



Where Justice and Truth Meet

December 2021

*“Free our hearts to recognize and attend to Christ in hidden and unexpected places.”
– A Prayer for the Life of the World*

Interconnection and Solidarity: A Call to Deepen Understanding

Our [Prayer for the Life of the World](#) speaks of our solidarity with the *rostros concretos* of the marginalized and our desire that our hearts be free to recognize and attend to Christ in hidden and unexpected places.

In the fall of 2019 we were challenged anew in living out this prayer. This challenge grew out of an event at one of our sponsored institutions in which a woman was initially offered a teaching position until she revealed that she was to be married to another woman in the fall.

We also pray in our *Prayer for the Life of the World* to renounce our participation in the sin of racism and reject the societal barriers created by the misuse of power. Through our work on our antiracism journey, we have grown in understanding of the relationship between our antiracism efforts and other issues of injustice. We see how our antiracism commitment



intersects with immigration issues and with the rights of the LGBTQA+ communities.

Knowing that we are standing face to face with a new

reality that deserves more theological reflection, growing understanding, and deeper conversation, we have, over the past two years, pursued study, reflection and dialogue.

We recognize the need for continuing this effort to grow in understanding. Over the next year, a column in WJTM will share information, resources, and reflections.

We are not alone in this journey. There are other religious communities engaged in this study and promoting understanding. Some of the resources we will share come from their study

and experience. We are grateful for the collaboration.

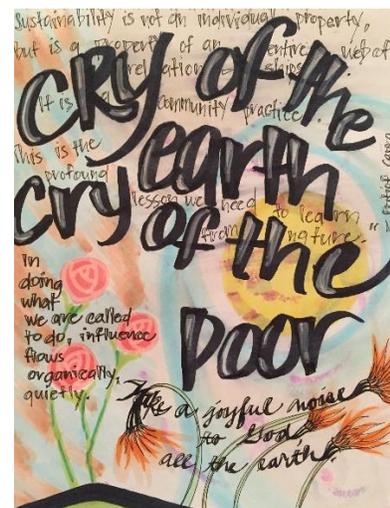
This video from the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative shares their response to the Church’s call to be welcoming and compassionate by offering effective pastoral care and spiritual support for LGBTQ+ Catholics and their families: [Living Our Marianist Charism: Embracing the LGBTQ+ Community](#).

We trust we are being called to embrace the truth that all are created in the image of our God and that our interconnectedness is blessing and holiness.



Invitation to join in Prayer and Dialogue

In response to Pope Francis’ request that we join with the global Church to move toward sustainability *for the Life of the World*, we have formed a [Laudato Si’ Action Platform \(LSAP\) Committee](#).



The LSAP Committee invites us into personal and communal reflection and dialogue to deepen our understanding of *Laudato Si'* and our [Public Commitment Statement](#):

The Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois, in the United States and Peru, recognize the urgency of the ecological crises facing our planet.

We live in common with all creation. We acknowledge the need for our personal and collective transformation.

Responding to the cry of Earth, we commit to participation in the Laudato Si Action Platform.

This seven-year journey to achieve sustainability is for the life of the world.

The LSAP Committee offers the following materials for your personal and communal reflection. Click to download the reflection and dialogue materials.

[**Cry of Earth, Cry of the Poor**](#)
[**Study/Dialogue Materials**](#)

We ask for your Feedback on the final question concerning *intersectionality*. **Please send your responses to Sister Jean Patrice at sjp@marianchs.com by January 6th**. These will be an integral part of the preparation for our Community Day in February.



Additional LSAP resources:

- [Laudato Si' encyclical](#)
- [Our Common Home: A Discussion on the Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) (podcast)

Synod on Synodality



The Church of God is convoked in Synod.

With this convocation, Pope Francis invites the whole Church to question itself on *synodality*, a decisive theme for the life and mission of the Church.

The synod is a two-year journey (2021-2023) of reflection and sharing of the whole Church. "By walking together, and together reflecting on the journey made, the Church will be able to learn from what it will experience which processes can help it to live communion, to achieve participation, to open itself to mission."

The Synod logo: A large, majestic tree, full of wisdom and light, reaches for the sky. A sign of deep vitality and hope which expresses the cross of Christ. It carries the Eucharist, which shines like the sun. The horizontal branches, opened like hands or wings, suggest, at the same time, the Holy Spirit.

The people of God are not static: they are on the move, in direct reference to the etymology of the word synod, which means "walking together". The people are united by the same common dynamic that this Tree of Life breathes into them, from which they begin their walk.

These 15 silhouettes sum up our entire humanity in its diversity of life situations of generations and origins.

Learn more:
[Vatican website on the Synodal Process](#)