

*Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace*



## **NewsNotes**

### **Mid-August 2023**

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Hello Jan,

As we come to the middle of August there are a number of item of interest that cannot wait until September 1. There is also last notice for participation in the CSJP photo sharing for the Season of Creation.

It is also a good time to stop and think about the last days of Summer as College and even grammar school children will be starting back in a week or so.

**Frank**

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

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## Catholic Liturgical Guide to Season of Creation 2023



The [Season of Creation Catholic Liturgical Guide](#) is now available in English, French and Spanish editions will be available soon. Marie Dennis notes that "It makes clear the connection between nonviolence and care for creation." The Liturgical guide was prepared by Fr. Jim Hug, Amy Echeverria and the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. May it guide us to a fuller experience of living our charism this upcoming season.

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**CSJP Summer Photo Sharing for the Season of Creation**



## A Mighty River

Amos 5: 24

Sisters and Associates have been invited to share photos that speak to them of God's loving presence in Creation or those that express concern about the current treatment of God's gift to us. You are invited to share a photo that speaks to you and a sentence or two as to how or why it speaks to you.

We have had a good response so far and want to be sure everyone has a chance to contribute. We plan to start sharing photos on 1 September and will continue through October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St. Francis.

We ask that photos and comments be submitted by email to **Frank McCann, CSJP-A** or by mail to his attention at Shalom Center 399 Hudson Terrace Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632. The submission deadline will be August 25, 2023 (it will be flexible).

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### Montana youth win major climate case in the courts

New York Times, August 25, 2003 By [David Gelles](#) and [Mike Baker](#)

The court found that young people have a constitutional right to a healthful environment and that the state must consider potential climate damage when approving projects.

A group of young people in Montana won a landmark lawsuit on Monday when a [judge ruled](#) that the state's failure to consider climate change when approving fossil fuel projects was unconstitutional.

The decision in the suit, *Held v. Montana*, coming during a summer of record heat and [deadly wildfires](#), marks a victory in the expanding fight against

government support for oil, gas and coal, the burning of which has rapidly warmed the planet.

“As fires rage in the West, fueled by fossil fuel pollution, today’s ruling in Montana is a game-changer that marks a turning point in this generation’s efforts to save the planet from the devastating effects of human-caused climate chaos,” said Julia Olson, the founder of Our Children’s Trust, a legal nonprofit group that brought the case on behalf of the young people. “This is a huge win for Montana, for youth, for democracy, and for our climate. More rulings like this will certainly come.”

The ruling means that Montana, a major coal and gas producing state that gets one-third of its energy by burning coal, must consider climate change when deciding whether to approve or renew fossil fuel projects.

[Read the rest of the NYTimes article here.](#)

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## Waterspirit Events for August/September



### [Sacred Water in a Climate Changed Era](#)

- Thursday, August 17, 2023
- 8:00 AM 9:30 AM
- McCormick Place Lakeside Center ([map](#))

Join Waterspirit at the 2023 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Chicago, IL. This event will feature an interfaith panel of unique and powerful women who will highlight threats to sacred water and human rights during the climate emergency. This event will take place from 8:00-9:30 a.m. CT in Hall E, Room 1. (PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION.)

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

### [Waterspirit's Book Club August 28, 2023](#)

- Monday, August 28, 2023
- 6:00 PM 7:30 PM
- zoom ([map](#))

[Join Waterspirit’s Book Club for our Aug 28 meeting as we discuss the book Finding The Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest By Suzanne Simard](#)

### [10 Step Eco-Anxiety Support Group Info Session Save the Date](#)

- Tuesday, September 5, 2023
- 2:00 PM 3:00 PM
- online via Zoom ([map](#))

[Register](#) for this informational meeting that will outline what this 10-week

support group entails, explain the course's suggested donation, and answer any questions you might have prior to committing. The group will meet on Zoom from 9/12-11/14 at 2-4 p.m. ET.

