



Justice



Peace



Integrity of Creation



Prairie Fire News

July 2018

Editor: Dennis R. Dowell, O.F.S.

SEASON OF CREATION

From September 1 to October 4, Christians around the world unite to pray and care for creation. It's the "Season of Creation," and it's happening from Paris to Pittsburgh, Pretoria to La Paz.

You are called to lead your community. The theme for this year's celebration is "walking together," and there are endless ways for your community to show it is on a journey toward better care of our common home.

Register your Season of Creation celebration now and join the global movement to protect creation. See website to get more information: [Season of Creation](#)

UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

Universal Basic Income is a situation where the poor are provided with money with no strings attached, none. It is based on the idea that the poor are not unintelligent or lazy, but rather, disadvantaged, unable to make the most basic steps needed to change their situation, even though they are in the best position to say what is personally the biggest stumbling block to greater success, whether that is simply providing enough food so that hunger does not dominate their time and effort, transportation to work, child care for working mothers, education or training, or something else. To get more information, go to [Stockton](#).

"We can take pride in our cultural, religious, ethnic, and other identities. However, when that pride fosters feelings of superiority, arrogance, competition, or the denigration of others who are not part of our group, we are breeding intolerance and violence."

—[Paul Kivel](#), *Uprooting Racism*

For more information about building a culture of peace, visit the website:

[Pace e bene](#)



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Last month, Catholic Campaign for Human Development presented its 2018 [Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award](#) to Fr. Matthew O'Donnell, an alumnus of the CCHD intern program and pastor at St. Columbanus Parish in Chicago, IL.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative justice is a beautifully challenging undertaking. Its focus on relationships and alignment with gospel values of mercy, redemption and reconciliation inspire hope for a renewed spirit of justice. However, this approach is so drastically different from America's adversarial and retributive response to harm that it can be difficult to envision another way. (Caitlin Morneau)

See [Restorative Justice](#) for more information about this alternative to our current model of incarceration and capital punishment.

FARM BILL

Have you contacted your Senator and Congressman about their support of the new Farm Bill? Remember, this bill also addresses hunger and nutrition in our country and around the world. See this [action alert](#) for more information.



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CATHOLIC CHARITIES—USA

Share the Journey – Registration is now open for the 2018 CCUSA Annual Gathering September 12-14

[The Catholic Charities USA Annual Gathering](#), hosted this year by [Catholic Charities of Buffalo](#), brings together agency staff, Board members and volunteers, united in transforming the lives of people and communities and committed to growing and celebrating CCUSA's national, vibrant and innovative ministry. This year's conference theme – Share the Journey – reflects our mission to bring help and hope to all people. Click [here](#) to see what is new and noteworthy and to register. NY Times: [What to do in Buffalo](#).

61. In other words, amid the thicket of precepts and prescriptions, Jesus clears a way to seeing two faces, that of the Father and that of our brother. He does not give us two more formulas or two more commands. He gives us two faces, or better yet, one alone: the face of God reflected in so many other faces. For in every one of our brothers and sisters, especially the least, the most vulnerable, the defenceless and those in need, God's very image is found. Indeed, with the scraps of this frail humanity, the Lord will shape his final work of art. For "what endures, what has value in life, what riches do not disappear? Surely these two: the Lord and our neighbour. These two riches do not disappear!"

— Gaudete et exultate; Pope Francis



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TAKEN FROM FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK—July 9, 2018

Jesus' "blueprint for ministry" – is to just take a walking stick - no food, no sack, no money in their belts, and to rely on the community. Could our "blueprint" for this time in history be that we are disciples on which immigrants, the poor, prisoners, those who are recipients of prejudice, the environment, and many other oppressed rely to speak for, protest for, and intercede for with politicians and all of society?

Recently in Seneca Falls, NY I picked up a poster that says it all:

"In This House:

Love is Love

Black Lives Matter

Science is Real

Women's Rights are Human Rights

No Human is Illegal

Water is Life

And Kindness is Everything!"

May these sentiments be our blueprint for ministry.

Sr. Marge Wissman

FAN Board Member





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Walk Lightly

Each leaf, each petal, each grain, each person, sings your praises, Creator God.

*Each creature on the earth, all the mountains and great seas show your glory,
Spirit of love.*

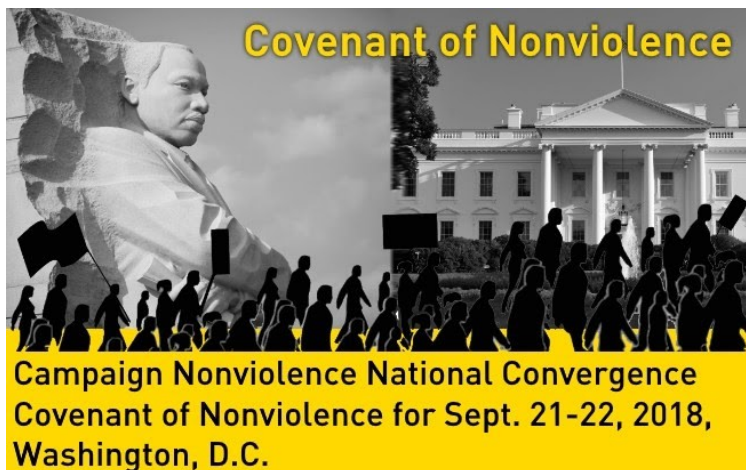
*And yet the hand of greed has patented and plundered your splendor, has taken
and not shared your gift, has lived as owner of the earth, not guest.*

*And so the ice is cracked the rivers dry, the valleys flooded and the snowcaps
melt.*

*Loving God, show us how to step gently, how to live simply, how to walk lightly
with respect and love for all that you have made.*

Amen!

(Linda Jones/CAFOD)



FOR MORE INFORMATION: [National Convergence](#)