



*Justice*



*Peace*



*Integrity of Creation*



*Prairie Fire News*

*April 2018*

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### ***EARTH DAY***

Our inaugural issue of the *Prairie Fire News* is released just in time for Earth Day 2018 which is April 22, 2018. Did you know that this will be the 48th Earth Day? Catholic Climate Covenant (<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org>) has a really good one-hour program on Earth Day, which focuses on how we can address, both individually and collectively, the growing problem of single-use plastic. It includes prayers, readings, actions, and a video. This might make a good presentation during the on-going formation segment of a Gathering.

Interfaith Power & Light ([interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://interfaithpowerandlight.org)) is sponsoring a nationwide Climate Prayer at Noon on April 22. Here's the link to sign up to join: [http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50836/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action\\_KEY=24235](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50836/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=24235) You'll have to type it in because I can't figure out how to give you the link. Sorry. There is also a Faith Climate Action week program available at <http://www.faithclimateactionweek.org/>.

### ***USCCB***

From Susan Stevenot Sullivan; director of education & outreach at the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace & Human Development.

*How can we do this? By using real or contrived differences of race, socio-economic class, religion, lifestyle, language, or ethnicity to create communities of scapegoats, onto whom we pour the verbal venom of our fears, our hatreds, our ignorance, our insecurities. Once dehumanized and separated from "us," the "final solution" can seem logical, necessary, patriotic.*



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***SOCIAL JUSTICE***

For articles and links to activities regarding social justice issues, go to [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org). Network bills themselves as Advocates for Justice, Inspired by Catholic Sisters. There has been good information on the emails from this website.

***FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK***

Another good source of action on the social justice, peace, and ecology fronts is Franciscan Action Network ([franciscanaction.org](http://franciscanaction.org)). Their newsletter has a good weekly message as well as dozens of actions. As of now, our National Fraternity still participates in this Network.

***TO GO FORTH***

To Go Forth is the weekly blog from the Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It always has an informative and challenging article on a timely topic. One of the more recent ones was Rediscovering My Neighbor. The author, Andrea Ferguson wrote, "Through this gentle reopening, I rediscovered my neighbors throughout the world." The workshop helped her better understand the scope of the word "Neighbor". We are reminded as Franciscans that all are Jesus to us!

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So, there it is. Just a little sampling of the topics to be covered in this Newsletter. If you have some activities that your Fraternity is doing, let us know so we can share with everyone.