.

27 Birthday of ecological pioneer Rachel Carson (1964) "We are a part of nature and our war against nature is inevitable a war against ourselves."

31 Pentecost Sunday "About the Creator Spirit this can be said: loves bodies, loves to dance. The whole complex, material universe is pervaded and signed by her graceful vigor." Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