

Two Provinces to Meet on Laudato Si' Commitment

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# PASSIONIST SOLIDARITY NETWORK

WITH THE CRUCIFIED OF TODAY

Social Justice • Earth Care

AWAKENING THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

## Passion of the Earth | Wisdom of the Cross

The U.S. delegation made up of leadership of men and women religious is working with the Dicastery on implementation of Laudato Si' Seven Year Action Platforms. Currently, they are seeking parishes, dioceses, families and religious congregations to make a public commitment to creating their 7-year Laudato Si' Action Platform. We invite all our Passionist entities--communities, parishes, retreat houses, the entire Passionist family-- to [learn more about the Action Platform](#) and to [pledge your commitment](#).

Fr. Joachim Rego and the two U.S. Provincials have submitted their commitment and endorsed this initiative. [Read Fr. Joachim's letter here](#). To mark that significant pledge, our U.S. Provinces are convening on December 2 for a special time to focus on this work as we move forward with our own Action Platforms. Please mark your calendar and [register](#)!

# SAVE THE DATE!

## Passion of the Earth

MAKING LAUDATO SI' A REALITY

## Wisdom of the Cross

**December 2, 2021**

1:00 - 2:15 Eastern  
(12 Central | 10 Pacific)

**Zoom Registration: <https://bit.ly/3jN1WLY>**



**Join Passionists of  
St. Paul of the Cross Province &  
Holy Cross Province**

in Personal and Community Commitment to  
MAKING LAUDATO SI' A REALITY

- Respond to the interconnected Cry of Earth and Cry of the Poor in the 21st century
- Learn the basics of the Action Platform and its goals as we journey with the Universal Church.
- Be inspired by Passionist stories of how we are already making Laudato Si' a reality.
- Connect to resources for the the Action Platform Goals and the Congregational program Passion of the Earth | Wisdom of the Cross.





## The work ahead

We are, quite naturally, impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We would like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new, and yet it is the law of all progress that progress is made by passing through some stages of uncertainty, and that may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually.

Let them grow; let them shape themselves.

Do not try to force them on, as though you could be today what time and grace will make you tomorrow.

Only God can say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be.

Give God the benefit of your believing that the Spirit is leading you.

Accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

~ Teilhard de Chardin

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## Use all the Wisdom



At an October 7 event at Rome's Pontifical Lateran University, Pope Francis said that to care for creation, academic institutions should be part of an "ecological conversion" that combines natural and social science with theology, philosophy and ethics.

We need a new way of learning, teaching and synthesizing that is built on "openness, creativity, wider educational offerings, but also sacrifice, dedication, transparency and honesty in choosing, especially in these difficult times. Let's permanently ditch this — 'it has always been done this way' — it's suicide."

Francis and Audrey Azoulay, director-general of UNESCO, signed an agreement at the event establishing a new theological chair supported by UNESCO "On Futures of Education for Sustainability" at the pontifical university.

The signing coincided with the launch, together with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, of a new academic program dedicated to "Care for our common home and safeguarding creation." Both initiatives are endorsed by the Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox churches.

[Read more here.](#)

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## The Wisdom of Nonviolence Nonviolence and the Web of Creation Webinar



Nonviolence not only offers us tools for protecting the environment, but environmental degradation is itself a form of violence, and care for our common home is an integral element of Gospel nonviolence. In this webinar, Dan Moriarty of the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns is joined by Bolivian theologian Tania Avila Meneses to explore some of the theological roots of this perspective, including those drawn from indigenous cosmovisions. Tania also co-authored this article, [Indigenous Wisdom](#), for the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns' "One Amazon, Many Voices" series in anticipation of the Synod of the Amazon.



## Listen: Thomas Berry Place and more fabulous podcasts



We need to be able to mirror in who we are as individuals, in who we are as a community and in who we are as Thomas Berry Place, that willingness and that ability to engage with all people, no matter who they are, to do it almost in the spirit of Jesus Christ, that ability to enter and to meet anybody at any stage of the road and at any stage of their life, to have a conversation"

Anthony Mullen, the founding Executive Director of the Thomas Berry Place was featured in a recent podcast, A Spiritual Startup: The Thomas Berry Place as a New Form of Ministry and Mission from the Passionist Earth and Spirit Center in Louisville.

