

The Spirit and Charism dancing together

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PASSIONIST SOLIDARITY NETWORK

WITH THE CRUCIFIED OF TODAY

Social Justice • Earth Care

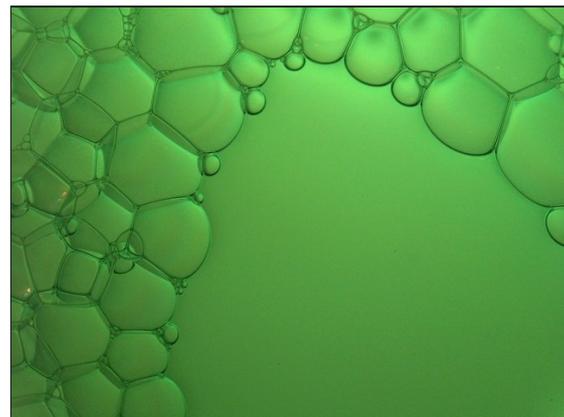
AWAKENING THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

Greetings to our
Passionist Family,

Happy Interdependence Day!

As the United States, North America celebrated another Independence Day on July 4th it is understandable (and encouraged) to pause and ask more existential questions. Globally, what is "independence" and for whom and from what? And most broadly, can we also see ourselves as part of an "evolving Universe, where the Cosmos too, is our home" Mary Evelyn Tucker, scholar, friend of Passionist Thomas Berry and cofounder of the [Yale Center of Religion and Ecology](#), urges us to appreciate the bigger picture and the broadest sense of interdependence--one that Berry describes where "The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects."

Mary Evelyn has thoughts on another timely and related area:



We surely see this aspiration in *Laudato Si'* which calls for an integral ecology and "combines the 'cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.'" In this spirit, mutually enhancing human-Earth relations need to be based on environmental justice and social participation." This is a basis for an expanded spirit of democracy and interdependence.

Read more from Mary Evelyn Tucker

[Cosmos as Home. Evolution as Context](#)

[Expanding the Spirit of Democracy.](#)

democracy. She says "the spiritual roots of democracy lie in the aspiration that we can move through this period to reassert interdependence and interconnection in ways that are both ancient and new, simultaneously ecologically and economically viable, and, most critical, politically and socially imperative."

In peace and solidarity,



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Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross

UPDATE: Congregational Initiative on Laudato Si' Action Platform

Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross

The Worldwide Passionist Family • Engaging Laudato Si'



"Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the Earth itself." – Pope Francis, Laudato Si' (66)

The materials for the new program, Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross have been released and are available on on the [Congregation website](#). Sessions will be released over the next year in English, Italian and Spanish. The website includes

1. [Fr. Joachim Rego - Introduction to Passionist Laudato Si' program](#)
2. [Online launch of Passionist Laudato Si' program Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross 24 May 2021](#) (Fr. Joachim Rego)
3. [Program Introduction and Overview](#)
4. [Session One - What Is Happening to Our Common Home](#) (focus on water)

The website will also include links to the Action Plan Report forms requested from all Provincials and Vice Provincials.

To view a video of the launch gathering: click [here](#) to watch the whole event begins at 5:47; [or click here](#) to watch Fr. Joachim's opening remarks; [or click here](#) to watch Fr. Joe Mitchell's presentation.

Passionists world wide are embarking on a seven year journey toward implementing a Laudato Si' integral ecology action plan, called forth by Pope Francis of all religious congregations and measured by the seven goals in this graphic to the right. (Click [here](#) to learn more.)

We in Holy Cross province have already begun this journey in many ways as we live out the call of St. Paul of the Cross "to make our lives and our apostolate an authentic and credible witness on behalf of justice and human dignity." We see the principles of Laudato Si' throughout our Passionist family, particularly in our visioning process and the creation of a Laudato Si' Vision Fulfillment team, born from the same HCP chapter which nurtured the Congregational Laudato Si' initiative.



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 "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.](#)

As we continue to work on our 7-year Action Platform for Laudato Si' and integral ecology, we have also 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.

