



# PASSIONIST SOLIDARITY NETWORK

WITH THE CRUCIFIED OF TODAY

Social Justice • Earth Care

AWAKENING THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST



The guiding phrase for Passionists is "May the Passion of Christ be always in our hearts." The **Good Friday Ecological Way of the Cross** sponsored by the Laudato Si' Vision Fulfillment Team and the Passionist Solidarity Network was a prayerful conclusion to the six week Lenten series, **Passion of the Earth**, which explored our charism to God's entire creation. Then a recent Easter newsletter from Hugo Esparza CP about his struggles and despair in Haiti brought this further into crystal focus for me.

*"The wire used to thigh Roi's hands came looking for me that day. The anger of being robbed and the frustration at Marthine's death came back. All I could do was to sit there holding the wire and my heavy heart in silence. Of course, I turned to Him on the Cross...."*

*In the midst of my anguish, I have the option to transform it into a life giving source or to let darkness eat me up alive. I had no other option than to turn the wire that tortured Roi for a few hours into a necessary means for a man who needed to buy his medicine. This is how I can live and experienced the Resurrection. Does this limit the power of the Resurrection? I do not know.*

*All I know is that happy thoughts or nice God-talk will not transformed our reality here in Haiti. The thieves will go hungry again and will be tempted to rob us again. Healthcare will not be available to most women in Marthine's situation, even with a priest willing to help her with a few hundred dollars here and there.*

*The only sign of the Resurrection I can experience and witness is when I do not fall into despair. I just cannot see and feel the fulness of His Resurrection. Yet, the marks of His suffering do point me towards it and help me cling to this essential mystery of our faith... also, because He promised it to us." '*

[Read Father Hugo's most recent newsletter](#), Passio Missio Haiti, that includes this story and the explanation of the photo above.

In peace and solidarity,



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## Passion of the Earth

### Laudato Si': A Convergence



In the past year, there has been accelerating and substantial movement in the world-wide effort to respond to the crisis of God's Creation and take seriously the words and message of Pope Francis' Laudato Si', published in 2016.

The Passionist Family has been engaged in responding to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth--the passion of Earth--even before the

renewed call of Pope Francis in this Special Anniversary Year of Laudato Si'. Next month, the entire Catholic world will be invited to launch a seven-year journey to sustainability in the spirit of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical called the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a call to the universal Church – families, parishes and dioceses, educational institutions, health care centers, the economy, organizations and groups, and religious orders – to take concrete steps toward sustainability and integral ecology. Religious institutes, societies and monastic communities also are among those being invited to participate in the initiative.

Read more about this convergence and important updates for the Province and Congregation in the most recent [Vision Fulfillment Newsletter](#) from the Laudato Si' team.

Image with permission: Melanie Weidner, ListenForJoy.com

As the Passionist Family deepens the appreciation of our charism and understanding of caring for God's creation and integral ecology, we have created a response form as a way to record both our dreaming and visioning (the world and work we hope to see) and our commitment for personal and community action to make it so. Respond to [Passion for the Earth - Our Laudato Si' Commitment and Vision](#) as often as the Spirit moves you.



Also, we have created a "webliography" and resource list, a fluid and organic document, tailored for Passionist Family, intended to be referenced by Provinces and Congregation with their Laudato Si' initiatives. Your input is encouraged as we grow this resource. [See the latest version here.](#)



## Links for Laudato Si' Lenten series and "Ecological Way of the Cross"

For those who were unable to participate in the April 2 Ecological Way of the Cross and the preceding Lenten series on Laudato Si', we promised to provide links for the resources.

[The link for the Way of the Cross is here.](#)

The videos from the complete Lenten series (including the stations) [are in a single folder here.](#)

These may be helpful for those doing Laudato Si' formation in your own circles and communities. If you would like to also have the Powerpoint slide deck for these sessions, please let us know.

Image with permission: Melanie Weidner, ListenForJoy.com

## Passion for Justice

### Hosting a racial justice conversation

After last Fall's successful series of conversations on race for the Passionist Family, the PSN and the Laudato Si' Visioning Committee is forming an ongoing forum to continue the dialog and learning. We'll be providing details soon.

In looking at other similar efforts, [we found this resource](#) from the Presbyterian Church USA. It is based on a staff-wide conversation that took place at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville. It includes the opening and closing prayers, framing for the conversation and review of mutual invitation, forming small groups for discussion, and more to help Presbyterians engage in antiracism work in congregations, and across the church.

- To learn more about the racial justice ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), visit <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racialjustice/resources>.
- To learn more about anti-racism resources from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), visit [http://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/racialjustice/pc\(usa\)\\_resources\\_for\\_antiracism\\_work.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/racialjustice/pc(usa)_resources_for_antiracism_work.pdf).

