



Prairie Fire News

Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity, O.F.S.

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Justice



Peace



Integrity of Creation



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St. Francis and the Incarnation



[St. Francis] was profoundly impressed by the simplicity and the poverty of God, who entered our world as a poor person. In his exuberance and passionate love for the incarnation of God that is revealed in Jesus of Nazareth, Francis invented a dramatic way to preach about this mystery. In 1223, he created the first Christmas crib so that the people around the Italian village of Greccio could have a practical and personal experience of the incarnation of Jesus and what it meant for ordinary people...

The Franciscan school of theology, particularly in the writings of Blessed John Duns Scotus (1265–1308), which are based on the mysticism of Saint Francis, the letters of Saint Paul, and the Gospel of Saint John, believes that God from all eternity freely chose to create and then to enter the universe out of love. Scotus taught that the universe was created so that God would have another way to be Love and to express love to another beloved...

To read the full story, [click here](#). (Written by "Guest Author" on Franciscan Media.)

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COMING REGIONAL EVENTS

March 28—20, 2020
Regional Fraternity & Executive Councils

August 1, 2020
Regional day of Reflection—Formation

August 28—20, 2020
Regional Retreat
Regional Fraternity & Executive Councils

NATIONAL EVENTS

August 18—22, 2021
OFS-USA Quinquennial Congress
(Phoenix, Arizona)

PUBLIC WITNESS

15. Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

What better way to demonstrate the love that God showed for us in the incarnation than by advocating for the marginalized, less fortunate, and poor of this world by becoming active in “public life.” [DRD]

According to the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, having just **3.5%** of the population actively participating in peaceful public protests can bring about political and social change. Types of public witness activities include:

- Organizing speaker, movies or petition drives;
- Arranging visits to organizations that work with people on the margins;
- Asking [clergy] to speak on social issues;
- Creating / displaying yard signs, banners, & posters;
- Distributing leaflets & posters, etc.;
- Participating in boycotts & divestment campaigns;
- Posting items on social media;
- Wearing clothing or buttons with messages;
- Writing letter to newspaper editors, diocesan newspapers, alumni newsletters, etc.;
- Joining an organization that does public witness work;
- Expressing values in conversations with family, friends, & neighbors.

The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being...

~ St. John Paul II

Taken from Social Justice Resource Center December 2019 Newsletter.

For more **Public Action** resources, [click here](#).

From Daily Ray of Hope—Sierra Club



Photo by Andy Porter

Night sky and the Milky Way from Artist Point, at the end of the Mt Baker Highway in Washington

*The stars awaken a certain reverence,
because though always present,
they are inaccessible;
but all natural objects make a kindred impression,
when the mind is open to their influence.
Nature never wears a mean appearance.*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Word for the Day—from Gratefulness.org

*We have so much to learn from each other,
and our connections run so much deeper and stronger than we think.*

~Justine du Toit

Here are some future events of Public Witness

24 JAN 2020—47th Annual March for Life—be involved in local marches;
3 FEB 2020—Iowa Caucuses—attend your precinct caucus;
10 MAR 2020—Missouri Primaries—vote;
17 MAR 2020—Illinois Primaries—vote;
22 APR 2020—50th Anniversary of Earth Day—be involved in the many planned activities;
16-24 MAY 2020—5th Anniversary of Laudato Sí; during the week re-read the encyclical; re-commit to its principles; watch the Vatican summit;
13-16 JUL 2020—Democratic National Convention—be a delegate;
24-27 AUG 2020—Republican National Convention—be a delegate;
1 SEP-4 OCT 2020—Season of Creation—participate in the prayer and take action for creation;
3 NOV 2020—National Presidential Election—vote.

Become involved with your local Catholic Conference

Your statewide Catholic Conference is available to help you with finding legislative matters at both the state and federal level that you can help advocate for. Check out their resources:

Missouri Catholic Conference — Join MOCAN

You can register for our newsletters, updates, and other communication efforts. You can also see the most important legislative matters pertinent to the MCC for the current legislative session. You can also get involved by sending a letter to members of the legislature, on both the state and federal level.

[Learn More](#)

Catholic Conference of Illinois — JOIN I-CAN

The Catholic Conference of Illinois is here to serve you and our Church. Sign up now for our Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network (I-CAN) to stay informed on issues affecting the Church and her mission at both the state and federal levels.

[Learn More](#)

From *This Nonviolent life—Daily Inspiration for your non-violent journey*

~Pace e Bene Nonviolent Service

*The Earth will not continue to offer its harvest
except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land
and then take steps to destroy it for use of future generations.*

~Pope St. John Paul II

St. Newman's example is needed more than ever for the manner in which, at his best, he could advocate without accusation, could disagree without disrespect, and, perhaps most of all, could see differences as places of encounter rather than exclusion.

~Susan Hines-Brigger; St. Anthony Messenger; December 2019

Do you want to be the most with-it? Get your new e-rosary bracelet and e-rosary app on your smartphone. "When activated, the user has the possibility to choose to pray either the standard rosary, a contemplative rosary, different kinds of thematic rosaries that will be updated every year. Once the prayer begins, the smart rosary shows the user's progression throughout the different mysteries and keeps track of each rosary completed." Go to ClicktoPrayRosary.org for details.

The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Daily Catholic Wisdom

~Henri du Lubac

*When we choose the poor, we can always be sure of not going wrong.
When we choose an ideology, we can never be sure
of not being at least partly wrong.
When we have complied with an ideology, we can never be sure
of having taken the right course.
When we choose the poor, we are always sure,
doubly sure, of having made a good choice.
We have chosen like Jesus. And we have chosen Jesus.*