### [Eco-Friendly House Party](#)

- Thursday, September 14, 2023
- 5:30 PM 6:30 PM
- Monmouth County (exact address to be shared with ticket holders) ([map](#))

Join Waterspirit for an eco-friendly house party! Learn tips for how to kick fossil fuels to the curb with a guided tour of a stunningly beautiful all-electric home on the NJ shore. Get an up-close look into the process of installing solar energy, heat pumps, EV chargers, induction stoves, and other sustainable upgrades with the highly knowledgeable homeowners. Plus, you will get a chance to learn more about Waterspirit's mission and impact with our Executive Director!

Exact location in Monmouth County will be shared with registrants the week of the event. Refreshments will be provided.

[GET TICKETS](#)

### [March to End Fossil Fuels](#)

- Sunday, September 17, 2023
- 9:00 AM 4:00 PM
- New York City ([map](#))

Join the March with Waterspirit! We aim to focus our advocacy in New York City with coalition partners and [individuals](#) alike. [SIGN UP HERE](#) to stay in the loop and/or [volunteer](#). Click the button below to get a Waterspirit t-shirt to wear to the march.

[MARCH WITH US](#)

### [Autumn Equinox](#)

- Friday, September 22, 2023
- 7:00 PM 8:00 PM
- 4 E. River Road Rumson, NJ 07760 ([map](#))

Waterspirit's Autumn Equinox Celebration

Celebrate the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" with Waterspirit! Join us for an evening of eco-spiritual prayer, contemplation, and music that explores the deeper meaning of autumn. Join Waterspirit as we welcome autumn. Intentionally connecting with the cycles of nature is an eco-spiritual practice that helps us regulate our inner lives and strengthen our connection with the planet. Friends of all ages will gather for this meaningful event celebrated with music, movement and contemplation. This long-standing, signature program is inclusive of all faith traditions, inviting attendees into deeper connection with the meaning of autumn. This event will be held in-person at our headquarters in Rumson.

It will also be livestreamed to our [YouTube channel](#).

We are looking forward to welcoming autumn with you!

[Register Here](#)

### [Waterspirit's Microplastics Beach Survey September](#)

- Thursday, September 28, 2023
- 1:30 PM 2:30 PM
- Snug Harbor Beach ([map](#))

Join Anne Price at Snug Harbor in the Highlands to survey the beach for Microplastics. Sept 28, 1:30 pm

### [Environmental Education Outdoor Conference](#)

- Friday, September 29, 2023
- 8:00 AM 4:00 PM
- 4 E. River Road Rumson, NJ 07760 ([map](#))

[Register here](#) to join Waterspirit at this amazing conference. The Alliance for NJ Environmental Education (ANJEE) is hosting their 7th annual outdoor conference on Sept. 29th. Our own Anne Price will be hosting a workshop on Mindfulness in Nature. We hope to see you there.

The Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE) was established in 1985 to provide a networking forum for New Jersey's environmental educators. We are an organization of dedicated individuals who devote time, energy, and resources to facilitate the advancement of environmental education in our local, state, and global communities. a workshop on Mindfulness in Nature. We hope to see you there.



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**YOUR SIGN-ON IS POWER**  
**10,000 Catholic Signatures Needed!**





Recently, NETWORK hosted a webinar, [Restoring Asylum and Dignity for Immigrants](#), that made it clear that current U.S. immigration policy fails to provide people seeking a new life in our country with a respectful and fair process. All immigrants deserve dignity, no exceptions! Catholic Sisters, clergy, and laypeople can influence a change in policy so that all immigrants are met with a well-funded, lawful asylum process, and a dignified welcome.

The funding seeks to assist communities providing for the immediate needs of asylum seekers.

A Specific Advocacy Request for Catholic Justice-Seekers

Catholic justice-seekers\*, [please sign-on to a letter](#) created by NETWORK and other Catholic immigration advocacy and human rights organizations to let Congress know that *NOW* is the time to invest in better, just immigration policy.

SIGN The Catholic Letter for Immigrant Funding & Watch the Webinar.

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## Georgetown University to remember the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7 PM EDT, the Georgetown University Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life will hold a livestreamed dialogue on the **Sixtieth Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom: Keeping the Dream Alive.**

The event is also live at the Copley Formal Lounge, Copley Hall at Georgetown University with a reception to follow.

