



CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY - USA

## Office of Apostolic Advocacy and Action

August 20, 2017 Special Edition, AAA Newsletter:

### Season of Creation, Integral Ecology & Charlottesville

Dear CLC-USA members:

**The Season of Creation is coming up soon - Sept. 1st to Oct. 4th!** We encourage you to prayerfully consider participating in one or more of the initiatives that are included in this e-news and that are also described on the website: [www.seasonofcreation.org](http://www.seasonofcreation.org). "Integral Ecology" is clearly Pope Francis' theme, and CLC's discerned frontier mission areas are reflected in this newsletter with that theme in mind.

We thank you for reading this e-news and using the info in any way you are able and we thank you, if you can, for letting us know how you used it, adding any comments or suggestions for future AAA newsletters.

~Oceans of Love, Peace and Hope in these troubled times,

Carol González for

CLC- USA's Office of Apostolic Advocacy and Action

Christian Life Community

[www.clc-usa.org](http://www.clc-usa.org)



**Christian Life Community** has partnered with a network of more than 400 religious communities worldwide in observing this **Season of Creation**. Check out the letters from World CLC President Mauricio Lopez & Consultor Ann Marie Brennan that describe numerous specific initiatives.

**Integral Ecology:** What is "integral ecology?" Pope Francis teaches about integral ecology, the key concept in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*. Integral ecology is a new "paradigm" which means it makes us re-think everything! In Francis' explanation, "It flows from his understanding that "everything is closely related" and that "today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis." (NCR, 8/27/15) So, amid our many environmental problems and concerns are human problems and concerns such as poverty, globalization, immigration and refugees, and so on.

CLC-USA's office of Apostolic Advocacy & Action has been focusing on INTEGRAL ECOLOGY, with all the areas that are part of INTEGRAL ECOLOGY:

1. immigration & refugee urgencies,
2. rise of globalization and poverty,
3. climate change, and
4. our response to events & areas of the world most in need of a loving, peaceful response.

No environmental problem can be considered in isolation. "Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live," writes the pope. "We are part of nature." So, then, "Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature." With such a lens, one is able to view the daily news illustrative of this unfolding, connected crisis. For example: [New York Times article on Climate Change in Kenya.](#)

## Suggested Resources



**"Befriend the Wolf,"** is a beautiful resource from Catholic Climate Covenant. To get your copy please e-mail ASAP [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org) and ask to be on their mailing list (e-mail). It will come to your INBOX right away! Ask for your "2017 Feast of St. Francis Program Resources" also called "Befriend the Wolf: A Blessing of All Creation" materials.

**Season of Creation Resource:** When you request this beautiful set of resources, you will get the following:

1. *Facilitator Guide* (with all instructions, scripts, links, and materials you'll need, even a link to optional Power Point);
2. *Program Guide* (with all that participants will need — prayers, readings, meditation guide, discussion questions);
3. *Blessing of Animals Liturgy* to commemorate the Feast of St. Francis, Oct. 4; and
4. *an editable, printable flyer* to use for promoting the Season of Creation.

Contact Paz Artaza-Regan: [Paz@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:Paz@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

**St. Francis/Laudato Si' Pledge:** "I pledge to pray, live, and advocate Laudato Si." So, what does this mean? After pledging, your e-mail response will say this: "Thank you for taking the St. Francis/Laudato Si' Pledge. You have just committed yourself to 1) praying with and for creation, 2) living more simply by lowering your family's, parish's, and/or religious community's carbon footprint, and 3) advocating to protect our common home." You can pledge at [www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org](http://www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org).

**Training Opportunity:** Some CLC members feel called to take Climate Reality Leadership Corps training to help solve climate change. For more information: [www.climaterealityproject.org/training](http://www.climaterealityproject.org/training).

**Relationships / Culture of Encounter:** About the role of encounter in our CLC documents: "To be Trinitarian Christians is to recognize relationship at the core of all we are and do!" (More on this core CLC way of proceeding in the next newsletter!)

## Responding to Charlottesville

As part of our monthly tele-conversation August, 2017 meeting, we shared our responses to the recent violence in Charlottesville, VA (Aug. 2017). In reading the signs of the times together as CLC, members often also share many resources and spiritual insights on CLC-USA's Apostolic Advocacy & Action Facebook page, and we wanted to offer some glimpses here:

- *Heather Heyer's mom, Susan Bro, quoting her daughter:* "Remember in your heart: If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention. And I want you to pay attention, find what's wrong. Don't ignore it. Don't look the other way. You make it a point to look at it, and say to yourself, 'What can I do to make a difference?' And that's how you're going to make my child's death worthwhile. I'd rather have my child, but, by golly, if I got to give her up, we're going to make it count."
- *CLC members around the country are finding ways to stand in Solidarity against hate* at this pivotal moment in this country's national life. For those of us seeking to follow Jesus, this seems an invitation to prayerful Silence and discernment, as well as a willingness to pray with our feet as Rabbi Heschel spoke of during the Civil Rights movement. Some CLC members around the country participated in vigils and rallies in solidarity with Charlottesville. Here's a link to news about a gathering the day after in Pittsburgh where Henry and Carol Gonzalez led a prayer in Market Square downtown: <http://www.wtae.com/article/pittsburgh-holds-peaceful-rally-against-hatein-market-square/12005407>.

- *Editorial*, National Catholic Reporter, August 18, 2017, "Charlottesville should compel Catholics to expel poison of racism" [www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/editorial-charlottesvilleshould-compel-catholics-expel-poison-racism](http://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/editorial-charlottesvilleshould-compel-catholics-expel-poison-racism) .
- *Clarifying our own individual intentions*, we each affirm the following statement: "As a member of CLC, and as a believer in Jesus Christ, whose very life shows us how to dismantle systems of injustice and give voice to the marginalized, as a co-creator with God's Spirit, called to offer life and mercy, as a sibling to billions in our human family, I DENOUNCE RACISM AND WHITE SUPREMACY and will work ever harder to uproot it from my own mind and heart, from our church, and from our world." How about you? How then can we proceed to realize this...?
- *Nelson Mandela* (quoted by former President Obama): "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love. For love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."
- *Life After Hate* (a website that helps the "broken" among us). [Lifeafterhate.org](http://Lifeafterhate.org) .
- *Deuteronomy 30:19*, quoted by Al Gore at the end of his new film, *Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*: "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."