

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace



NewsNotes November 2023

Greetings,

“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”

—Rachel Carson

This quote from Rachel Carson, author of the *Silent Spring*, ties together the two things that have filled my inbox and my soul this past month. Pope Francis Apostolic Exhortation was issued on October 4th at the end of the season of creation. In it he expresses his disappointment at our not hearing what we were taught in *Laudato Si*. How little progress has been made, most especially in the reduction of carbon emissions where we continue to increase, rather than decrease our use of fossil fuel. In our reluctance to change, we continue to do violence to our common home.

And violence surrounds us from gun violence in Maine to the bloodbath in Gaza.

We who believe that peace comes through justice cannot be surprised and still outraged by the rampage of Hamas on October 7th. We should have been aware of the mistreatment of Palestinians since 1948 and more recently as those in Gaza have been treated like caged animals. I hope that we collectively learn that peace will not be achieved by fear and intimidation.

We need to re-think what "security" really means and how it is achieved. Jesus refused the sword when his own innocent life was threatened.

Our UN meeting of religious congregations just decided to join in daily prayer for peace and the end of violence daily at 9 AM. Feel free to join us.

Peace and all good,

Frank

Frank McCann
Peace through Justice Facilitator
Congregation's NGO Representative to the UN
Laudato Si' Action Platform Coordinator



Pope's Laudate Deum speaks of his heartbreak



Laudate Deum, translated "Praise God!", was released on the Feast of St. Francis October 4th as a follow up to Laudato Si. In it, Pope Francis no longer speaks of climate change but of the climate crisis, speaking to the urgency he is feeling eight years after Laudato Si and so little progress having been made. It is not an encyclical but an Apostolic Exhortation. Laudato Si was the teaching encyclical, Laudate Deum is a call to action. Nineteen of the forty-four footnotes cited are from Laudato Si and seven more come from Fratelli Tutti.

Francis begins by taking in the climate change deniers using scientific data. Some deniers claim that there have always been rises and falls in Earth's