



Where Justice and Truth Meet

September 2014

“With profound gratitude and deep interior purpose, we choose to live sustainably in order to further the mission and to cultivate right relationship with all God’s creation.”

Together – Birthing Anew, Chapter 2014

Each year the **International Day of Peace** is observed around the world on **September 21**. The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared this a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. Given the extent of global violence we have all witnessed over the course of the past few months, we know the need to pray for peace and the urgency for peace to take root among peoples and nations.

of our planet and the community of life she sustains. Earth’s global human family is gathering to raise prayers, awareness, and concerns for Earth so that Earth’s voice will resound at the UN Climate Summit of world leaders on September 23. And so on this International Day of Peace, in solidarity with all, we pray for Peace with the Planet. We pray that global leaders will respond to Earth and her community of life by building a global consensus for an international climate treaty in order to restore peace to Earth.



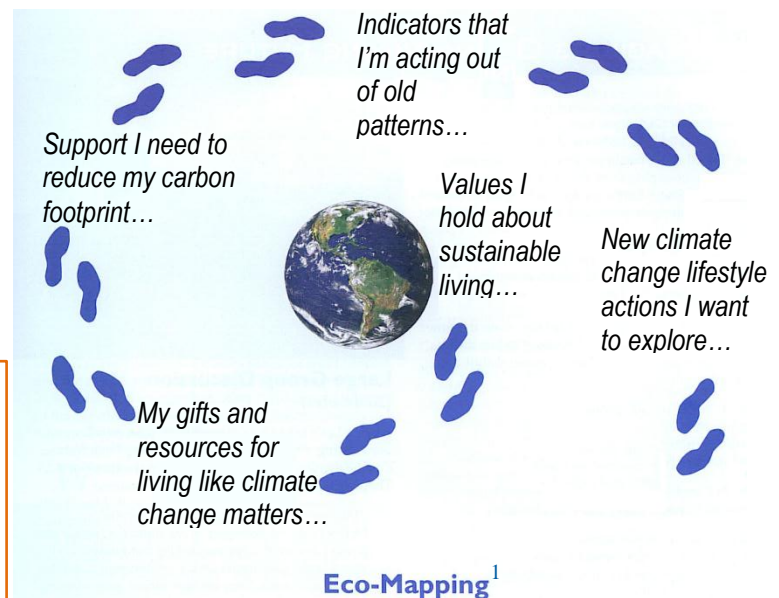
This year, the International Day of Peace coincides with the [U.N. Climate Summit 2014](#). United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has invited world leaders from government, finance, business, and civil society to Climate Summit 2014 this September 23 in New York to galvanize and catalyze climate action. He has asked these leaders to bring bold announcements and actions to the Summit that will reduce emissions, strengthen climate resilience, and mobilize political will for a meaningful legal agreement in 2015. Climate Summit 2014 provides a unique opportunity for leaders to champion an ambitious vision, anchored in action that will enable a meaningful global agreement in 2015.

“We will take a weekend and use it to bend the course of history.”

Climate March organizers



So this September 21 the theme for International Day of Peace will be *Peace with the Planet*. Men, women, and children from all over the planet will gather in New York City for the [People’s Climate March](#). Organizers expect more than 100,000 people to gather in New York and in cities around the world. Global Warming caused by our species’ excessive use of carbon, ravenous appetite for irreplaceable natural resources, and disregard for Earth’s integrity is threatening the life



Some resources to join in prayerful support for **Peace with the Planet**

Speech and Song of Chief Seattle

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8dIUu2Q_YA

National Geographic video on Climate Change

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/101-videos/global-warming-101>

Article: People’s Climate March About to Make History

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lori-popkewitz-alper/the-peoples-climate-march_b_5801518.html

Peace with Planet Earth – [prayer service for 9/21](#)

Movie: [Disruption](#) (on climate change, 52 min.)

¹ Book: [Climate Change: Our Call to Conversion](#)



In July of 2013 Illinois became the fiftieth state to enact a [Firearm Concealed Carry Act](#) (FCCA). While allowing for concealed carry of firearms, the FCCA bars firearms from “prohibited

areas,” including hospitals, schools, colleges, government buildings, public transportation, gaming facilities and most bars, as well as other specified types of facilities.

Churches, parish offices, motherhouses and convents, and all other businesses are not included in the “prohibited areas” of the act. The act does, however, allow these groups to ban firearms by posting official signs at the entrances to their buildings, premises, or properties.

Looking at this issue through the lens of our [Consistent Ethic of Life](#) corporate stance which commits us to the protection of the whole of life on Earth, our Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC) has recommended and leadership approved making Sacred Heart Convent a weapons-free area. We believe this is a way to work toward a world where “reverence for all living beings finds expression in an approach to life free from violence.” (*Leadership Conference of Women Religious Resolution on Ending Gun Violence, August 2013*)

For guests and employees with concealed carry permits and firearms in their vehicles, the parking lot exception applies. A licensee may have the concealed firearm in a case out of plain view within a locked vehicle or locked container within the vehicle in the parking area.

In our Chapter 2014 statement [Together – Birthing Anew](#), we stated, “With active hope we choose to imagine the world we want to inhabit and accept the urgent responsibility to collaborate in bringing it to birth.” We imagine a world free from violence and invite others to join us in efforts to promote this.



Dominican Sisters of Springfield

are committed to the protection of all life. Weapons are not permitted in this building.



A delegation of Springfield Dominican Sisters and Associates will join the 25th anniversary vigil to [Close the School of the Americas](#) from November 21-23, 2014 in Fort Benning, Georgia. Join us there to call attention to continued U.S. militarization in the Americas or contact the Justice Office at Sacred Heart Convent to inquire about carpooling opportunities from Springfield.



I have always been distressed at the lot of those who are victims of various kinds of trafficking. How

I wish that all of us would hear God's cry: "Where is your brother?" (Gen 4:9). Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Where is the brother and sister whom you are killing each day in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution, in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labor. Let us not look the other way. There is greater complicity than we think. The issue involves everyone! This infamous network of crime is now well established in our cities, and many people have blood on their hands as a result of their comfortable and silent complicity.

– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

Springfield Dominicans have also expressed concern about human trafficking for many years. Beginning with the 2003 [Trafficking Resource Unit](#) from the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee, we have educated ourselves and advocated for its end. The April 2014 edition of this [newsletter](#) shared updated information and resources. While we have done all this, we have not formally approved a specific corporate stance against human trafficking, though such a stance flows naturally from our [Consistent Ethic of Life](#) stance adopted in 2013 in which we say that “we reverence the sacredness of life and address injustice in a spirit of respect, compassion and solidarity.” In coming weeks, Sisters will be asked to vote on a proposed corporate stance against human trafficking, and we invite all of you who share our passion for justice to review the resource materials in the links above to shine light on this egregious practice and advocate for its abolition.

