



Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Mission Focus: Women of healing... defending and caring for all creation

May & June 2025

The Spirit of Integral Ecology



Photo: Meesh Femenko

The convergence of World Oceans Day, World Environment Day, and Pentecost offers a profound opportunity for reflection, action, and transformation. It is a chance to embrace the wisdom of ecological spirituality emphasizing the Holy Spirit's role as the giver of life, not only to humanity but to all living things. The Spirit is seen as the divine energy that animates and sustains the entire cosmos, including the earth and its diverse ecosystems.

As we celebrate these days, we are called to reflect on the Spirit or breath of God active in and through all of creation. This Spirit empowers individuals, inspires prophets, and is a source of comfort and guidance to us as we take tangible steps towards caring for God's beautiful creation.

Ecological spirituality encourages experiencing the divine presence in the natural world. The Spirit reveals God's glory and character. As we celebrate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's Canticle of Creation, the 10th anniversary of our beloved departed Pope Francis' letter to the world, *Laudato Si'*, and the jubilee of hope let us nurture our spiritual connection to the Earth, recognizing that our care for the planet and all who call it home is an expression of our reverence for the divine.



May 24-31

Consider praying this beautiful **Creation Novena** from our friends at the Laudato Si' Movement.



Short video tribute

Thank you,
Francis



JPIC Days of Remembrance

May 1

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker/International Workers Day

May 24

Our Lady Help of Christians



Patron of the Sisters of Bon Secours

May 24-31

Laudato Si Week

June 5

World Environment Day

June 8

Pentecost

June 8

World Oceans Day

Bon Secours: Walking Through the World Pouring Out Balm on All Kinds of Sufferings

On May 24 we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady Help of Christians. At their founding over 200 years ago, the Sisters of Bon Secours were put under her patronage by their patron Archbishop Hyacinth-Louis de Quelen, Archbishop of Paris. The following excerpt from the *History of the Congregation of Bon Secours of Paris* explains the power of Our Lady Help of Christian's patronage.

"She whom the Church invokes as the health of the sick; who held her Divine Son's wounded body in her arms; who made miraculous water flow at Lourdes to cure all kinds of infirmities, she it is who, from the very beginning, should preside over the foundation of this new work. The Sisters of Bon Secours will draw from her heart a mother's devotion, sensitivity and delicacy, and under her inspirations they will walk through the world pouring oil and balm on all kinds of sufferings."

What does pouring oil and balm on all kinds of sufferings look like 201 years later? Perhaps it looks like caring for the suffering of the earth by building and using compost bins for our nursing home and beguinage in France or creating organic gardens to grow produce that provides nutritious foods for families in Peru.



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Our Lady of Bon Secours Watercolor, Martha Dougherty

Or maybe it is practicing the art of cultivating personal peace so that we can be peace to those suffering from domestic violence or violent conflict. Perhaps this pouring out looks like advocating with our lawmakers for policies that support our sisters and brothers living in poverty and our environment from destruction and destitution.

Yes, this is the work of the Bon Secours family today, 201 years later still drawing from the compassionate heart of Mary walking through the world with a mother's devotion, sensitivity and delicacy, as pilgrims of hope on a journey of healing, pouring out oil and balm on all kinds of suffering.

Listen to the Movement of the Spirit

In the depth of silence

listen to the beating of your heart,
listen to the gurgling of the stream,
listen to the blowing of the wind.

In the depth of silence,

listen to the cry of the unheard,
listen to the groaning of the hungry,
listen to the sigh of the oppressed.

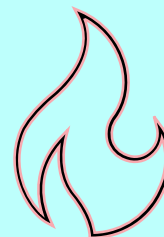
In the depth of silence,

listen to the peace of justice,
listen to the joy of celebration,
listen to the hope of a new world.

In the depth of silence,

listen to the movement of the Spirit.

Amen



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