



## **NewsNotes**

### **June 2022**

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#### **Greetings Friend!**

Laudato Si' week has come and gone for 2022, but the work of acting on Laudato Si' continues. Several of our CSJP Laudato Si' Action platform teams have settled into regular monthly meetings to work on their areas of concern.

At yesterday's meeting of the Earth Ethic Team, we reviewed suggestions from the Dicastery suggesting possible actions that could be taken by congregations and other groups. Among them were a suggestion to plant or allow native grasses to grow on our properties, for instance the area in between the roads between the front and back of St. Michael's. Whenever that can be done in our yards or in our neighborhoods, it helps to restore the biodiversity that has been so badly damaged in the recent past. It provides cover and habitat for small animals and can be very beautiful when native wildflowers are incorporated.

Simple actions like planting a tomato plant in a pot to place in a yard or on a balcony can bring one closer to nature and provide delicious food as well. (Eileen is doing exactly this as I write.)

Some other ideas offered in the group were: Use old rags instead of dishtowels; purchase Swedish Dish Towels from Free- they take the place of 17 rolls of paper towels (<https://shop.freetheocean.com/products/reusable-swedish-dishcloth?variant=40214168567859>); replace plastic with wood, buy a wooden toilet bowl brush [https://shop.freetheocean.com/products/coconut-fiber-toilet-brush?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=bcaf60cd1&\\_ss=r](https://shop.freetheocean.com/products/coconut-fiber-toilet-brush?_pos=1&_sid=bcaf60cd1&_ss=r); plant native plants (North Jersey is: <https://www.jerseyyards.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BBP-Going-Native-Northern-NJ-Edition-2022-BR-25.5x11-v5-Facing-Pages-Web-Lores-1.pdf>) Each little action can lead toward greater actions that can effect systemic change of the type we need to see.

Jeffrey Sachs, who worked with the UN to develop the Millennium development goals and made a huge contribution to the more recent 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an advisor to Pope Francis as part of the Pontifical Academy of sciences. In a Laudato Si Week presentation Dr. Sachs said he believed the damage from climate change would continue and would in fact get worse. He does not believe there is the will, the political will, around the world to stop global warming, and he fears that there is no way to stop us from surpassing the 1.5 degree centigrade increase in temps from the industrial age as was the goal set in Paris in 2015. Passing that mark could further increase climate changes and make more of them irreversible. We need action. Small actions, community actions, national actions and global actions to save the planet. We can start with our own consciences and ask what changes (yes, some sacrifices) are we willing to make?

## Frank

Frank McCann  
Peace through Justice Facilitator  
Congregation's NGO Representative to the UN

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### Waterspirit Community Advocacy meeting

[Community Advocacy Meeting: Write comments to prevent pollution, together](#)

- Thursday, June 2, 2022
- 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
- 4 E. River Road
- Rumson, NJ 07760

Join together (in person or online) as we formulate final comments to submit to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, urging the redesign of a back-up power facility that focuses solely on 100% renewable energy options, across the larger energy grid. Register [HERE](#) and, if you plan to connect remotely, we will send you the zoom link upon registration the day prior. We look forward to seeing you as we do the work toward peace through justice.

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# [Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest](#)

## Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest

Saturday, June 4, 2022

9:00 AM 12:30 PM

Victory Park, Rumson NJ

Catch Waterspirit at the 2022 Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest! This free, family-friendly event is an environmental celebration of the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. Join us for a morning of live music, hands-on activities, and beautiful river views.

Rain date: June 5

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## English rivers suffer from sewage pollution

The waters in England and Wales are being polluted by dumping of raw sewage into the waters when it is not permitted. Part of the problem is older infrastructure also climate change and population growth contribute to the problem.

Some dumping is permitted when it is so wet that not releasing some waste would compromise the filtering system itself. Even then, the bulk of the raw sewage should be treated before it is released. But some companies are releasing waste when it is dry and releasing waste that has not been treated at all.

Research has shown that illegal dumping reached its peak in 2021 with 375,000 discharges. The Guardian reports the following as numbers of discharges by various sewer companies.

