

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace



NewsNotes **December 2022**

Greetings!

Thanksgiving was a fun time in our home. Despite our move to Pennsylvania, we saw most all of our New Jersey family members who would join us before Covid made it difficult for a few years. It was spread over a full four days with lots of food served.

A particular delight was a visit from our youngest grandchild, born in January just before before Covid caused the shutdown. She will be three this January and is filled with natural curiosity which she explores with her big bright eyes.

She would follow me around and on one trip into my home office she picked a book off the shelf for and lifted it up for me to read to her. It had a pink cover, but she soon realized to her disappointment that it had no pictures. (it was a commentary on the books of James and Peter.) Instead, we wandered downstairs where she began to "color" pictures noting the differences in the colors pink and peach for my benefit.

Her ability to be disappointed and yet find an alternative was a good example for me. I am still a little frustrated in finding a suitable church home here. This is what I wait and pray for this advent season. In the meantime I continue to explore and choose between options each weekend.

There is certainly no shortage of work to do as is evidenced by the stories below. Advent waiting need not be done on our backsides but can happen in our doing as well.

That being said, I will be taking some time off the last week of this year and the first week of next year. There will be no NewsNotes on January 1. So enjoy your holidays and I will catch up to you some time in the second or third week of January, or as special needs may require.

Peace and all good,

Frank

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



COP 15: Gathering to protect biodiversity

The 15th Conference of Parties (COP) on biodiversity will begin in Montreal on Monday, 5 December. Blair Nelsen, Executive Director of Waterspirit and one of our CSJP UN representatives has been working on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that will hopefully be adopted at this COP. Our CSJP Congregation has signed up in support of the [Multi-Faith Response to the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework](#) on which Blair has worked on our behalf.

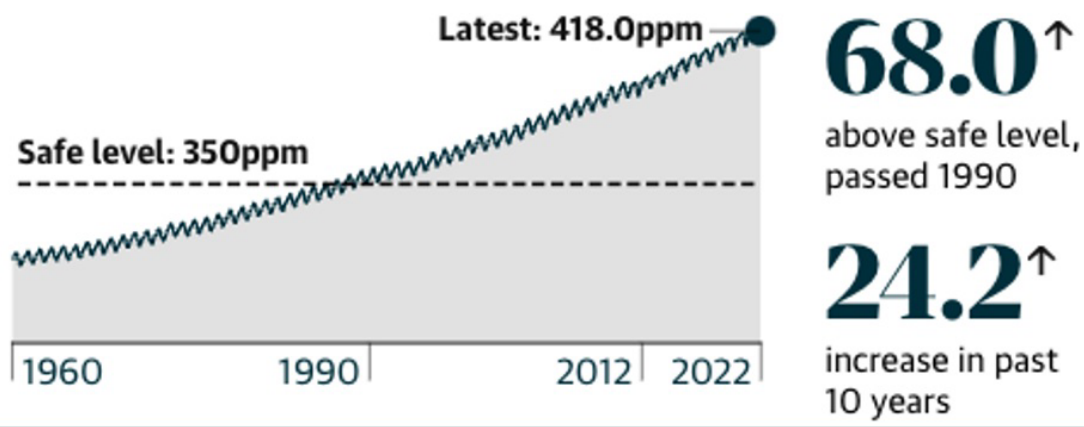
Biodiversity encompasses all varieties of life: plants, animals down to the smallest microorganisms we cannot see with our naked eyes. It also includes the ecosystems and habitats of all life forms. Many of these species and ecosystems are now threatened...many have already become extinct...and we must plan to save what still exists. The rate of extinction is accelerating.

Pope Francis is fond of saying that the Creator gave us Eden, and we cannot pass on a desert to the next generations.

The hope for the COP is that biodiversity will be protected and receive the same protections as other COP meetings attempt to offer for climate.

In order to lend awareness and our support to the conference and as a way of praying for its success, it will be worthwhile to pay particular attention to the varied life forms we encounter. To see what the birds are eating, to notice what is in the air we breathe, to notice the effect of yeast in the bread we eat and to notice the purity, or lack thereof, in the water we drink. Sharing some of what we notice when we gather for meetings or meals may help others to understand the importance of biodiversity in all our lives.

Outcomes from COP 27 in Egypt



One of the first outcomes of COP 27 was a realization that the hope of capping the warming of Earth at 1.5 degrees appears to be no longer possible. The failure of the participants to agree to a fossil fuel non-proliferation agreement brings on the pessimistic outlook for the future. Apparently, there were more lobbyists from fossil fuel companies than delegates expected. They teamed up with the Petro-states to resist agreements to phase out fossil fuels in the near future.

Another factor is the growing rift between developing nations and the developed nations that have created most of the carbon build up that is affecting climate change. Reports reveal a growing animosity between the two groups that was exacerbated by the failures of wealthy countries to equitably distribute Covid vaccines globally.

One potentially positive outcome of COP 27, urged by the developing nations, was to create a fund to enable vulnerable nations to recover when climate disaster strikes. The idea of such a fund was introduced at the COP in Rio in 1993 but was not agreed to until 40 hours after the scheduled end of COP 27. An obstacle to "loss and damage fund" was the developed nation's desires to have a fund sourced by IMF and World Bank funding as well as by individual nations. That fund would likely add to the debt of the developing nations. China, which is now the carbon emission leader is attending to some needs of smaller, climate vulnerable nations and with their help was able to rebuff efforts of the US & EU to bring China's emissions under control and in line with the 1.5 degree goal.

Saudi Arabia is also a petro-state objecting to emissions controls and restrictions on the burning of fossil fuels. Ironically, (Karma?) the Saudi city of Jeddah received 3 years-worth of normal rainfall in six hours on November 25th that saw even the large SUVs preferred in that country floating down streets driven by flood waters. This just five days after the end of COP 27.

One sign of hope is that the faith-based organizations that were witnesses to the disappointment of another COP meeting are making plans to coordinate together before the next COP. More on that in future NewsNotes.

How privatisation broke England's water system and polluted our rivers