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PASSIONIST SOLIDARITY NETWORK

WITH THE CRUCIFIED OF TODAY

Social Justice • Earth Care

AWAKENING THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

Watching for the light



Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence

when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.

Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes—
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith,
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.

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Seasons. janrichardson.com

Passion of the Earth | Wisdom of the Cross



On December 2, over 80 members of the Passionist Family registered for a special Zoom forum, *Passionists' Engage Laudato Si'*. The event was a joint gathering from St. Paul of the Cross & Holy Cross Provinces. Its purpose was to introduce and engage our personal and community commitment and responses to the interconnected Cry of Earth and Cry of the Poor in the 21st century.

Provincials, Fr. Joe Moons and Fr. Jim O'Shea began with their own strong encouragement and support for this critical "coming together" as we learned the basics of Laudato Si' and the goals of Action Platform following the leadership of the Congregation and the Catholic Church. We heard from Fr. Don Senior on how strongly rooted the work of integral ecology is with our charism and we were inspired from stories from throughout the province showing how folks are already making the goals of the Laudato Si' Laudato Si' Action Platform a reality. While there is certainly urgency to all this, the platform planning is intended to guide us intentionally over the next seven years. So we roll up our collective sleeves and start the journey one step at a time -- together.

[Read Fr. Joachim Rego's letter of encouragement to the gathering](#)

Watch the entire presentation on our YouTube Channel here.

<https://youtu.be/c9Cbk4rtb84>

I greet you all who are gathered by Zoom platform for this historic and collaborative effort. I am pleased to know of this joint venture as members of the one Passionist



family in the United States. You are being proactive to personally and communally commit yourselves in making Laudato Si' a reality, and in this way, you are taking up your responsibility in the call to integral ecology - a call inspired by the Holy Spirit and taken up by Pope Francis as a "sign of the times" to respond to and act in favour of the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.



Fr. Joachim Rego, Superior General, December 2, 2021



The Passionist Solidarity Network has 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 U.S. 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.

- [Links and resources from December 2 event](#) (English and Spanish)
- [Learn more about action platform](#) and the Congregation's Program
- Follow-up conversations for Passionist Family (both US provinces). These are being schedules as each session of the Congregation's program [Passion of the Earth | Wisdom of the Cross](#) are introduced. Contact [Patty Gillis](#) or [Lissa Rommel](#).
- We have created a much fuller list of resources that was selected especially for the Passionist Family. You can download it here. [Webliography](#).

We're listening!



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.

Solidarity during crisis

Tornadoes in Kentucky



Kentucky is home to the Passionist Solidarity Network, the Earth and Spirit Center, St. Agnes Parish, and of course, Sacred Heart Community. We were all spared the damage from the destructive series of tornadoes this month which took nearly 80 lives with billions in damages and a recovery which likely will be decades. We stand in solidarity with those effected. The areas most damaged include many poor, low-

income and immigrant communities. Governor Beshear has set up a special fund for immediate relief to those affected by the powerful series of tornadoes this month.

[Click here for the link if you are able to donate to the effort.](#)

Photo: Mayfield, Kentucky

Typhoon Rai in the Phillipines

Recent communication from Fr. Rey Ondap CP



Hello David, I was trying my best to join the December 16 zoom meeting [on Laudato Si'] but sad to say that our whole country was affected by typhoon Rai.

Indeed, such typhoon had devastated our house in the central part of the Phillipines. We didn't expect the damage it had created but we have to accept after all. Sending some pictures of our place as well our our house & family properties.

Please keep Fr. Rey, his local Passionist Family and all the people of the Phillipines in your prayers.

Accompaniment

Rivers of Hope/Rios de Esperanza

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious has teamed with several other organizations to offer Rivers of Hope/Rios de Esperanza. This initiative is designed to assist us to live in hope as we accompany people who suffer.

Rivers of Hope/Rios de Esperanza Pilgrimages

This series of four virtual visits are open to all at no cost. The four visits will provide opportunities to hear from those ministering with people impacted by some of



society's most difficult situations. Presenters will share how they find hope and strength and opportunities will be provided for prayer and small group conversations. All are welcome!

All sessions run 6-7:30 PM CT (4PM PT, 5PM MT, 7PM ET) and are bilingual Spanish/English

- 7 DE DICIEMBRE – Río Grande – Inmigración
 - December 7 – Río Grande – Immigration
- 11 DE ENERO – Mississippi – Cambio

Climático

- January 11 – Mississippi – Climate Change
- 8 DE FEBRERO – Missouri – Tráfico Humano
 - February 8 – Missouri – Human Trafficking
- 21 DE MARZO – Hudson – Economía, Educación y Racismo
 - March 21 – Hudson – Economy, Education, and Racism

[Regístrese aquí/Register here](#)



For me, forgiveness and compassion are always linked: how do we hold people accountable for wrongdoing and yet at the same time remain in touch with their humanity enough to believe in their capacity to be transformed?