United Utilities **81,588**

Yorkshire **70,062**

Severn Trent **59,684**

South West **42,484**

Northumbrian **36,483**

Wessex **23,532**

Anglian **21,351**

Southern **19,077**

Thames Water **14,713**

Welsh Water (in England) **3,567**

Guardian graphic. Source: Environment Agency

There is a plan underway to overhaul the systems in the hope that they can reduce the amount of waste into the rivers by 40% by the year 2040.

A major project to contain spills from London's sewers is proceeding and should be completed by 2025. The Tideway Super Sewer is expected to remove much of the 39 m tonnes of sewage that empties into the Thames annually.

While waiting for the government to do the work, there are things that can be

done locally. Slowing the flow of rainwater will help. Using rain barrels, contouring land to allow more water absorption, replacing macadam with porous blocks or gravel are ways of allowing Mother Earth to absorb more of the moisture she needs before it rushes down the streets into overfull sewer lines.

You can read more [here](#) or [here](#).

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## Joys of the Sea

Wednesday, June 8th 4:00 PM 7:00 PM  
In the Oak Grove at First Presbyterian Church of Rumson



**Waterspirit's annual benefit, Joys of the Sea, will once again be held in-person!**

Please join us outdoors in the Oak Grove at the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson to celebrate World Oceans Day together. This summer afternoon will be filled with community-building conversations, delicious plant-based food + wine, beautiful music, and a special guest speaker.

Get tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/joys-of-the-sea-tickets-316646095997>

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## Summer Solstice with Waterspirit

### Waterspirit's Summer Solstice Celebration

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

7:00 PM 8:00 PM

4 E. River Road Rumson, NJ 07760

Join Waterspirit as we celebrate and welcome Summer during our annual Summer Solstice Celebration! Enjoy this evening of reflection and ritual in-person as we celebrate Summer, a season of new vitality and energy for Mother Earth and the human spirit. During this time of prayer and gratitude we pray also that we may transform and awaken to new energy and life within ourselves. Special guest performers: Core of Fire Interfaith Dance Ministry. Please note that masks and social distancing are requested regardless of vaccination status. This event will be livestreamed on Waterspirit's YouTube channel.



Register here: <https://waterspirit.kindful.com/e/summer-solstice-4>

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## Poor People's March on Washington June 18

We have just finished our mobilization tour and we are heading full speed toward the Mass Poor People and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls. As we move closer to June 18 for the largest gathering of poor and low-wealth people this country has ever seen, we will continue beating our digital drums and asking you to use your social media network to let everyone know why you will #MeetUsinDC!

This week, we are asking you to tweet [why it is important for you](#) to join us in Washington D.C., on June 18. There are so many important reasons to be a part of this movement. It is more than a day, it is a declaration that we will not be silent anymore! So share your reason for joining us in D.C. and encourage your friends to do the same.

Gathering prayer 9:30, 10 am prayers, litany, musicology,  
10:45 Call to Action  
3<sup>rd</sup> and Pennsylvania, NW, DC

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## NETWORK Webinar TODAY

NETWORK, the Catholic Sisters Justice Lobby, is offering a webinar called: *Repair and Redress: How an H.R.40-Style Commission Is Vital to the Build Anew Agenda.*

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM Eastern  
Repair and Redress: How an H.R. 40-Style Commission  
Is Vital to the Build Anew Agenda  
[Sign up for the webinar here!](#)

NETWORK believes that a federal reparations commission is a central way to understand and address our past in order to build a new future where we all thrive. Together, we will learn the current status of the H.R.40 reparations bill and discuss how you can take action to help make repair a reality.

Over 500 NETWORK advocates have already registered to attend the webinar.



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### An Invite from the Simple Living Group

The Simple Living LSAP group (those who challenged us to meatless Mondays and Fridays) now meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM in the UK, 1 PM in the East and 10 AM in the West. They would like to invite anyone in the congregation who is interested to join them as they begin a Just Faith study entitled *Hunger: a faith and justice response*. This is an eight-session course with a local immersion experience built in. The only cost to participants is for the 2 books which are estimated to be approximately \$27.00 for both.

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The ICAN Nuclear Ban Forum will be held on 18-19 June in Vienna and online

This meeting will be an opportunity for both experienced campaigners and people who are just discovering this threat right now to come together, learn from each other and get organised for fighting back!