[The Thomas Berry Place](#) is a non-profit center for spirituality, community empowerment, and ecological stewardship. The project of St. Paul of the Cross province is located in the re-visioned and renamed Bishop Malloy Passionist monastery in Jamaica, New York. In this conversation with Earth and Spirit Center Director, Kyle Kramer, Anthony reflects on the vision and values that guide the work of what he describes as a spiritual startup.

Anthony talks about Thomas Berry, who is sometimes referred to as an "ecologist," and how his life and work is incorporated into the development of the Thomas Berry Place. Berry believed "that the Wisdom of the Cross and Wisdom of the Universe are actually a single vision. His views were deeply holistic and he sought to rethink and right-size our relationship with the divine and his story of the universe was without duality."

Mullen describes the Thomas Berry Place as a manifestation of what Berry wrote about. His "Great Work" was to describe a new wisdom tradition drawing on the "Four Wisdoms" he hoped would guide humanity in the anthropocene: "the wisdom of indigenous peoples, the wisdom of women, the wisdom of the classical traditions, and the wisdom of science" (GW 176)



[Listen to Anthony Mullen and other Passionist Earth and Spirit Podcasts](#) "which foster engaging conversations with change-makers working at the intersection of meditative spiritual practice, social healing, and ecology."

Image by [Gustavo Ferreira Gustavo](#) from Pixabay

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## Laudato Si' and U.S. Passionists

The Passionist Solidarity Network is taking a lead role working with others in Holy Cross and St. Paul of the Cross provinces who are deeply engaged with Laudato Si' and integral ecology. These include the HCP Laudato Si' Vision Fulfillment Team, Thomas Berry Place and the Passionist Earth and Spirit Center. In addition to the U.S. Passionist launch on December 2 (see above) our planning teams will be offering a series of facilitated small-group sessions for the North American Passionist Family with discussion, brainstorming and sharing experiences for at least the first year as the

Congregational materials for the six sessions of Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross are released. Each provincial will be choosing a Laudato Si' Animator from their respective provinces to help coordinate this work.



For those who are eager to learn more about the emerging Passionist Congregational program being promoted by Fr. Joachim, Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross, [click here](#). It includes links for Fr. Joachim Rego's introduction to the program, the online launch from May, and links to the program materials including those for the Action Platform from the Dicastery.

## We're listening!



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.



“Only when we become ever so quiet inside do we sense in the smallest speck of reality a great Presence, both strange and familiar, waiting to meet us. Strange this Presence seems to us, because it differs from all else we know; at

the same time, we seem to know it more intimately than anything else we ever knew. We dread its strangeness; we long for its intimacy. It is this Presence that looks at us, when we dare to expose ourselves “on the heart’s mountains” and demands our transformation: “You must change....”

–David Steindl-Rast, A Listening Heart

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## Economic Ecology



### **FACT SHEET: Environmental Justice Investments in the Build Back Better Act**

This bill includes \$160.4 billion to advance environmental justice priorities supported by the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform (EJNCP) co-authors. The Senate-passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) includes an additional \$62.2 billion for EJNCP environmental justice priorities. These investments are long overdue and essential to improving the health and economic vitality of communities that have long borne the brunt of fossil fuel pollution and racial injustice.

[A new fact sheet](#) from the Equitable & Just National Climate Platform breaks down exactly how the #BuildBackBetter Act will address the long legacy of environmental injustice in the U.S.

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## **ADVOCACY**

### **Our Investments: Separate No More**



I think money is one of the easiest subjects to compartmentalize, to put it off as separate from the rest of life. From the rest of the gospel. But this is a deadly pursuit. Money needs to be integrated into our whole Faith framework. In our feeling tones, it needs to be connected to the great realities of our faith.”

—Rev. Gordon Cosby, sermon at Church of the Savior, Oct. 10, 1982,

### Christian Brothers Catholic Responsible Investments



Holy Cross Province, with the work of its Investment Advisory Committee has been committed to making sure its portfolio includes investments that are consistent with Catholic Social Teaching. The Committee works with Christian Brothers Catholic Responsible Investments (CCRI). [Learn more about the CCRI here](#), including Screening, Active Ownership, Diversified Portfolios and Proxy Voting. [Read the conversation](#) between their Chief Investment Officer and Julie Tanner, Managing Director, Catholic Responsible Investments as they explore the intersection with Faith and Finance.

