

## JPIC Resource Bulletin, November 9, 2024

### Post-Election JPIC Message:

While many are satisfied with the outcome, we know well that a good number are hurting. It bears repeating, we don't bring partisan politics into fraternity at any level. For those who grieve, we are blessed to have a reliable strategy, practiced by both Jesus and Francis, of going off to a quiet place for time with God. For me, music is also helpful. I like to put on Oliver Muktudzi's "Hear me Lord," and let the tears flow. We are contemplatives first. We seek that place of pure love, where there is forgiveness of everyone for everything, where there is no fear, and no anger. Whatever is worthily done for peace and justice and human dignity and creation must start from there, as required in our Rule of Life: "trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon." Francis said of his brothers, that they "should beware lest they be angry or troubled on account of the sins of others, because anger and trouble impede charity in themselves and in others." (St. Francis' Rule of 1223, Chapter 7.) Jesus said to Jairus, who thought he had lost his daughter, "Do not be afraid, have faith" (Mark 5:36.) May he make us courageous instruments of peace and justice, and show us what is ours to do to heal our beloved country.

### Seeing Racism through the Eyes of Faith

The Queen of Peace Region commissioned this [Presentation by Carolyn Townes](#) on *Seeing Racism through the Eyes of Faith*. There are accompanying resources at these links:



- Video: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/c21xndxonmEb0v5px7cj7/Racism-CDT-2023.mp4?rlkey=n773kgz6d6kw0fm59kppgrmak&st=rgyrwbbq&dl=0>
- User's Guide to the resource: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/rid7ymtyiiza8qts41bgs/User-s-Guide-Seeing-Racism-Through-the-Eyes-of-Faith.docx?rlkey=3wwxn7xckxev2wr4sx1dueq2w&st=ezn5wbej&dl=0>
- Study Guide: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/jkiqwzprflrlg6sywg2vs/Seeing-Racism-Study-Guide.pdf?rlkey=0uxj9hwgdng0rqnemj6xwxafu&st=m7fibsip&dl=0>
- Pastoral Letter: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/smb4fsej6059ziz00c4j5/Pastoral-Letter-on-Racial-Healing-June-11-2023.pdf?rlkey=y94usqts5hq362s2glyq29o0e&st=eswrfjki&dl=0>

The Vatican's observer mission at the United Nations issued a new Statement on Racism and Xenophobia, November 7, 2024. The statement references this quotation from Pope Francis: "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life."<sup>1</sup>



[https://mailchi.mp/e576d80006dc/archbishop-caccia-delivers-statement-at-the-third-committee-on-the-elimination-of-racism-and-other-related-intolerance#\\_ftn3](https://mailchi.mp/e576d80006dc/archbishop-caccia-delivers-statement-at-the-third-committee-on-the-elimination-of-racism-and-other-related-intolerance#_ftn3)

The Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region recently approved this Statement on Racism: <https://www.bssfso.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/BSSF-statement-on-racism-04-05-2024.docx.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis, General Audience, 3 June 2020



Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

**Care for Creation:**

At the recent Chapter meeting, I mentioned an example of parish-based action, a Season of Creation Vespers service at St. Anthony Parish in Davenport, IA. It was sent to us by Deacon Kent Ferris. This is a link to an article that gives more information:

<https://catholicmessenger.net/2024/09/ghanaian-bishop-on-a-mission-in-davenport/>



*Franciscans International* has a [new publication](https://franciscansinternational.org/blog/the-right-to-a-healthy-environment-from-recognition-to-implementation/) on implementing the United Nations resolution on the right to a healthy environment: <https://franciscansinternational.org/blog/the-right-to-a-healthy-environment-from-recognition-to-implementation/> If you are interested in working on environmental issues at an international policy level, this is a concise Franciscan resource. Many thanks to Father Kevin Queally for the heads up. [Download in English.](#) [Download in Spanish](#)



**Fair Trade for workers, families and the environment**

On October 13, I facilitated a chocolate tasting at the Church where my fraternity meets, St. Catherine of Sienna in Norway, ME. It ran two hours on a Sunday afternoon, hosted by the Social Justice and Peace Commission of the parish. I gave them a presentation on how chocolate was made, and how the conditions of the workers, most of whom make about \$1 a day, could be improved, not only wages, but their human dignity and their families' social stability and health of the environment, through fair trade practices. In other words, ecological justice, as described in *Laudato Si*. It is not always easy to get on the calendar of a busy parish, but chocolate is a strong lever! So, how is your fraternity's parish doing on care for creation? If it is very active, let's share the examples. If it isn't, perhaps it is waiting for you to initiate something.

**Immigration**

On October 24, 2024, Pax Christi International, with the support of the Pax Christi Fund for Peace, hosted the webinar ["A Voice from the Border: The Pastoral Presence of Bishop Mark J. Seitz."](#) It's an interesting and very current conversation with Bishop Seitz:

<https://youtu.be/hK21UH37rrQ?si=z6Pby00yI4FHzk6G>



**"For I was . . . in prison and you visited me."** Matt 25:35, 36:

Your prayers are still requested for two of our members, Jean Marshall, OFS, and Paulette Harlow, OFS, both of *Mary, Queen of Peace Fraternity* in Plymouth, MA, who are serving federal sentences for their actions at an abortion clinic in 2020. Paulette's prison # is not available yet. Jean Marshall, OFS does have a new address as follows and "your words of encouragement would be greatly appreciated in letters:"

JEAN MARSHALL 93609-509  
FCI DANBURY  
FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION  
ROUTE 37  
DANBURY, CT 06811



Use only envelopes purchased from the post office with the postage pre-printed, no stamps. Letters must be in black or blue ink on standard lined or blank white paper. No cards or photos. Name and return address on the envelope. Inmate ID number must follow the name on the envelopes.

Contact Joe Makley at: [Joe.sfo@pioneerstreet.com](mailto:Joe.sfo@pioneerstreet.com)