



Integrity of Creation



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If in our daily life we can smile,
if we can be peaceful and happy,
not only we, but everyone will profit from it.
This is the most basic kind of peace work.

—Thich Nhat Hanh

Contraception and abortion promised more freedom and empowerment for women, but both have eroded respect for women and negatively impacted their relationships with men. If sex is not linked to authentic married love and its life-giving dimensions, it degenerates and becomes distorted, losing its original meaning and significance. A woman should never have to compromise herself, her body, her fertility, or her child through contraception and abortion to feel loved or respected. (*Life Issues Forum, USCCB, Kimberly Baker; see USCCB.org/pro-life-activities/life-issues-forum/contraception and abortion—15 JUN for the complete essay.*)



Did you know that Pope Francis just challenged world oil executives to recognize the urgent environmental need to quickly transition from fossil fuel extraction and burning to clean energy production? It was during a recent “Energy Transition and Care for our Common Home” conference at the Vatican with the CEO’s of ExxonMobil, BP and Royal Dutch Shell. He said, “Civilization requires energy, but energy must not destroy civilization.”

We've all got both light and dark inside us.
What matters is the part we choose to act on.
That's who we really are.

~ J.K. Rowling



Did you know that while the U.S. economy has grown 18-fold in the past 50 years, wealth inequality has expanded, the costs of living have increased, and social programs have been restructured and cut dramatically?

- Poor People's Campaign

How do we respond to this sort of information. Well, we are in the election season, so the Sisters of Mercy suggest these questions be asked of our candidates:

Local and state candidates:

- What is your position on the reinvestment in and the expansion of public housing? How will you actively work to ensure that all have a decent house to live in?
- How will you work for public infrastructure projects and sustainable, community-based and controlled economic initiatives that target poor urban and rural communities?
- What do you understand to be necessary for greater equity in education? How will you ensure every child receives a high-quality, well-funded, diverse public education?

Congressional candidates:

- What role can you play in ensuring that the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of our country's urgent needs around decent and affordable housing, free public education, a robust social safety net and social security?
- How will you turn your attention to passing policies and budget allocations that would end child poverty?

If we don't ask, they won't know how important these issues are to us who vote. Write your legislators and congressmen. Go to rallies and ask these questions.

Pace et Bene