### Economic Justice for All Webinar



Together with the Catholic Labor Network, CMSM is pleased to co-sponsor a panel discussion on November 22 at 2pm ET to mark the 35th anniversary of [Economic Justice for All](#), a pastoral letter written “...to help Catholics form their consciences on the moral dimensions of economic decision making...” Panelists include Rev. David Hollenbach, SJ and others who will share their observations on the origins of the document, the intervening years, and possibilities for the future. Register [here](#).

### Faith Dialog: Learn about Fossil Fuel Divestment & Just Transition for All



“We gradually came to realize that just supporting the status quo as it is was just not good enough. We have to move,” said Bishop Bill Nolan, keynote speaker and the lead Bishop on the Environment for the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Scotland. He spoke during the Fossil Fuel Divestment and a Just Transition for All dialogue held on October 28th preceding the United Nations 26th Climate Change Conference begins in Glasgow. “Now’s the time to do it. Now’s the time to make that decision.” [Watch the webinar here](#).

The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Scotland was one of [72 faith institutions from six continents](#) and with more than \$4.2 billion of combined assets under management to commit to divestment on Tuesday.

# Something Extra

## Amazing Maps: Good Lands



The Catholic Church is the world's biggest landowner. This young mapmaker wants the church to use that land for good.

[Read about the national environmental award she just received.](#)

See her maps and work with the organization she founded: [GoodLands](#).

Photo: Molly Burhans, pictured in 2017 at the Third Loggia of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican, has received the Sierra Club's EarthCare award. Her mission is to help the Catholic Church put its huge global landholdings to work for good. (Courtesy of GoodLands)

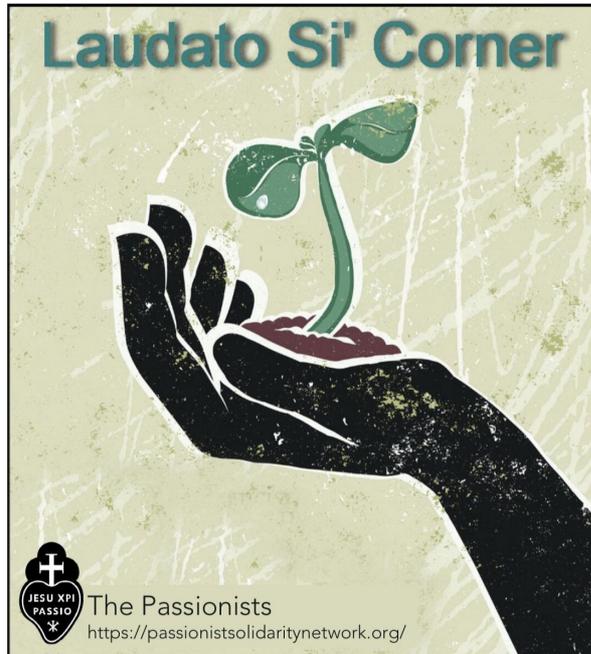
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## Laudato Si' Corner

True wisdom, as the fruit of self-examination, dialogue and generous encounter between persons, is not acquired by a mere accumulation of data which eventually leads to overload and confusion, a sort of mental pollution. [47]

Caring for Creation: Listen to the wisdom from every corner - especially the indigenous.

"Indigenous peoples, however, are not mere victims of climate change. Comprising only four per cent of the world's population (between 250 to 300 million people), they utilize 22 per cent of the world's land surface. In doing so, they maintain 80 per cent of the planet's biodiversity in, or adjacent to, 85 per cent of the world's protected areas." (see the article below)



  Question: What "facts on the ground" are we unaware of when it comes to climate change?

Homework and Actions:

- Read [COP26 urges partnership between religious, Indigenous leaders to save planet](#)
- Read this 2011 article from the UN University. [Why Traditional Knowledge Holds the Key to Climate Change.](#)
- Send a check to the young leaders at [Indigenous Climate Action](#) and follow their work.

## 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).

New Content:

- Franciscan Action Network: Belonging Begins with Us uses [video homilies](#) from priests across the country to help find points of connection and shared experiences toward creating a more welcoming nation where everyone can belong. Catholic clergy interested in writing: [contact Jason Miller.](#)

- [Catholic Women Preach](#): Text and video are used to address some of the most pressing challenges facing the Church today. This project is a deeply faithful, hopeful and joyful initiative intended to build up the Church.
  - [We are Salt and Light](#): A [lectionary index](#) assists homilists in preparing messages that surface justice and peace themes plus see [a homily help resource](#) from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.
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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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