

The Spirit and Charism dancing together

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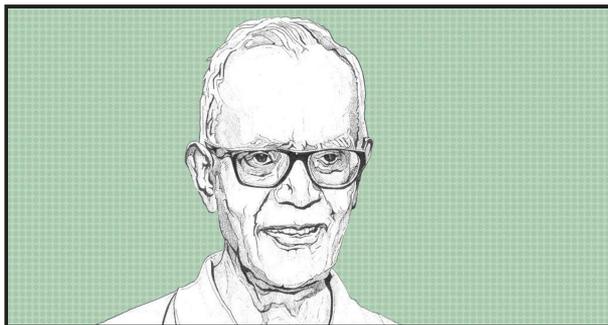
PASSIONIST SOLIDARITY NETWORK

WITH THE CRUCIFIED OF TODAY

Social Justice • Earth Care

AWAKENING THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

Not a Silent Spectator



In his introduction to the latest newsletter from St. Thomas the Apostle, Vice Province in India, Fr. Paul Cherukoduth CP reminds us that as we reflect on Christ Crucified in our world, we also have our current martyrs for Justice.

On July 5th, Fr. Stan Swamy SJ died while in judicial custody. His crime: "refusing to be a silent spectator!" Fr. Stan spoke strongly against the oppression and inequality, violence and atrocities committed against the most disadvantaged people of India-[the Dalits and the Adivasis](#) (the indigenous people) in India. He was arrested in October 2020 and falsely accused of being active in a Maoist group opposed to the government.

Despite the cruel treatments meted out to him in prison and his severe Parkinson's Disease, officials could not silence him. Fr. Paul reminds us as we remember this martyr of our times, "let us stand up for what we believe in. Our faith takes us to the One who endured the passion and death on the cross because he refused to remain a silent spectator."

He concludes his reflection with the words of an American writer, poet and philosopher, Suzy Kassem: "Stand up to hypocrisy, because if you don't, the hypocrites will teach. Stand up to ignorance, because if you don't, the ignorant will run free to spread ignorance like a disease. Stand up for truth, if you don't, then there is no truth to your existence. If you don't stand up for all that is right, then understand that you are part of the reason why there is so much wrong in the world." [Read Fr. Paul's reflection](#)

[here from PIANO \(Passionist India Activities News Outreacy\)](#)

Let it be so.



David Horvath

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Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross

UPDATE: Laudato Si' Action plans

In our continuing effort to stay informed about the exciting changes and work being done in the Passionist Family in response to Pope Francis' call to develop and implement a [7 Year Action Platform](#) for this work, we offer the most recent newsletter of the HCP Laudato Si' Vision Fulfillment Team. Stories include:

- Prayer for Climate Refugees
- The Congregational Initiative on Laudato Si' has launched!
- NOW WHAT?
- The Sermon of Creation
- Let the Children Come to Me
- Advocacy for All of God's Creation
- The Passionist Story is a Laudato Si' Story
- A Prayer from St. Paul of the Cross

[Read the whole newsletter here](#)

For those who want to learn more about the new Congregational program being introduced by the Fr. Joachim:

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.



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 "weblibliography" 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.

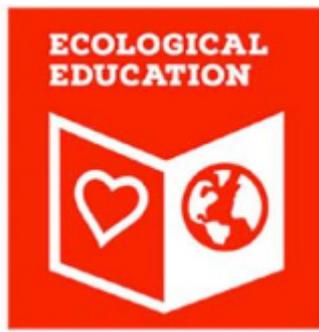
Others Implementing a Laudato Si' Action Platform

If you don't get a chance to read the entire HCP Vision Fulfillment Newsletter, here is one highlight coming from the Passionist Earth and Spirit Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

“Let the children come to me...”

By David Horvath

Called “the coolest summer camp in Louisville,” Camp Odyssey immerses children



entering grades 1-6 in the three main aspects of the Passionist Earth & Spirit Center mission: spiritual practice, compassion for others and connection to the Earth. As they explore the woodlands and meadows of our 27-acre campus and nature sanctuary, as they work and play with our artists, garden and environmental educators, chefs, yoga and meditation instructors, musicians and many others, kids come to understand how ecosystems work, where their food comes from, and how to be more mindful and compassionate toward themselves, their bodies, other people, and their surroundings. Truly ecological education.