– bell hooks (1952-1921), in conversation with Maya Angelou, 1998

Read: [What bell hooks taught a celibate Catholic priest-in-training about racism and feminism](#) by James Martin SJ

image: [Alex Lozupone \(Tduk\)](#)

Something Extra



The PSN joined the 10-week series, *Weather Reports: The Climate of Now* presented by Harvard Divinity School (HDS) and Constellation Project. The series included an amazing group of writers, public servants, theologians, biologists, scholars, artists, and activists who joined in conversation and shared their stories rooted in place on the page and in the world with us.

If you missed any of the Weather Reports events or wish to revisit them, you can [watch the recordings](#) on the HDS YouTube channel.

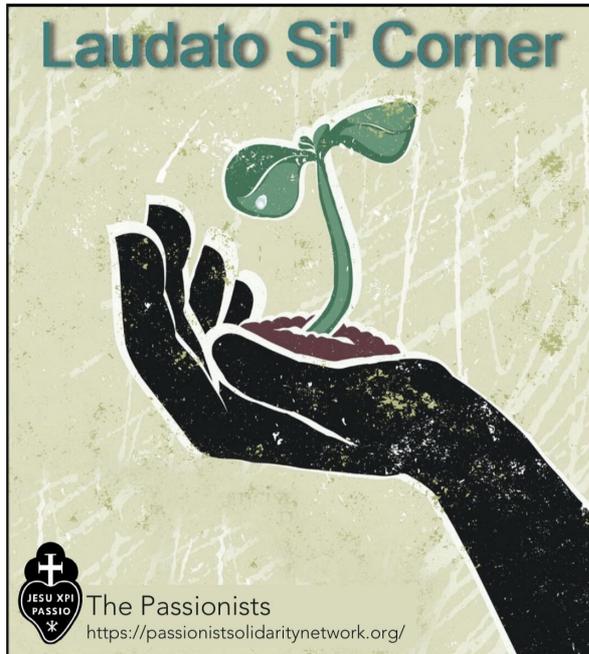


Are you just tired of watching Zoom recordings? Consider this: each of these presentations begins and ends with a beautiful and unhurried tea ceremony, presented by *Theosophie Teas*’, Brian Kirbis.

[Learn more about the Constellation Project from the Planetary Health Alliance Alliance](#)

Laudato Si' Corner

One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant cause of suffering and of infant mortality. Underground water sources in many places are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming and industrial activities, especially in countries lacking adequate regulation or controls. It is not only



a question of industrial waste.

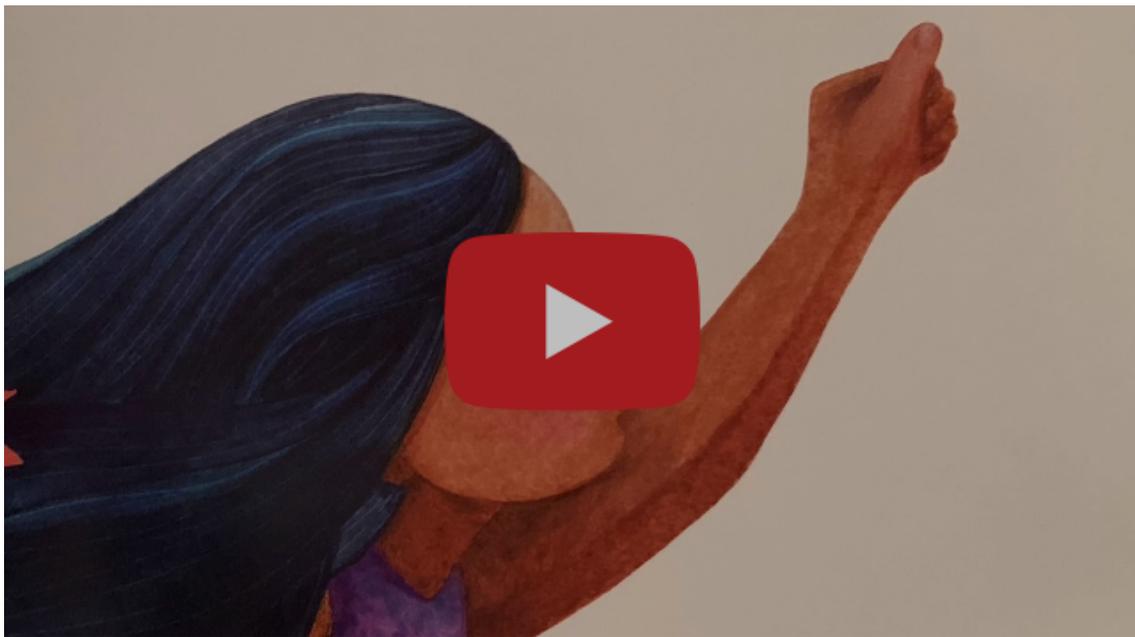
Detergents and chemical products, commonly used in many places of the world, continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas. [29]

Question: What can I do as an individual or family? What can we do as a community, parish or institution?

Homework and Actions:

- Find your action from the [Ecology Action Center](#) in Normal Illinois
- Sometimes we are all "little ones." Watch this children's book below, **We are Water Protectors** being read. [Follow](#)

[up by reading the calls to action from the book and what water means to indigenous people.](#)



We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade

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.

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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