

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



December, 2022

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From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the Incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole."

Laudato Si' #99

I love the season of Advent! Even as a little girl I was caught up in the awe and wonder of this season – the lights, department store window displays, TV specials, the anticipation of Santa, and of course, putting up the manger scene – all revealing something of God. I can also remember my fair share of Christmases both in childhood and as an adult when I went to bed on December 25 feeling a tinge of sadness that Christmas was all over. Now, in my wisdom years I know this isn't so.

In recent decades it has been scientists and theologians who have opened my eyes to an ever expanding and deepening meaning of the Incarnation: The feast of God becoming one of us that we celebrate on Christmas Day and that we prepare for during Advent. In this edition of the JPIC News I'd like to share with you the wisdom of some of these theologians who have introduced us to the concept of "deep incarnation": that God made God's Self known from the very beginning of the cosmos and continues to make God's Self known in our day revealing incarnation as an on-going reality in which we all participate. This evolving theological worldview is one that has the capacity to stir our souls so that with God we can birth into being an Earth community marked by compassion, healing and liberating Love in the spirit of Bon Secours.

December
JPIC Days of Remembrance



December 1
World AIDS Day

December 2
Anniversary of the Deaths of
Maura Clark, Ita Ford, Dorothy
Kazel and Jean Donovan

International Day
for the Abolition of Slavery

December 10
Human Rights Day

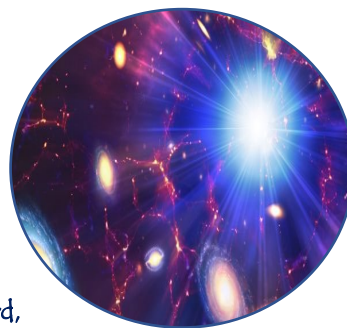
December 18
International Migrants' Day

December 20
International Human Solidarity
Day

Advent – Week 1:

God's First Incarnation: The Creation of the Universe
13.7 billion years ago

"God's first "idea" was to become manifest - to pour out divine, infinite love into finite visible forms. The "First Flaring Forth" (Big Bang) is now our scientific name for that first idea; and "Christ" is our theological name. Both are about LOVE and BEAUTY exploding outward in all directions." Rev. Richard Rohr, OFM



In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

Reflection

Each night this week look at the night sky or look at the Webb telescope images until you are hushed with awe. Consider that you are not just looking at stars but at God's divine, infinite and **compassionate** love poured out 13.7 billion years ago... God's first revelation of who God is.

What does this experience evoke in you?
Does it give you/deepen in you a new perspective of who God is and who you are?

May the Christ light shine in you.



Sisters of Bon Secours...Women of healing...defending and caring for all creation (Mission Focus)



**Advent - Week 2:
God Revealing God's Self through Earth
4.5 billion years ago**

"This vast ocean of our solar system is like a womb, that has unfolded over some five billion years to become galaxies and stars, palms and pelicans, the music of Bach and each of us alive today."

Brian Swimme

**Give us the grace to feel profoundly
connected to everything that is.**

Pope Francis Laudato Si'

Reflection

Everything is an expression of God. The vast diversity of the natural world and the diversity of the human species speak of God's unfathomable creativity.

God created one-ness within this diversity yet our dominant worldview is to see ourselves as separate—separate from the natural world and separate from each other. This sense of separation is an illusion. God desires to **liberate** us from this false sense of who we are as we live out our lives on Earth. As we embrace our commitment to develop an ecological spirituality, we ask ourselves, "Do I treat Earth and all her beings – from whom I am not separate – as God's beloved?"

Advent practice: Repeat this mantra frequently throughout each day: "I am one with all that is."

**Advent - Week 3:
God's 2nd Incarnation:
Jesus of Nazareth
2,200 years ago**

Christ and Jesus are not exactly the same. In Jesus, God's presence became more obvious and believable in the world. "By his incarnation (the CHRIST) inserted himself not just into our humanity, but into the universe which supports humanity. The presence of the incarnate word . . . shines at the heart of all things."

Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.



Reflection

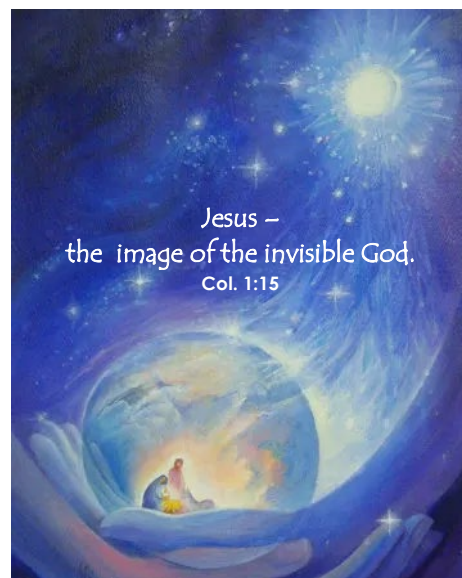
Jesus' life embodied what God's love intends for the world: for it to be transformed, healed and made whole. For Jesus everyone mattered, especially those who were poor, oppressed or marginalized. Incarnation invites us into a radically different relationship with the world, a relationship where everything and everyone matters.

We pray to "fall in love once again with the Great Mystery of Divine Incarnation so deep and long --to take on our bodied lives as God's very own, and finally, see each day as opportunity to bear Christ ever newly." John Kavanaugh, SJ

**Notice how you "bear Christ ever newly"
this week.**

**One Person of the Trinity
entered into the created cosmos,
throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross.**

Pope Francis, Laudato Si'



Jesus –
the image of the invisible God.
Col. 1:15

Cosmic Birth/Sacred Moment in Time
by Mary Southard

**Advent - Week 4
God Living and Acting in ME
Beginning ___ years ago**

All of us are meant to be "the second coming of Christ," but how can we recognize or honor this without recognizing both the first (creation) and the second (Jesus) Incarnations?

Richard Rohr, OFM

"We have the power to create a new world, and we have the power to destroy this one. How we choose depends on how we grasp this moment as the kiss of God, impelling us to stand up and speak."

Ilia Delio, OSF



Picture yourself here...

God is making God's Self
known to the world
through you!



Reflection

Advent Practice: Repeat this mantra daily.

I am meant to be the second coming of Christ. We, humanity, are meant to be the second coming of Christ.

Notice what happens within you as you breathe in and breathe out the words of the mantra.

Experience Christmas, 2022 as a kiss of God impelling you to create a new world in 2023.

International Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee

- Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS
- Sr. Rosa Elena Lozada Escobar, CBS
- Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ - Chair
- Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS
- Rachel Moccia
- Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, CBS - Co-chair
- Nicholas Stein
- Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS
- Sr. Chris Webb, CBS

We are born to be bright stars
in this cosmic life –
radiating love, beauty, goodness,
unity and truth –
the glory of God
is to shine out in our lives.

Ilia Delio, OSF