



Prairie Fire News

August—September 2018

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**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION
POPE'S MESSAGE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2018
THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER**

On September 1, Pope Francis issued a message regarding the importance of water in our modern society and how poorly we are caring for it. In part the message proclaims,

"In considering the fundamental role of water in creation and in human development, I feel the need to give thanks to God for "Sister Water", simple and useful for life like nothing else on our planet. Precisely for this reason, care for water sources and water basins is an urgent imperative. Today, more than ever, we need to look beyond immediate concerns (cf. Laudato Si', 36) and beyond a purely utilitarian view of reality, "in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit" (ibid., 159). We urgently need shared projects and concrete gestures that recognize that every privatization of the natural good of water, at the expense of the human right to have access to this good, is unacceptable."

Read the entire message by going to this link: [2018 World Day of Prayer Message](#)

**MESSAGES FROM THE NATIONAL SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND OUR HOLY FATHER REGARDING THE
REVELATIONS ABOUT THE ABUSE OF YOUNG PEOPLE BY CLERGY**

Our Regional Minister, Deacon Dave, O.F.S., recently shared with us the message from our National Executive Council regarding the revelations of abuse by clergy in Pennsylvania. It concludes,

Sisters and Brothers of the Secular Franciscan Order, we stand in support of the victims and in favor of holding those responsible for these crimes accountable for their actions. We pray for healing, forgiveness, peace, reconciliation and a Church that will be rebuilt and with God's grace, and the movement of Holy Spirit, one day, will



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once again be a beacon of light, hope and refuge. Let us go forth and witness to the light of Christ and rebuild the Church so that it may once again be full of grace and truth.

The complete message may be found at [NEC OFS-USA Message](#).

Pope Francis has also addressed this world-wide issue with a message on August 20, 2018. Read his message at this link: [Message to the People of God](#).

We continue to remember Fr. Giles' recovery in our prayers.

“This is how we will heal the Earth, and ourselves—through deep love and intimate knowledge of her waters and soils, her moods and changing conditions. When the Earth is sacred to us again, we will do what is required to mend our relationship with her, even if it means giving up certain habits or goals that once mattered: more money, a bigger house, or a way of life dependent on fossil fuels. When we remember that our bodies and the Earth-body are inseparable, we will hear her cry and feel her pain as our own. And we will not turn away.”



—Kosmos Newsletter, July 2018



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Make a Personal Commitment to Live the Change

Our friends at the Franciscan Action Network invite us to join in **Living the Change**. They state in a recent newsletter: *“We believe the Earth is sacred and that each of us has the responsibility to live in a way that helps preserve our common home for the wellbeing of all people today, as well as for all generations to come ... and we are honoring this belief by Living the Change!”*

The link takes you to the Living the Change website so that you too can participate.

PEOPLE’S CLIMATE MOVEMENT



On September 8th, join the **People's Climate Movement** and partners from around the world, in bringing tens of thousands of people from across the country into the streets to show our elected leaders that we demand action on climate change.

Pledge to join tens of thousands of people taking action to demand bold climate action on September 8th, and beyond.

Vatican Draft Alters Catechism Wording on Capital Punishment, Calling It ‘Inadmissible’

In a letter to bishops Aug. 2, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said, ‘The new revision ... situates itself in continuity with the preceding Magisterium while bringing forth a coherent development of Catholic doctrine.’

Taken from the National Catholic Register. See complete article [here](#).



Justice



Peace



Integrity of Creation



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CAMPAIGN NONVIOLENCE NATIONAL CONVERGENCE, MARCH, & ACTION

September 21-22, 2018, Washington, D.C.

King Memorial to the White House



PART OF THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN NONVIOLENCE WEEK OF ACTIONS - SEPT. 15-23, 2018



LAUDATO SI'
Saving our Common Home
and the Future of Life on Earth
Vatican City, 5-6 July 2018

***Vatican Conference commemorating
the third anniversary
of the release of Laudato Si'***

The specific calls to action from the conference include:

- Renewing the Church's commitment to urgent radical ecological conversion
- Raising ambition for the climate talks later this year for a just transition to keep global warming to 1.5° Celsius
- Deepening action among young and indigenous people during the synods on youth and the Amazon, and beyond, to ensure long-lasting ecological justice
- Encouraging financial institutions to support investments with positive social and environmental impact.



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An interesting insight on the work that we perform in the evangelization of our faith and our mission to serve as Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Advocates and Animators.



WHAT PEOPLE SEE

SUCCESS

**HARD WORK
RISK
LATE NIGHTS
STRUGGLES
FAILURES
PERSISTENCE
ACTION
DISCIPLINE
COURAGE
DOUBTS
CHANGES
CRITICISM
DISAPPOINTMENTS
ADVERSITY
REJECTIONS
SACRIFICES**

WHAT REALLY HAPPENS



Justice



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**JUST SOME THINGS TO
REMEMBER AS WE GO
ABOUT OUR WORK**

Six ethics of life

Before you Pray -Believe
Before you speak - Listen
Before you spend - Earn
Before you write - Think
Before you Quit- try
Before you Die - Live.



You are
AMAZING.
You are
IMPORTANT.
You are
SPECIAL.
You are
UNIQUE.
You are
KIND.
You are
PRECIOUS.
You are
LOVED.