



NewsNotes

August 2022

Greetings!

This edition of NewsNotes comes to you in the middle of our two weeks of vacation but I had a thought to share.

There is no vacation from climate change.

Vacation started on a disheartening note. We could not pick up the key to our rental until 3 PM so we spent a few hours sitting under a portico at the Manasquan inlet on the New Jersey coast. It was hot! The inlet connects the ocean to the bay. For three hours there were pleasure craft going in and out of the inlet at relatively high speeds sometimes with a group, other craft were driven solo. These pleasure boats rarely had a single engine with some having as many of five outboard motors working at once. It occurred to me that there were hundreds of gallons of fuel being burned every minute for some to have fun on the water...but at what cost?

As the temperature was over 90 F you might think some would give thought to the connection between their fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, rising seas, stronger, more destructive storms. This is especially the case because the area depends on people coming to the beaches for its economic life. But no, it was pleasure as usual.

Friends, we have a lot of work to do to help people understand that saving the planet for future generations of humans will require significant changes in lifestyle, as uncomfortable as that may be.

Anything we can do to raise our, or another's consciousness of our critical situation is important work.

Even on vacation.

Peace and all good,

Frank

Frank McCann
Peace through Justice Facilitator
Congregation's NGO Representative to the UN



[Pope Francis' message on the Day of Prayer for Creation](#)



September 1 is World Day of Prayer for Creation. This year, Pope Francis issued his statement for the day early so that we would have time to read and

take it to heart. He hopes that in taking it to heart we will deepen our ecological conversion so as to respond to the critical needs of our time. Pope Francis wants us to listen to the cry of Earth, to the silence of species that no longer exist, to the poor who suffer and especially those exploited by our use of Earth. He challenges us, in particular to hear the anguished cries of native peoples whose lands are being desecrated and to the cries of our children and young adults who cry out for we adults to do all that we can to prevent the collapse of our ecosystems.

This listening should inspire a response that will include change in attitudes and lifestyles. "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (*Laudato Si'*, 217)." Furthermore, the conversion Francis is seeking is not just individual but communal.

This November COP 27 will take place to place before the nations another opportunity to respond to the Paris Climate Accords. The task of keeping the temperature rise below 1.5 C is formidable and some scientists say we will surpass that mark, and incur the changes it will bring, by 2030. Nevertheless, we have a responsibility to act. COP 15 will also take place in Canada this December. Nations will be offered a plan to reverse the loss of biodiversity so necessary for our survival.

Weather events the past few months should leave no doubt that the predicted outcomes of global warming are becoming our reality. Our Congregation is responding in part through our Laudato Si Action Teams which are developing goals for our next years of work on the seven Laudato Si Goals. If you have not joined one, please feel free to do so.

Human Right to a healthy environment adopted at the UN



With 161 votes in favour, and eight abstentions, the UN General Assembly adopted a historic resolution on Thursday, declaring access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, a universal human right.

The resolution, based on a [similar text adopted last year](#) by the [Human Rights](#)