

Staying Connected

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Sisters of St. Francis
of Mary Immaculate

What is Needed from Us Today? LCWR 2024

By Peggy Quinn, OSF

There were many meaningful moments at LCWR. You might have been able to catch some of the talks on livestream.

The one I'd like to share was the three women answering the question: "What Do You Need from us Today?" I immediately thought of the questions we spent time with at our summer gathering. As we search within ourselves for "who we want to be in this time?" and "what do the world and the Church need from us?" These three women offered answers from their perspectives and it was obvious they put heart and soul into their answers.

Kerry Robinson, Catholic Charities CEO, stated that she needs us to be who we have always been...a ballast in turbulent times, a moral constant, an example; to be witnesses to the needy, to human suffering and to the call for equality. She needs us to be confidants, to be a powerful network of prayer, to be a powerful

network of people who act and speak with courage and generosity, and to be a catalyst for others to be the same. She wants us to be our joyful and opinionated selves and to always carry our humor with us. The group laughed when she asked us to be opinionated because we recognized ourselves. But it is true, we need to speak up, to act, to use our experience and

beliefs to spark courage and care around us. Her words gave me a focus of who we can be in the world today. And notice, there was not a lot of *do* this or that; it was *be* this among us.

Katie Gordon, from Nuns and Nones, told us her future depends on us. She hopes we open our doors, be alive in new ways. She hopes we take risks to invite lay people to collaborate, to pray with us. She hopes we consider being a site where young women who are seeking spirituality and

community can come and learn and maybe even live. And in another direction she hoped we can take a public stance for radical inclusion and be an example of radical hospitality. Katie's challenges make me think how we would or could do this practically but she also challenge us to live and love in the public square. Radical



Continued on page 2

LCWR 2024 continued

hospitality is call that hits home. It strikes me that we always talk of Franciscan hospitality, but in today's world there are so many groups beyond the white privileged majorities so often in power. What steps can we take with people who feel marginalized by their race, culture, faith, gender orientation and more. Radical hospitality is a new depth of hospitality.

Sandra Coles-Bell, Executive Director of National Black Sisters, right away said she needs us to continue to be women of the Gospel, to be partner with her as sister, to be religious in the worlds. Sandra is a lay women who works as Executive Director of the National Black Sisters as I said earlier. She wants us to be "all in," make sure we celebrate her, a black woman, in our church and to seek more diversity. So many do not experience sisters like us in their day to day lives. She encourages us to get on Zooms for conversations. She encouraged us to lament together what was, lament the mistakes made in our culture of colonialism and so often still being lived today. BUT she says, "Do not stay too long in debilitating grief." She asks us to be brave, call the questions, share our faith, rooted in Theology and our integrated spirituality.

Those three women said a lot in a little time. Taking any piece of their wisdom is a start. Having heard many say that they liked that talk, maybe we can keep it going.

A Message from ARC

By Lois Prebil, OSF



SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES

Please register to attend and help spread the word about this program sponsored by ARC and USF.

It is open to the public.

Please share the flyer with your friends!

THANK YOU!

Sr. Dolores' New Ministry?



Or is she just having fun at the block party with the firefighters?

Michelangelo's Pietà getting new high-security barrier before Jubilee Year

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican is installing a new set of nine bullet-proof and shatter-proof glass panels in front of one of its most famous works of art, Michelangelo's marble Pietà sculpture in St. Peter's Basilica.

The new glass panes were crafted for improved security and "maximum transparency" to improve visibility for the thousands of visitors who stream through Christianity's largest church each day, according to the Fabbrica di San Pietro, the office responsible for the upkeep of the basilica.

"Specially designed by a team of experts, it will be equipped with an innovative high-tech anchoring system, carefully studied in every component for the best protection and enjoyment of the venerated and admired sculpture," the office said on its website July 22.

In the run-up to the Holy Year 2025, restoration work on the side Chapel of the Pietà, housing the sculpture, and the



Michelangelo's Pietà is seen in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican May 30, 2023. CNS photo/Lola Gomez

glass barrier in front of it began in May. Work is expected to finish in September, the website said.

Because the sculpture will not be visible to the public during that time, the basilica was showcasing its "official" copy, a plaster replica created by Francesco Mercatali in 1943. It moved the replica in mid-July from the basilica's museum in the Vatican sacristy to the front of the chapel that is blocked off to visitors for the restoration.

The enormous sculpture, carved from a single block of Carrara marble, has been protected by a transparent barrier ever since a 33-year-old, Hungarian-born Australian geologist, Laszlo Toth, attacked it with a hammer in 1972. It was restored after his blows shattered the left arm of the Virgin Mary and also chipped her nose, left eye and the veil covering her hair.