Others Implementing a Laudato Si' Action Platform

Living chapels and gardens

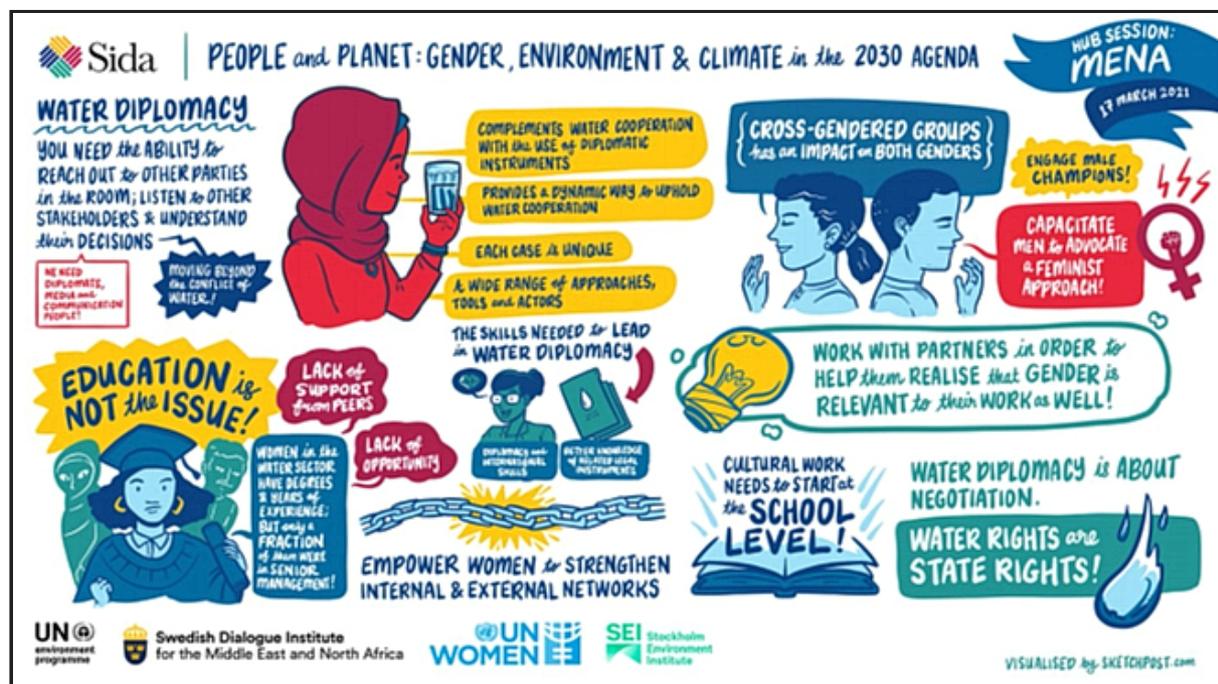
[In a new four-minute video](#) from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development on the Laudato Si Action Platform, one of the youth organizations promoting the initiative, Living Laudato Si' Philippines, talks about the organization's activities: divestment programs, promotion of the encyclical, creation of living chapels and new gardens. It is both practical and inspirational! An accompanying article about this beautiful work and the role of the local parish communities on the ground [is available here.](#)

Farming, land use, solar panels, and more

EWTN correspondent Mark Irons takes a deeper look at the Action Plan, including interviews and a profile of the Little Portion Farm project that is a ministry of the Franciscan Friars Conventual, Our Lady of the Angels Province. The farm is located on the property of the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City, MD, where the provincial house also is located. The clip highlights the farm as one example of putting Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* into action. [Watch it here starting at 20:19.](#)

Thanks to the CMSM and US Dicastery members.

