

Bulletin: April 22, 2024: The Church in the World

War and Peace

CIOFS' JPIC Secretariat has released a [letter on peace and disarmament](https://ciofs.info/2024/04/09/letter-on-peace-and-disarmament/), available at the CIOFS web site. <https://ciofs.info/2024/04/09/letter-on-peace-and-disarmament/> The usefulness of a statement, even by Church leaders, is limited to how we listen, discern, and find ways to act. There is a powerful [conversation](#), a dialogue with *Palestinian and Israeli Bereaved Families for Peace*, that provides a different perspective to the ongoing conflict: <https://youtu.be/S6RhwXzuoFQ?si=PozZ0Da7y7T3mo4M> An evening spent listening to this on *YouTube*, perhaps as an alternative to the standard war news, could bear much fruit. It is a visible sign of that *better way* we are to present to the world as Franciscans. It is also an important antidote to feelings of helplessness and inevitability about the war.

Prayer request

"For I was . . . in prison and you visited me." Matt 25:35, 36:

Two of our members, Jean Marshall, OFS, and Paulette Harlow, OFS, both of *Mary, Queen of Peace Fraternity* in Plymouth, MA, currently await sentencing on federal convictions related to their pro-life activism, which included civil disobedience. They participated in blocking and disrupting access inside an abortion clinic in 2020.

The story was covered in the Catholic media, and the details are available online. This is a request for prayers, and perhaps a letter or visit for Jean, who has been incarcerated in the DC area since her conviction in the Fall of 2023. Their sentencing is reported to be scheduled for May 15 this year.

To write to Jean:

Jean Marshall A0216866
William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center
2001 Mill Road
Alexandria, VA 22314

Use only envelopes purchased from the post office with the postage pre-printed, no stamps. Letters must be in black or blue ink on standard lined or blank white paper. No cards or photos. Name and return address on the envelope. Inmate ID number must follow the name on the envelopes.



Immigration

This a complex and multi-faceted issue, requiring that we *educate ourselves*. The JPIC focus group has put together the [Immigration Toolkit](https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/immigration-toolkit/), an online resource with links to Church teaching, sample formation content, testimonials, prayers, etc. It is an ideal starting point for any OFS member interested in learning and doing something about immigration. The toolkit is available at: <https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/immigration-toolkit/>.



The Catholic Church has long standing teachings on immigration and is very active currently on immigration policy. As always, the Church supports comprehensive reform legislation. The [USCCB Immigration page](https://www.usccb.org/committees/migration/immigration) is geared toward giving US Catholics the knowledge, strategies, and tools to take action. <https://www.usccb.org/committees/migration/immigration>

[Catholic Charities USA](#) and affiliate agencies provide vital direct care for immigrants, all within the confines of the law. These agencies are an ideal point of contact. [Catholic Relief Services](#) has a beautiful [prayer for refugees](#). Thanks to Beth O'Donnell, the JPIC animator for Holy Trinity Region, for sharing this resource.

Contact Joe Makley at: Joe.sfo@pioneerstreet.com



Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

On Earth Day, Progress in Laudato Si implementation

There has been growth in participation in the Laudato Si Action Platform. A [List of Diocesan Laudato Si Action Plans](#) is maintained by Catholic Climate Covenant and its partners at this link:

<https://godsplanet.us/resources/> Dioceses included so far are: Arlington, Atlanta, Davenport, Indianapolis, Newark, Sacramento, San Diego, San Jose, Syracuse, Washington, DC, Kansas City-St. Joseph, Joliet, Il. These plans contain a wealth of activities to inspire.

We can all assist our parishes in the work of Laudato Si. A [video](#) about how one parish, Hampton, VA, is responding to Care for Creation is here: <https://youtu.be/afu8v6enmr4?si=awWWZU-iAihe2UV5&t=1>

Don't miss this [conversation](#) with Bishop Allwyn D'Silva and Fr. Patricio Flores in the webinar on "[The Crucial Role of Church Leaders in Ecological conversion](#)." Sponsored by Laudato Si Action Platform.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/HriJvnsbvM8?si=8C3jUkx4ashq7H4A&t=909>

Bishop D'Silva is based in Mumbai and has an inspiring presentation.



Laudato Si clarified and unpacked the dimensions of the environmental crisis, showing how Care for Creation is *Catholic*. *Laudate Deum* reminded us of the time factor, the urgency of the work. *Integral Ecology* teaches us that the Cry of the Poor must be addressed in the context of the crisis. Migration is intimately connected to a worsening climate, as are wars, economic disruption, famine, etc. Solutions must come from changes in the way people in developed economies view the world. Unlimited consumption and disposal, resource extraction, exploitation, technological progress, etc. must be rethought on a *moral basis*. We can learn to think differently. Let us drink deep from the knowledge of *Laudato Si*.

An Ecological Conversion prayer:

*Lord, may I fall in love with you again,
in contemplation of the stupendous miracle of
creation,
in which your hand is majestic and self-evident.*

*And may I never again take for granted
a grain of soil, drop of water, or a single breath
of the precious and fragile atmosphere of our sister
Mother Earth,
bequeathed to us in love...
Amen*



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