Panelists will include **Sr. Anita Baird, DHM**, founder of Chicago's Office for Racial Justice, **Mark Morial**, President and CEO of the National Urban League, **Andrew Prevot** new Chair in Catholic Studies at Georgetown, and **Lauren Reliford**, political director at Sojourners. The discussion will be moderated by **John Carr**, founder of the Initiative.

[RSVP](#) to attend. A recording will be made available to those who register but cannot attend.

## Fr. John Dear to host Cornell West

Fr. John Dear invites all to attend a Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> event at his Beatitudes Center at 11 AM Pacific, and 2 PM Eastern.

Dr. West is the author of 20 books and editor of 13 books. His classic best-sellers are *Race Matters* and *Democracy Matters*, as well as his memoir: *Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud*.

"The country is in deep trouble," he writes. "We've forgotten that a rich life consists fundamentally of serving others, trying to leave the world a little better than you found it. We need the courage to question the powers that be, the courage to be impatient with evil and patient with people, the courage to fight for social justice. In many instances we will be stepping out on nothing, and just hoping to land on something. But that's the struggle. To live is to wrestle with despair, yet never allow despair to have the last word."

The cost of the webinar is. \$30.00 and you can register at [www.beatitudescenter.org](http://www.beatitudescenter.org)

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## **Making a Difference. "Defend Life"**

By Tony Magliano

During the recent World Youth Day in Portugal, one of the 10 young people who had the unique opportunity to enjoy lunch with Pope Francis, Peruvian Clara Yacolca Farfan, 24, told Catholic News Service, "Some of us asked for his advice on how young people today can face some issues that are difficult, that are very talked about – we talked about euthanasia, abortion." Pope Francis responded with these words: "Defend life!"

"Defend life" must indeed be the clarion call of the followers of the God of Life! Because like no other time in history has human life, animal life, plant life, ocean life, life in all forms, and the earth which sustains life, come under such fierce human attack.

Globally, there are 73 million unborn babies aborted each year, tens of thousands of war deaths, 100 million refugees and displaced persons, over 5,000 fellow Christians martyred every year, and 800 million hungry people living in extreme poverty – with over 49 million of them on the brink of starvation (see: <https://www.crs.org/stories/global-emergency-update-june-2022>).

And if that is not horrible enough, and indeed it is, consider that the Russian, Ukrainian, U.S., NATO war has caused untold suffering, death, and destruction with no end in sight.

The ongoing flood of weapons – including President Biden's recent shipment of U.N. outlawed cluster bombs to Ukraine – is not only ensuring that the heartless flow of blood will continue but is putting the world on the brink of nuclear war. And this is no exaggeration.

Attempting to convince all of us just how close the world is to experiencing the madness of nuclear war, The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists have placed their famous "Doomsday Clock" at 90 seconds to midnight. The closest it has ever



been placed to global catastrophe!

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists have not only based their alarming wake-up call on the very real threat of nuclear war, but also on the scientific undeniable reality of accelerating disastrous climate change (see: <https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/>).

July 2023 was the Earth's hottest month ever recorded, as measured by the United Nations' World Meteorological Organization. And probably the hottest month in 120,000 years (see: <https://www.earth.com/news/july-was-earths-hottest-month-in-120000-years/>).

The increasing numbers and intensity of disastrous weather events like hurricanes, typhoons and tornadoes are due in large part to climate change, which the unrelenting human burning of oil, coal and gas is hugely responsible for.

From torrential flooding rains in India and Vermont, to starvation-causing bone-dry droughts in the Horn of Africa, to raging wildfires throughout Canada, climate change's deadly devastation is increasingly far outpacing the irresponsibly slow, weak response of government and corporate leaders who refuse to fully commit the vast financial and human resources needed to highly accelerate an emergency full speed ahead transition from fossil fuels to clean renewable solar, wind, geothermal and wave energy.

Most people living in the more economically developed world who have not been affected yet by these increasing climate disasters appear not to care that our global home is baking.

Humanity is facing a choice we cannot escape. It is literally a choice between life and death. Will we continue to inadequately respond to the suffering and death of our fellow human beings and our deeply wounded earth-home? Or will we pray and work far harder than ever to "Defend life" as Pope Francis urges us on to do?"

