

# Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

## Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours

### A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace



January, 2021  
Vol. 6, Number 5



Peace is a great and precious value,  
the object of our hope and the aspiration of the entire human family.

(Pope Francis)

As we greet this new year, COVID-19 and all its effects continue to ravage our planet. We mourn the loss of so many lives and hold the suffering of so many people who have lost livelihoods and homes. We mourn the loss of our personal freedom and long for the day when we can discard our masks and after months of being physically distant embrace one another again. No matter what land we call "home" we long for peace of mind, peace of heart and peace in our world as we welcome 2021.

There are many paths to peace and in this year's World Day of Peace Message, Pope Francis encourages us to embrace "a culture of care as a path to peace". A culture of care, being "good help to those in need", is the hallmark of the Bon Secours Family. As you reflect on the excerpts from Pope Francis' World Day of Peace Message in this Newsletter, allow his words to become more deeply rooted in your heart, compelling you to become a more committed peacemaker – caring for each other and Earth - as we enter this new year.

January  
JPIC Days of Remembrance

January 1  
World Day of Peace  
(Catholic Church)

January 18  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (USA)

January 24  
Foundation Day  
Sisters of Bon Secours of Paris



In the spirit of our Foundress,  
Josephine Potel,  
may we be a healing,  
compassionate and liberating  
presence as we care for each other  
and care for Earth,  
our common home.

January 27  
International Commemoration  
for Victims of the Holocaust

### Caring for Each Other

"The year 2020 was marked by the massive Covid-19 health crisis, which became a global phenomenon cutting across boundaries, aggravating deeply interrelated crises like those of **climate change**, food, the economy and **migration and homelessness**, and causing great suffering and hardship. We have also seen a surge in various forms of nationalism, **racism**, wars and conflicts that bring only death and destruction in their wake." (World Day of Peace Message, 2021)

"There is a need for peacemakers,  
men and women prepared to work boldly  
and creatively to initiate processes  
of healing and renewed encounter."

World Day of Peace Message, 2021

### Reflection

Pope Francis names some of the key justice priorities of Bon Secours in his 2021 World Day of Peace Message.

Pray with these quotes.

What do you need to be better prepared to work boldly to address racism, migration and homelessness in 2021?  
What might a "process of healing" look like within the Bon Secours family as we seek to address racism?



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

## Caring for Our Common Home

"The Encyclical *Laudato Si'* is fully aware that all creation is interconnected. It also highlights our need to listen to the cry of the poor and, at the same time, to the cry of creation. Constant and attentive listening leads in turn to effective care for the earth, our common home, and for our brothers and sisters in need. Here I would once again point out that "a sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be authentic if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings". (World Day of Peace Message, 2021)

### Reflection

Over this past year we have been creating a "culture of care" for Mother Earth through our commitment to Meatless Mondays, decreasing use of plastics and water, and addressing our fossil fuel use as a global family of Bon Secours. It is in listening to the "cry of Earth" that we are compelled and inspired us to adopt these practices on behalf of future generations and the integrity of the natural world.

*Do I take time to see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor each day?*

*What challenges or joys do I experience as I reflect on my personal Earth-care practices?*

*What next step will help me turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and those who are poor?*

*"Peace, justice and care for creation are three inherently connected questions, which cannot be separated in such a way as to be treated individually, lest we fall back into reductionism."*

*(World Day of Peace Message, 2021)*



### Sustainable Catholic Communities in the Spirit of Integral Ecology of *Laudato Si'*

The Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development has developed a plan that will be initiated in May, 2021 to help Catholic communities around the world become more sustainable in the spirit of the integral human development of *Laudato Si'*. The seven-year effort includes mobilizing seven sectors within the global Catholic community: **families**; dioceses; schools; universities; **healthcare centers**; business and agriculture; and **religious orders** to journey toward these goals:

- responding to the cry of Earth and cry of the poor
- adopting simple lifestyle
- creating ecological education
- recovering ecological spirituality
- and promoting community action and advocacy



Mark your calendar for UISG webinars about this effort that are scheduled for January 21, April 15 and June 10, 2021. More details will be communicated when the UISG finalizes these plans.

### Read Pope Francis' World Day of Peace Message here:

**English:** [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/pa-francesco\\_20201208\\_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/pa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html)

**French:** [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/fr/messages/peace/documents/pa-francesco\\_20201208\\_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/fr/messages/peace/documents/pa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html)

**Spanish:** [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/es/messages/peace/documents/pa-francesco\\_20201208\\_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/es/messages/peace/documents/pa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html)

### Welcome Rachel Moccia to the International JPIC Committee!

*"I see my vocation as helping Catholics understand and act upon our faith's call to work for peace and justice."* (Rachel Moccia)



We warmly welcome Bon Secours Young Adult, Rachel Moccia, to the International JPIC Committee to succeed Sr. Fran Gorsuch whose term ended on December 31. Rachel currently works for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in New York in their outreach division. In that capacity she oversees the CRS training strategy forming participants in the Catholic call to work for justice, educating them about pressing global justice issues, and equipping them to take action. Rachel is truly gifted and brings to our committee a knowledge of Catholic social teaching, experience in grassroots advocacy and a newly acquired skill of producing virtual events.

Rachel's entire professional career has focused on educating Catholics about justice issues and moving them to action, and she looks forward to using this experience to enhance our Congregation's work for peace, justice and care for creation.

### Thank you, Sr. Fran Gorsuch...

...for your many years of service on the International JPIC Committee! We are grateful for the immense passion you bring to our JPIC work and are thrilled you will still be part of the USA JPIC Team!



### International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

- Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS (Peru)
- Eileen Fernandini, Associate (USA)
- Camille Grippon (USA and France Liaison)
- Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ Co-chair
- Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Anne Marie Mack, CBS (USA) Chair
- Rachel Moccia, Bon Secours Young Adult (USA)
- Sr. Maria Pintado Peña, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Yolanda Morales Valiente, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Chris Webb, CBS (USA)