We need to urgently counter these threats by mobilising everyone to stigmatise threats, use and possession of these horrific weapons and for all governments to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Registration opens today, and you can read more about the Forum, as well as the Austrian-hosted conference on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons (20 June) and the First Meeting of States Parties of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (21-23 June) on [vienna.icanw.org](http://vienna.icanw.org) Go [here](#) to register for in person or digital participation for the ICAN Nuclear Ban Forum.

It sure feels like very dark times, but we are so happy that you are part of the movement that is working tirelessly to stop these weapons from being used.

Please set aside June 21-23 as days of prayer for an end of nuclear weapons.

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## Praying the Lord's Prayer with All Creatures, an online course

Overview: this is a class about prayer—about integrating all creation into our practice of praying; about praying for our nonhuman kindred, and joining our praying with theirs.

Instructor: Collin Cornell is a teacher and writer. He earned his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament from Emory University and taught for three years as a visiting professor of biblical studies in the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee). He is now the coordinator of the School's Center for Religion and Environment. He brings an ecological conviction, rooted in scripture, to all his work of educating.

The tuition for the course is \$100.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/regform?llr=tr5f9z4ab&oeidk=a07ej2wm7cp6010f628>

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**Catholic Peacebuilding Conference June20-23**

The Catholic Peacebuilding Network is planning an international virtual conference for June 20-23, 2022. It is titled "*Catholic Peacebuilding in Times of Crisis: Hope for a Wounded World.*" This conference will convene a wide range of Catholic peacebuilders – Church leaders, scholars, peacebuilding specialists and other practitioners – addressing the need for an integral and integrated approach to peace, development, and ecology because the cry of war's victims, the cry of the poor, and the cry of the earth rise as one (Laudato Si', no. 49).

Participants will be able to discern new and consider a variety of creative ways to promote peace.

Registration is free but required. [Learn more/register here.](#)

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## Meditation for Earth

Please join Waterspirit for a "Meditation for Earth." We read a short blessing, followed by an excerpt from Hal Borland's '12 moons of the Year'. Then we lead a simple meditation followed with silence, for a flourishing Earth.



The meditation and silence is approximately 30 minutes.

There are two ways to meditate with us:

1. In-person in the Sanctuary at Rumson Presbyterian Church
2. Online on our YouTube channel.

Click [HERE](#) to Meditate for our Earth together!

No matter where you are in the world, you can join us as we meditate for our Earth!

For more information please email: [water@waterspirit.org](mailto:water@waterspirit.org)

No matter where you are in the world, you can join us as we meditate for our Earth!

Tuesdays 12:15 pm - 12:45 PM EST

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The first ever meeting of states parties (MSP) for the **Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons** (TPNW) is now scheduled to take place this June 21-23 in Vienna, Austria.

The meeting will take place in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and threats to use nuclear weapons, at a time when the world is waking up from a 30-year fantasy where the 9 nuclear armed states and their allies convinced people that nuclear weapons could exist without ever being used. The past month has made it clear that nuclear weapons do not prevent war, and nuclear war is closer than ever. The only solution is to immediately prioritize nuclear disarmament.

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## International Calendar Dates for June

01 June [World Bicycle Day \(A/RES/72/272\)](#)

03 June [International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression \(A/RES/ES-7/8\)](#)

04 June [World Environment Day \(A/RES/2994 \(XXVII\)\)](#)

05 June [CSJP Founder's Day](#).

05 June [World Food Safety Day \(A/RES/73/250\)](#)

07 June [World Oceans Day \(A/RES/63/111\)](#)

08 June [World Day Against Child Labour](#)

12 June [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought \(A/RES/49/115\)](#)

19 June "Juneteenth" celebrates the day in 1865 that slaves in Texas learned that the Civil war was over and they were free. It became a U.S. federal holiday in 2021

20 June [World Refugee Day \(A/RES/55/76\)](#)

21 June [International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice \(A/RES/73/300\)](#)  
[International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking \(A/RES/42/112\)](#)  
See also [Waterspirit Celebration of the Solstice](#)

26 June [United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture \(A/RES/52/149\)](#)

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