The biblical author of Deuteronomy powerfully puts God's ultimate choice before us: "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live."

*Tony Magliano is an internationally syndicated Catholic social justice and peace columnist. He is available to speak at diocesan or parish gatherings.*



## The work for economic justice continues

The work to achieve a greater degree of economic justice continues. In August we prepare for dialogues with Tyson Corp on child labor and labor conditions and with PNC bank on funding of nuclear weapons. We also have a strategy session to discuss Microsoft's unsatisfying response to a resolution submitted two years ago.

Both the Charitable giving and Impact investing teams are scheduled to reconvene in early September.

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## From the Institute of Development Studies

Seeds are the starting point for the food we eat, yet the World Bank's actions significantly limit the farmer seed system in Africa. Small-scale agriculture is crucial in reducing extreme poverty, as most individuals living below the global poverty line reside in rural areas. Farmers rely on their own seed system for about 80% of the seeds that are used. For thousands of years, they have collected and preserved traditional crop species that grow best in their fields.

The dominance of big agribusiness and the push for industrial agriculture is aggressively pushing for the use of hybrid and genetically modified seed. The control that corporations have over these seeds limits the options available to farmers and makes them more vulnerable to challenges like increases in food prices and climate change.

Crop production is becoming more homogenised. Of the more than 6,000 edible plant species cultivated over centuries, just nine crops now account for more than 65 per cent of all crop production. If farmers can only access seeds

from the commercial sector, it locks them into a model of agricultural production that serves the global market, not their communities.

A handful of companies control over half of the commercial seed market worldwide and focus on producing seeds for high-demand crops like maize, wheat, soya, and rice. These companies use certification laws to limit farmers from producing, saving, sharing, exchanging, or selling unregistered seeds, and in some countries, this can result in criminal charges.

The conditions set by the World Bank's policies strengthen the dominance of international seed corporations by providing subsidies and loans to countries that stipulate farmers must use hybrid seeds and their corresponding chemical fertilizers, which can be damaging to the local environment.

A campaign called "Fix the Food System" has been launched by CAFOD to address the problem of countries being subject to restrictive seed laws as a requirement for financial aid from the World Bank. The campaign calls on the UK government, which has a seat at the world bank, to hold the World Bank responsible for its actions and redirect funds from industrial agriculture to support small-scale farmers and agroecological methods.

[Read the full article here](#) or go to the [Cafod seed campaign here](#).

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**Meditation for Earth**



Please join Waterspirit for a 30 minute "Meditation for Earth" in-person in the Sanctuary at the Rumson Presbyterian Church 4 East River Road, or livestreamed on Waterspirit's YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFzJckCctU22hEjrmOLitwQ>

[Find the Meditation on the Waterspirit YouTube Channel.](#)

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**A Mighty River**  
Amos 5: 24

**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

The Season of Creation 1 September 1 until 4 October

Stay tuned to the Season of Creation 2023. Theme of this year "*Let Justice and Peace Flow*". The symbol is a Mighty River. "The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. As we join the river of justice and peace with others then hope is created instead of despair" (Season of Creation, 2023).

Anyone interested in planning an event for that time should contact Frank McCann

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## Engaging Democracy, Pursuing Justice

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LCWR Region 3 and [NETWORK](#) will offer four-session course to help us discern being a prophetic voice on Peace and justice issues in the light of 2024 elections.

NETWORK's Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM and Meg Olson will journey with you through the following 4 workshops:

Wednesday, September 20 – Faith-Based Advocacy

Wednesday, October 18 – Multi-Issue Voter

Wednesday, November 15 – Democracy & Voting Rights

Wednesday, January 17 – Call to Action--Letter to the Editor Training, Building a Coalition, and More!

*Each session will be held on zoom from 6:30-8:00pm ET.*

Please **register** to receive the zoom link.

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### Share NewsNotes with a friend!

If you want to share this email with friends, we have a mailing list for them. Anyone desiring to receive this newsletter monthly should [sign up for it on our website](#).

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Visit our CSJP website!

STAY CONNECTED



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