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## Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology: Spotlight on Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter

This episode of the Forum's Spotlights features Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter, an assistant professor and the assistant chair of the Theology and Religious Studies department at the University of San Diego, in San Diego, California. He discusses his work with the field of religion and ecology, with particular attention to the ways in which ecological spaces impact black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC). You can find more information about his work through the following links: <http://www.drchristophercarter.com/> and <https://www.racialresilience.com/>



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## Passionist Solidarity Network - Advocacy

- The PSN signed onto letters addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of African States urging them to support the demands made by families of victims of police violence, civil society organizations and UN Special Procedures.
- We also signed letter opposing opposing amount of US Global Military Spending in a letter circulated by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Even as it becomes increasingly apparent that militarized spending isn't the answer to today's global problems, the Biden administration proposed increasing the 2022 discretionary defense budget to \$753 billion. The letter asked members of Congress to significantly decrease spending on the military and nuclear weapons for FY2022 and to re-allocate that money into true national priorities like public health, diplomacy, infrastructure, and addressing climate change.

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For all:  
Sign petition to end the US federal death penalty



**CATHOLIC  
MOBILIZING  
NETWORK**

TO END THE USE OF  
THE DEATH PENALTY

**PROMOTE  
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

In the wake of an unprecedented number of federal executions under the previous Administration, the momentum and urgency behind abolishing the federal death penalty has never been stronger. Over the past few months, [Catholic Mobilizing Network](#) has circulated a petition targeted to President Biden, urging him to take the concrete steps at his disposal to end the death penalty. Already more than 5,500 Catholics and people of goodwill have signed.

Now, as the Biden administration approaches its 100-day mark, you can take action by [signing the petition](#) and sharing the petition. The hashtag for this campaign is [#CatholicsCondemnFedDeathPenalty](#).

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## Passion for Peacemaking

Small group discussion resource on Catholic nonviolence in Myanmar/Burma



Catholic nonviolence has been front and center in Myanmar/Burma since the coup there in February. The Pax Christi Asia-Pacific region released this statement on the coup and the struggle for democracy, and Pax Christi USA joined other Catholic organizations in the United States in issuing this statement last month.

Rose Marie Berger of Sojourners, a Catholic activist and poet involved with the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, has put together a 1-hour session for small groups to discuss and explore the Catholic nonviolence witness taking place in

Myanmar/Burma. For Pax Christi USA local groups, campus chapters, religious communities and others who would like to employ this resource, a link to this free download is available below.

[Download the resource by clicking here](#)

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## JPIC ROMA - A network in formation

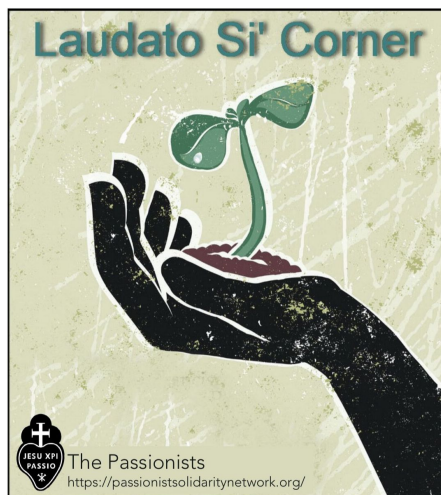


[Explore the new website](#) created for the Joint JPIC Commission of the Union of Superiors General (USG) and the International Union Superiors General (UISG)

Also, add yourself to the mailing list for their newsletter, Newsbriefs. [Their most recent issue](#) includes articles on

- A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace
  - The Way of Peace and Nonviolence
  - Towards a Global Ethic of Solidarity
  - Advocacy Work in Africa
  - Sowing Hope for the Planet in the Middle East
  - Laudato Si' Action Platform
  - Building Bridges and Reconciliation: Catholic Educational Institutions
  - Thinkific—A New Path of Outreach
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## Laudato Si' Corner



“Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life.” (no. 225)

“The God who created the universe out of nothing can also intervene in this world and overcome every form of evil. Injustice is not invincible.” (no. 74)

“We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world.” (no. 212)

**Questions:** In the face of vast challenges, why does our faith call us to hope? How can we act to live out God’s vision for healed and renewed relationships with God, self, others and creation?

**Action:** Reflect and record your response on paper. Put your response in a place you will see it. Revisit and revise it during times you feel overwhelmed with the news of injustice and environmental crisis.

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## Linking Justice and Peace in the Lectionary



The Passionist Solidarity Network collaborates with other community justice and peace offices and we would love to see homily resources coming from the Passionist charism. Contact the [Passionist Solidarity Network](#) office if you would like to contribute.

From the Justice and Peace Office of the CMSM

- [May 2 | Fifth Sunday of Easter](#) - Br. Steve Herro, O. Praem.
- [May 9 | Sixth Sunday of Easter](#) - Sr. Olivia Montejano, MSBT
- [May 16 | Solemnity of the Ascension](#) - Don Timmerman

Scripture reflections by Maryknoll missionaries starting in the new liturgical year, beginning Nov. 29. [Click here to subscribe.](#)

The Holy Cross Passionist website features [wonderful daily scripture reflections](#) from the Passionist Family. Three regular contributors are members of the Passionist Solidarity Network Advisory Board.

[The Catholic Climate Covenant has homily helps](#) incorporating *Laudato Si'* as well as weekly tip bulletin inserts (including Spanish).

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### Forward to a Friend

Be sure to forward this newsletter to friends who would be interested in the work of Passionist Solidarity in North America. We'll be happy to add them to our mailing list. You can update your mailing preferences for this list using the link below. Thank you!

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