A Plan for 2030

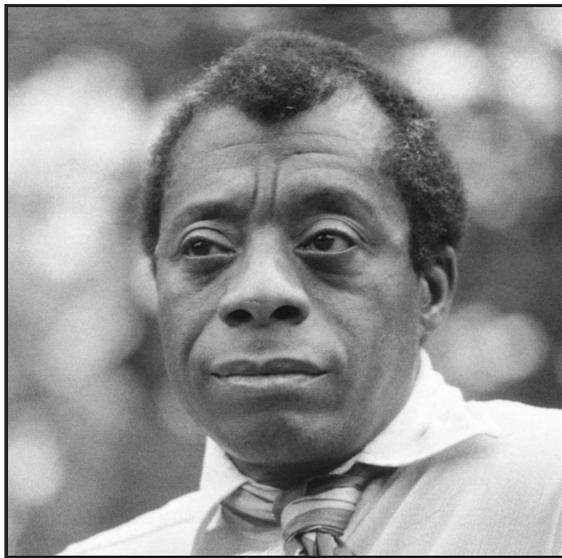


On March 16-18, 2021, The United Nations Environment Program's Faith for Earth Initiative collaborated with UN Women, Stockholm Environment Institute, and The Swedish Dialogue Institute for Middle East and Northern Africa to facilitate a global learning event with the Sida Partnership Forum. This event highlighted challenges and opportunities between gender, environment, and climate, with Faith for Earth adding one more topical perspective to the discussion: Inclusive Religious Leadership. The three-day event, titled "People and Planet: Gender, Environment, and Climate in the 2030 Agenda," hosted regional learning hubs in Nairobi (Kenya), Amman (Jordan), and Bangkok (Thailand). The Nairobi hub focused on the disproportionate effects of climate change, discussed how this impacts women in rural communities, and explored local solutions to address water management, increase drought resilience, and model communities who have derived economic benefits from practical, yet environmentally sustainable, projects.

[Read](#) People and Planet: Gender, Environment and Climate in the 2030 Agenda – report from the MENA Hub 16-18 March 2021

Passion for Justice

Praying the news with James Baldwin

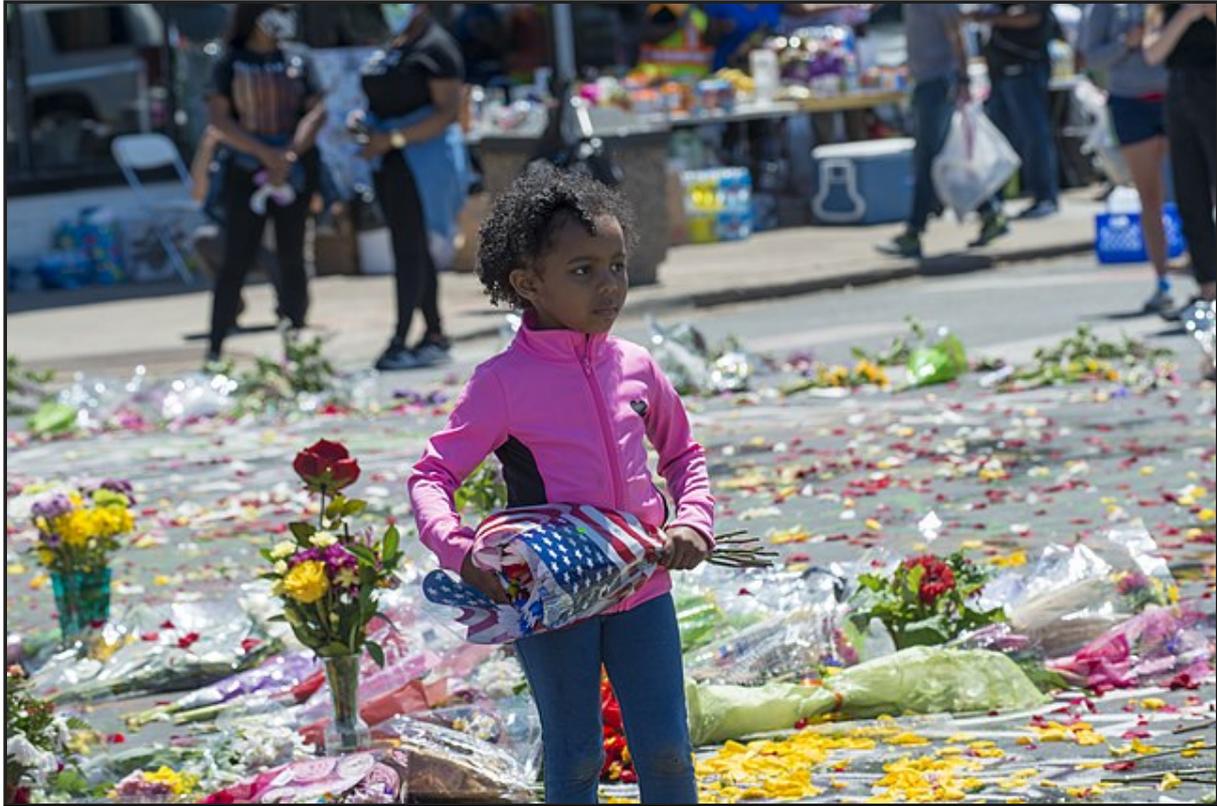


In a recent message from Sojourners, Jenna Barnett, did a brilliant job with a reflective practice we recommend and call "Praying the News" which is a way to pause as we encounter the "signs of the time" and to provide context for current events. While this can surely be Scripture it can also include writers and poets who speak to the joys and sufferings of our planet and people.