This year the Earth & Spirit Center hosted over 131 campers and about 55 high school students doing their service hours. We were able to provide full scholarships to 25 campers, many from Backside Learning Center at Churchill Downs, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Family Scholar House. The goal at camp is to bring children together across cultures and teach them to take better care of themselves, the planet and each other—*Laudato Si'* in action.

To learn more about the Earth & Spirit Center and the programs they offer for children and adults, visit <https://www.earthandspiritcenter.org/>.



Moving Forward - The Thomas Berry Place

Another vision is slowly becoming a reality at the Thomas Berry Place in Jamaica, New York. St. Paul of the Cross Province continues to make this project the centerpiece of its plan to "re-focused mission, creates new partnerships, and offers new, mission-based utilization of the renovated physical spaces to meet the needs of our greater community."

They write: "See the incredible organic garden growing bigger than we dreamed of. Next are our interior walls going up on the first floor. Next despite the heat, our holy Christ the King Stations of the Cross in the center of our garden as well as our Mary Garden as lovely as ever. PLEASE support our Campaign efforts to raise funds for Thomas Berry Place and the new and traditional Passionist programs to be held when we open during Lent 2022! Shown are Passionist seminarians tending to the organic gardens in full bloom at Thomas Berry Place. Also see the nearly finished front entrance--handicap access ramp is done, curb is new and we're getting more done everyday! See more: <https://thepassionists.org/thomas-berry-place-campaign> Thank you!"



LAUDATO SI' MOVEMENT

formerly Global Catholic Climate Movement

The Global Catholic Climate Movement, born in 2015 and inspired by the publication of

the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, is a Catholic movement made up of more than 800 organizations and thousands of *Laudato Si'* Animators around the world. This organization recently changed its name to “*Laudato Si'* Movement” and adopted a new mission statement: “To inspire and mobilize the Catholic community to care for our common home and to achieve climate and ecological justice.” [Learn more about this organization here](#), and read the full statement [“From the Global Catholic Climate Movement to *Laudato Si'* Movement.”](#)

Hope after truth telling? The UN Climate Report



Where is hope after the most recent [report on climate change from the UN](#)? It starts with telling the truth: We know what is happening. We know it is bad. We know who is causing it. We know how to change it. We are at a critical crux in this conversation.

This article from Sojourners gives us some clear direction and a narrative for this historical moment. [Hope is a Climate Strategy](#), by Karyn Bigelow and Avery Lamb tells us to take a breath. Then take another. Avoid despair. Instead, Avery and Karyn want us to develop a practical theology of hope while being realistic about the science of the IPCC report.

Another helpful article, [Climate Scientists Have a Message for the World: Don't Give Up](#), Kate Marvel, a NASA climate scientist is quoted, “I’ve been incredibly annoyed by the glib ‘welp-we’re-doomed’ coverage this report has been getting. this is a problem with a solution! With many solutions!”

The article continues: “The Paris climate targets are still within reach, according to the new IPCC report — but the more ambitious target of 1.5 degrees is quickly approaching. The world is likely to hit it within a decade or two unless global greenhouse gas emissions dramatically decline within a few years. But that’s no reason to despair, experts caution. There’s a misconception that exceeding a temperature target is akin to falling off a climate cliff. That’s not true. Climate change is a mostly incremental process. Every little bit of warming makes it gradually worse, but that also means every bit of warming prevented makes a difference.”

Infrastructure bill includes energy efficiency

grants for houses of worship



by Yonat Shimron, Religion News Service/NCR

"Buried on Page 1,729 of the trillion-dollar infrastructure bill approved by the U.S. Senate Aug. 10 in a bipartisan vote is a project titled 'energy efficiency materials pilot program.'

It would fund \$50 million in grants to nonprofits, including religious

congregations, so they can buy new energy-efficient heating and cooling systems for their buildings. The program, to be administered by the Department of Energy, would provide grants of up to \$200,000 each for nonprofits that want to purchase new HVAC units and generators or fund replacements of windows and doors to make them more energy efficient."

[Read more here »](#)

Passion for Justice

Faithful Courage: Rev. Bryan Massingale



At the recent Pax Christi National Conference, Rev. Bryan Massingale was honored with the 2021 Teacher of the Year Award. Bryan offered these comments about how challenging it is for him to stand up for justice, but also comforting to have good company in that fight!