The sculpture depicts a disproportionately large Mary holding the limp body of her dead son, Jesus, in her lap after his crucifixion.

Michelangelo was just 23 years old when he sculpted the piece in just nine months between 1498 and 1499, according to the Fabbrica website. It is the only sculpture the artist signed when he inscribed his name on a ribbon falling from Mary's shoulder.

Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been

given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart

and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."



ROOT BEER FLOAT DAY

AT OLA VILLAGE



Message from JPIC

By Sr. Peggy Quinn, OSF

Care For Creation – Our Focus for the Year



The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee shared this summer “what we had done” and asked “what we could still do” in regards to *Laudato Si’* Action Plan. We studied the feedback for new ideas because we know the work is not done. The book we shared, *Laudate Deum*, says as much. One idea we heard was to focus on just one theme for the year regarding our work with *Laudato Si’* Action Plan. This plan is our congregation’s attempt to do our part to change the climate future.

The theme we chose is **Global Climate Crisis – Our Challenge**. We were excited about this focus because of its many implications.

First, it’s a *Global* crisis. So many of our choices, our government choices, industry choices affect other parts in the world. These choices affect water, air, land, animal and plant life and human life. We can explore that. Secondly, climate *crisis* is the word. It’s not enough to say that climate is changing; we need to see that the changes are damaging this home of ours, damaging persons and numerous species of plants, animals, insects needed for a sustainable planet. We are in crisis. Our world cannot sustain our actions as a human race. We can explore that.

Thirdly, *Our Challenge*... the word “our” unites us to the bigger picture. It implies that we may need to be open to collaborating with others in our city, in the Church, other entities. And it cannot be something other people can take care of...it is *our* challenge.

The word *Challenge* tells us it won’t be easy, but it can be exciting and rewarding and engage our minds, hearts and wills. Challenges are something we are used to. What is it we can do? If it is to raise our voices in whatever place we are, in whatever election we vote in, that can be a lot.

So our hope is to raise awareness; to educate ourselves and perhaps others in larger arenas; to decide how we can influence others and do it.

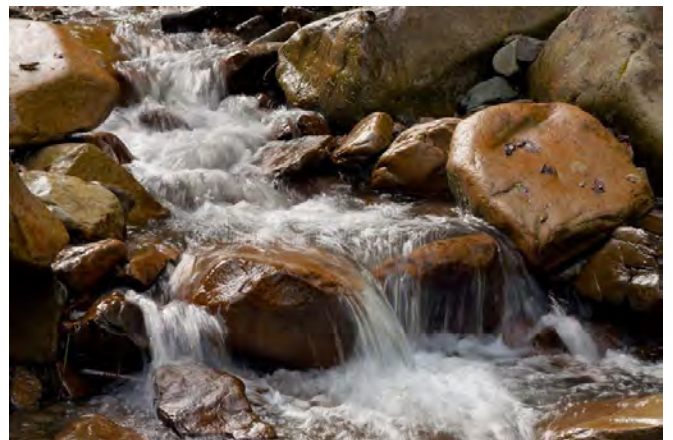


SEASON OF CREATION

September 1 through October 4

We are invited to continue praying the following especially during this time of celebrating the Season of Creation.

Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of the living waters of God's justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth. In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Human Trafficking Joint Franciscan Committee



Precious Alexandra

Alliance Newsletter 8/2024

By: Maria Elena Perales, Board Member

Alexandra arrived at Myriam's Haven, a program supporting human trafficking survivors hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, in 2010. She had escaped a year before from a horrible experience she endured for nine years. Alexandra had been a victim of kidnapping at an early age. She was robbed of her childhood and her family; she was kept isolated and never socialized with other people.



I clearly remember when I first met her. She had just arrived and was wearing a hoodie over her head that covered her face, which was already covered by her long, curly black hair. I got to know

Alexandra; she was quiet, timid, and didn't want to share much about herself. We understood that she didn't want to be seen and trusted no one. She was always afraid that someone might recognize her and take her back to the dark place where she had been kept for all those years. She lived in fear all her life. She usually kept to herself, and she struggled to be among people. It took much of her strength to finally opened up to Sisters and companions who wanted to support and guide her.