She writes, "Whatever you choose to read during a certain month or week — if it's good enough — can become a frame around most everything else you do. Even if you literally can put a good book down, it'll still stick around in your imagination. That's been the case for me with James Baldwin's "Letter From a Region in My Mind." An essay [so timeless that it] easily becomes a conversation partner for everything else you read. I read a lot of news this week, and Baldwin had something to say about all of it." [Read the story here](#)

Image: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Allan_warren

Racism and the Catholic Church one year after the murder of George Floyd



America Magazine recently convened a conversation with Fordham University's Fr. Bryan Massingale about the progress of racial justice in the United States since George Floyd's murder one year ago, hosted by America's national correspondent Michael O'Loughlin. [Watch the video here](#)

Image: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/> [Fibonacci Blue](#) from Minnesota, USA

ADVOCACY

The Farm System Reform Act.

The PSN has signed onto this important piece of U.S. legislation. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed serious weaknesses in our food system. In particular the hyper-consolidation of our livestock and meat industry led to a near collapse of the supply chain in the early days of the pandemic. Consumers found empty shelves at their grocery stores, meat processing facilities became dangerous COVID hot spots for workers, animals were cruelly killed, and farmers were left with no market for the livestock they produced. This broken system is not the result of inevitable market forces, but rather flows directly from the influence multinational meatpackers have over federal farm policy. This Act addresses this harmful feature of our food system for both producers and consumers.

[A one page overview of this legislation is here.](#)

Passion for Solidarity

Haiti: ¡Presente!



Political and health conditions in Haiti continue to fall apart and degrade. The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and ongoing constitutional crisis will only cause further suffering, violence and bloodshed for the people. The PSN invites you to join us by signing [this petition](#) to urge President Biden to immediately send doses of the COVID-19 vaccines to Haiti. Addressing the current crisis in Haiti requires stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Plus, the hopeful and faithful work of the Passionists through the work of St. Like Foundation Hospital, including Fr. Rick Frechette and Fr. Hugo Esparza is stretched beyond breaking. The hospitals are running out oxygen for the large spike in COVID patients and if they find it the cost is excessive. Please keep this work in your prayers and if you can, make a donation to their work through the

website setup by Fr. Hugo. It is here: <https://spphaiti.com/>

Also Fr. Hugo has created a podcast series to tell the story of their work, intended to be educational, informative and current. The purpose is to talk about everyday Haitian life as well as "hopes and doubts." The series, Ask a Haitian Ask a Foreigner features Fr. Hugo as the foreigner and Sarah Exantus is the Haitian. The conversation is sharp and delightful, addressing questions such as "What is a quality in Haitian life that most expresses the Haitian 'heart?'" or, "What do you think about Christian missionaries who come to Haiti?"

There are six short episode so far in the series.

[Listen to the podasts on Fr. Hugo's YouTube Channel here.](#)

Something extra!



Watch this amazing 12 minute video, *The Day that the Dinosaurs Died*, created by a collective based in Munich called [Kurzgesagt](#) – German for "In a nutshell." They are best known for distinctive animation videos to educate and raise awareness for topics from the fields of science, space, technology, biology, history and philosophy. Their goal is to "inspire people to learn – and we believe humor and a good story to tell are just as important as straight facts." This video is a great example where they describe the very worst day for the dinosaurs: "66 million years ago, maybe on a Tuesday afternoon, life was the same as it had been the day before or a thousand years before or pretty much a million years before. Things were good for our feathered dinosaur buddies. Until a tiny, tiny detail in the sky changed..."

[Watch the video here](#)

Laudato Si' Corner

"Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it." (19)

Question: How to begin such a transformation?

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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