"Working for peace in a fractured world – while standing within and speaking out of a troubled and ambiguous faith tradition which too often aids and exacerbates those fractures – takes courage, perseverance, and grace. Your message and

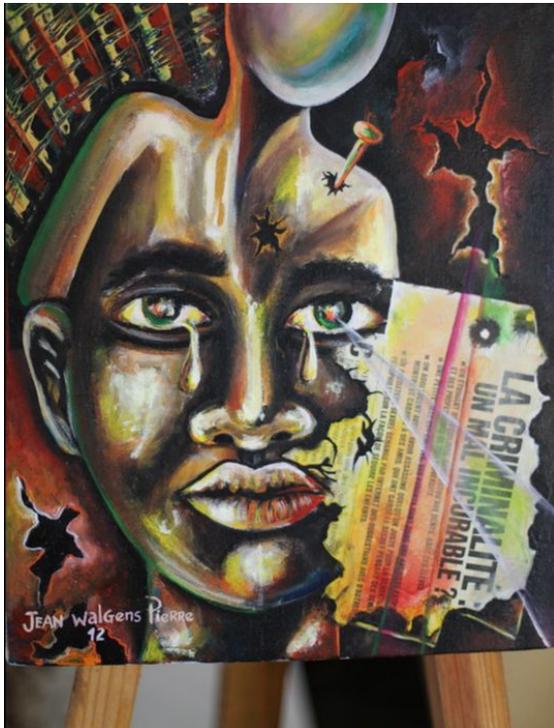
witness are not always welcomed by those in power in both country and Church.

So, I take pride in being recognized by you: women and men of courage, faith, and perseverance. The second reason for my pride is that honoring me with this award is

itself an act of faithful courage. I mean, honoring someone who is Black, publicly gay, and a Catholic priest who denounces white supremacy and ecclesial homophobia as threats to social peace and forms of idolatrous faith – well, there are easier choices that could have been made. Honoring my ministry opens you to vilification, scorn, and rejection from those who pose as guardians of the faith. If Jesus were alive today, and witnessed the vitriol on certain Catholic websites, he would add to his list of Beatitudes, Blessed are you when they blog about you and post vile slander against you because of me."

[Watch the video of his acceptance here. \(A transcript is also available\)](#)

Update from Haiti and Fr. Rick Frachette



Editor: As we complete this newsletter, the news arrived that a 7.2 magnitude earthquake has taken place in Haiti, just as they were preparing for the approach of tropical storm Grace. Casualties are expected to be heavy. May grace be with them.

In a recent letter from Fr. Rick Frachette in Haiti where he says even though there has been no widespread violent reaction to the death of President Moïse, the usual list of problems persists:

- the newest COVID wave,
- thousands of internal refugees from gang attacks on their neighborhoods,
- flight from the country,
- hunger and food insecurity,
- a disastrous economy, joblessness and mounting levels of frustration,
- the advance of the gangs taking over the country,
- the ineffectiveness of the government.

Fr. Rick paints an exceptionally bleak picture of the current insecurity in Haiti and his conclusion is dramatic:

"The waning of its powers and the sickness of the soul, calls for so very much attention

in our modern world, and the spiritual skills to address it. It starts with how you, or I, choose to think and act, in the face of what is really, really bad. Do we continually choose life over death, as God instructed? Do we act out of sacrifice, goodness and reconciliation, in spite of our fears, in the face of what is really, really bad? Only you can answer for you, only I can answer for me, but we both can encourage the young and the lost to do the same."

[Fr. Rick's full letter is here.](#)

Please keep the work of the Passionists in Haiti in your prayers, and if you can, make a donation to their work through the website setup by Fr. Hugo Esparza CP. It is here: <https://spphaiti.com/>

Image: Creative Commons, [Nikisublime](#).

ADVOCACY

Take Action: Sign the Petition for Healthy Planet, Healthy People

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been reminded that “everything is interconnected.” Catholics are asking the leaders of major global gatherings to urgently align national and global commitments with limiting warming to 1.5°C at most, and no more biodiversity loss that’s harming the present and future of our common home. [Get more information about the campaign here.](#)

It was recently announced that Pope Francis will attend the [United Nations Climate Change Conference \(COP26\)](#) in Glasgow in November if his health permits. We want to support this decision by Pope Francis, so please sign and share the Healthy People, Healthy Planet petition here: <https://thecatholicpetition.org/> The goal is 500,000 signatures.

