



Shalom News North America

An instrument of hope, formation, and action concerning priority matters of social justice.

September 2015



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Integrity of Creation

World Day of Prayer – September 1

Responding to [Pope Francis' call](#), today we join Catholics around the world in a "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation". The day provides us with "a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvelous works that [God] has entrusted to our care..." We invite you to join us in prayer using this [prayer service](#). In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that our faith tradition calls us to embrace a consciousness of "integral ecology," which respects the fundamental interconnectedness of the economy, society and environment. "We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it." May our prayers help us understand this interconnectedness and inspire action in support of all God's creation.

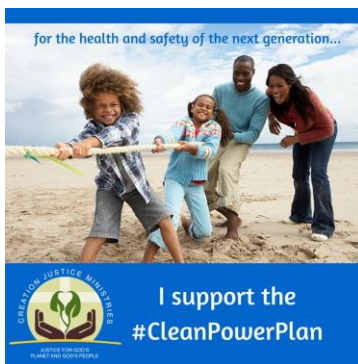


Season of Creation

The Global Catholic Climate Movement invites us to extend the spirit of Pope Francis' *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* into a *Season of Creation* beginning September 1 and concluding October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Let us embrace this period as a time for ecological conversion and an opportunity to continue striving to "live more simply, responsibly and sustainably with one another and with all of creation." For resources and more information, [click here](#).

Clean Power Plan

On August 3, President Obama and the EPA announced the Clean Power Plan – an historic and important step in reducing carbon pollution from power plants that takes real



action on climate change. As you know, power plants are the number-one source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. But some members of Congress are gearing up to weaken these national standards on carbon

pollution. They want states to have the option to opt out of carbon standards, which means that the heaviest emissions would likely continue. [Learn more](#). Now is the time to let your voice be heard. Contact your [members of Congress](#) and your [state elected officials](#) about this important issue.

Watch Pope Francis Address Congress

Pope Francis will address Congress on September 24. The Ignatian Solidarity Network invites you to consider holding a Pope2Congress Watch Party as a fun means of engaging in conversation and reflection in your community and online. The address is scheduled to begin at 8:20 AM (Central Time) and will be available via CSPAN and internet livestream. [Learn more](#).

Autumnal Equinox – September 23

Equinox, from the Latin for equal night, occurs twice a year, spring and fall, when the tilt of the Earth's axis and Earth's orbit around the sun combine in such a way that night and day are approximately equal in length.

The autumnal equinox reminds us that summer is over and winter is coming on the northern half of Earth's globe. Birds and butterflies are migrating south. All around us, trees and plants are ending this year's cycle of growth. Perhaps this is also a time for members of the human community to reflect on their own season of growth, their own need for a time of harvesting and of letting go, their own preparation for wintering time.

Peace and Non-Violence

Iran Nuclear Deal – Catholic Sisters Speak Out

Last month the United States, United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, China, Germany, and France reached a historic agreement with Iran that aims to curb Iran's development of nuclear weapons while allowing the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. As

Congress moves to consider the agreement, now is the time to let your voice be heard on this matter. Over 1,000 U.S. Catholic Sisters have signed onto a letter urging support for the deal, "As women of faith, followers of the one who said, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt 5:9), we urge that you risk on the

side of peace – and vote to approve the Iran nuclear deal.” Review the letter and add your name [here](#). Follow these links for [more information](#) and other [action opportunities](#).

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Achieving global nuclear disarmament is one of the oldest goals of the United Nations. Yet today, some 17,000 nuclear weapons remain. These facts provide the foundation for the General Assembly’s designation of September 26 as the *International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons*. This Day provides an occasion for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a high priority. It provides an opportunity to educate the public – and their leaders – about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them. [Learn more/take action](#).



International Day of Peace – September 21

This year’s commemoration, *Partnerships for Peace – Dignity for All*, focuses on the importance of cooperation in advancing peace. Observing peace day is a way to strengthen the ideals of peace and non-violence within and among all nations and people. It is one of the UN international days that the School Sisters of Notre Dame commemorate. [Prayer service](#), [additional resources](#).

Blessed Antonina Novena: September 23-October 2

SSNDs and other *Shalom* members are encouraged to pray the novena before the death anniversary of Blessed Maria Antonina Kratochwil, one of the 108 Polish martyrs of faith of World War II. Blessed Antonina and other SSNDs martyred during World War II were declared patrons of *Shalom* at the 3rd International *Shalom* meeting held in El Salvador in August 2000. [Novena](#).

Human Dignity and Economic Justice

Trafficking in Persons – Help Shine a Light

This year’s [Trafficking in Persons Report](#) places a special emphasis on human trafficking in the global marketplace. It highlights the hidden risks that workers may encounter when seeking employment and the steps that governments and businesses can take to prevent trafficking, including a demand for transparency in global supply chains. In response, we urge you to contact your members of Congress and ask them to cosponsor the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015. This legislation would require companies to make information about their products’ supply chains public to ensure their products are not the result of child and forced labor, slavery and human trafficking. This legislation is supported by the USCCB, CRS, ICCR and others – [learn more/take action](#).



progress in areas of sustainable development, such as health and agriculture, serves as an enabling factor in the promotion of literacy and literate environments. [Learn more](#), [literacy map](#), [resource booklet](#), [action ideas](#), [video](#).

Immigrants and Detention

In a ruling filed on August 21, Federal Judge Dolly Gee of the Central District of California, ordered the release of children and their parents from immigration detention centers unless they are a significant flight risk or a danger to others, giving officials two months to comply. She called the centers “deplorable” and “failing to meet even the minimal standard for safe and sanitary conditions”. The Obama administration, currently detaining an estimated 1400 parents and children at three centers, two in Texas and one in Pennsylvania, is appealing the ruling which may delay the process indefinitely. [Click here](#) for a related story.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture. Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. [Learn more](#), [resources](#).