Alexandra had a bright, beautiful smile that lit up the room. She was a determined and talented young woman who loved making jewelry and loved to learn; this gave her a sense of freedom. Once she found someone she trusted, she would feel comfortable and enjoy the friendship. This young woman, with the help of a group of supporters who loved her very much, learned to speak English and eventually went to school and learned to read and write. She was determined to get her high school diploma, which she eventually did! Sisters and friends threw her a big party to celebrate this tremendous accomplishment. She later wrote, "The most precious thing is my high school diploma. I couldn't believe I graduated. I have a long way to go to learn more things that I don't know. My diploma is one of my precious treasures that I have in my life." To Alexandra, her diploma confirmed her love for learning and sense of accomplishment.

Alexandra did not have the fortune to grow up in a loving family, but by the time she went home to God, six months ago, she had a large family that loved and cared much for her. She touched many people's hearts. In providing her with such loving support, they gained much more—the love of someone who had struggled all her life with trusting people. They had won her heart—the heart of a young woman who suffered greatly and never got over the trauma of being stolen from her family at a very young age.

Alexandra, you left behind a family that loves you and will always remember you. You are now at peace – something you longed for all your life. As you arrived, the heavens celebrated and sang the glory of God, and all creation shouted with joy!

**Joint Franciscans
are Active Members**



**ALLIANCE TO END
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

September 17— National Professional House Cleaners Day

National Professional House Cleaners Day on September 17th recognizes Professional Cleaners for the necessary and skillful trade they provide every day. In homes and businesses across the country, Professional Cleaners create healthier environments.

This day of recognition celebrates a career many overlook or take for granted. While not everyone hires a Professional Cleaner, they do impact our lives in some way. Nearly every business we frequent and apartment building rented hires professional cleaners. The industry also employs approximately 3.25 million people creating a positive economic impact on the marketplace.

Benefits of Hiring Professional Cleaners

Besides cleaning homes and businesses, Professional House Cleaners offer so many benefits to their clients.

- **Improved air quality** - Regular professional cleaning reduces the build-up of dust. In older homes, exposure to allergens, lead, and asbestos fibers increase. A regular schedule of professional cleanings removes those contaminants from the air.
- **Longevity** - Regular care of furniture, drapes, floors and homes extends their life. Over time, items look newer longer and need replacing less often. These savings add up.
- **Time** - Profession Cleaners free up time for family, friends and the essential things of life.
- **Health** - A sanitary cleaning in places like the kitchen and bathroom is essential. Not only do Professional Cleaners know how to achieve a hygienic clean, but they also use the right tools for the job.

Relaxation - Psychologically, coming home to a clean house enables us to relax because we don't face clutter and everything is in its place.

HOW TO OBSERVE PROFESSIONAL HOUSE CLEANERS DAY

If you currently have a regular cleaning service and/or independent house cleaner, show your genuine appreciation for what they do! Thank them for their work. Let them know how their work impacts your family. Show them how valuable their service is to your quality of life.

PROFESSIONAL HOUSE CLEANERS DAY HISTORY

The American House Cleaners Association (AHCA) founded National Professional House Cleaners Day in 2019 to raise awareness, respect, and recognition for House Cleaners and the professional house cleaning industry. The day also celebrates their necessary contributions to the health and wellbeing of our society, as one of the most skilled trades of the labor force in the United States.

In 2019, the Registrar at National Day Calendar proclaimed National Professional House Cleaners Day to be observed on September 17th annually.

*A big Thank
You to Nery
and Leticia
who clean the
homes at OLA
Village and our
office at 1433
Essington!*



Recipe Corner: Rainbow Coleslaw

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon honey
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon whole celery seed
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 large carrots, julienne
2 cups shredded green cabbage
2 cups shredded purple cabbage

Directions:

1. Combine the apple cider vinegar and honey in a large mixing bowl and whisk until combined. While continuously whisking, slowly pour the olive oil in to emulsify the dressing. Sprinkle in the celery seed, salt and freshly ground black pepper and stir to combine.
2. Add the carrots, green cabbage and purple cabbage. Toss with the dressing and transfer to a serving dish.

**Add some healthy color
to your meals!!**



Facebook Prayer Authors

September	Sr. Marianne Saieg
October	Sr. Meg Guider
November	LSAP Goals 1, 4 Members
December	Associate Dorothy Nesbit

Writers Needed!

Did you listen/watch any of the LCWR presentations?

If you did and you would like to share your reflection or comments about it, please send to

rcipriani@jolietfranciscans.org

by October 3.

Your thoughts will be included in the next
Staying Connected!

Thank you,
René and Renée



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If you would like to submit an item for *Staying Connected*, or if something you have requested to be published is inadvertently omitted, please e-mail Sister René Simonelic at rsimonelic@jolietfranciscans.org or Renée Cipriani at rcipriani@jolietfranciscans.org