Passion for Solidarity

Priority: Root Causes

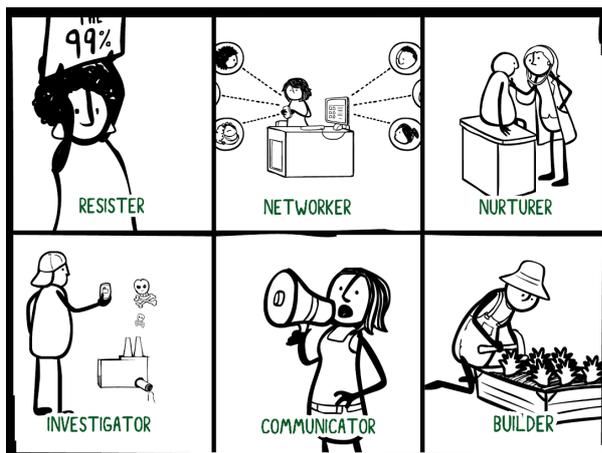
- Sign a petition to Pres. Biden asking him to address root causes for migration from Central America: <https://bit.ly/3qsu5Kr>.

- Read this new study from Catholic Relief Services on factors that motivate people to stay in Guatemala rather than migrate to the United States: <https://bit.ly/3gRC3to>



Something extra!

What Kind of Changemaker Are You?



Some of our favorite resource creators are at [The Story of Stuff Project](#). In addition to amazing animated videos about the environment and an ecology-focused lifestyle, they developed this fun survey. You will be asked to provide an email address to get the results, but these folks won't spam you. "Whatever you have to offer, a better future needs it! Take our

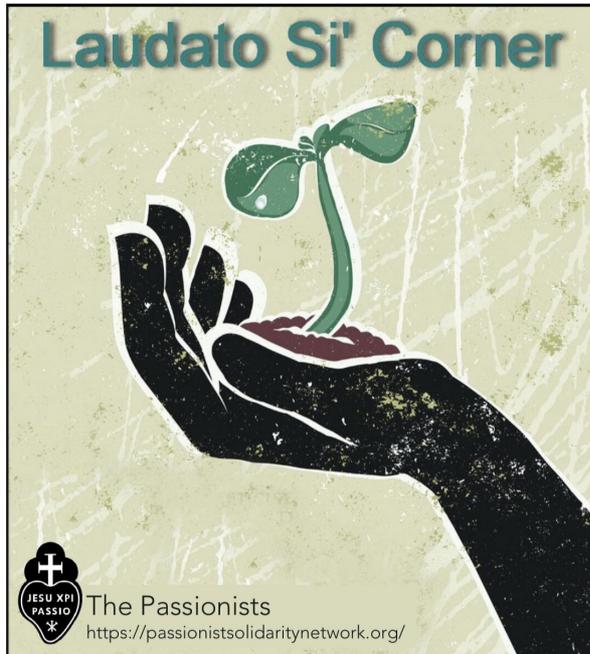
Changemaker Personality Quiz to see how you show up in the world and what role you can play in the Story of Stuff Community and beyond. Then share your results with your friends!" [Take the test here.](#)

PS: I'm a "networker."



Laudato Si' Corner

“Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.” (no. 91)



“A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (no. 49)

Question: Integral ecology links care for people and care for God’s creation. How is our concern for our fellow human beings connected to our concern for the environment?

Action: Learn about connecting COVID 19 and climate change

[First read this article from Time Magazine from March of 2020](#), when COVID-19 first emerged and many in the climate world feared efforts to address the pandemic would distract from efforts to address climate change.

[Now, from a recent article from Time](#): "It’s a remarkable turnaround. Today, climate advocates are arguing that the two need to be addressed hand in hand. This change is in part practical: leaders in many developing countries will understandably remain focused on the pandemic rather than climate change if their on-the-ground situation doesn’t improve. And, with the November UN climate summit in Glasgow fast approaching, the situation on the ground may need to change quickly to give officials adequate time to prepare."

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.

Scripture reflections by Maryknoll missionaries starting in each new liturgical year. [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).

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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