



NewsNotes Midsummer 2023

Before heading out for some R&R, I wanted to share a few things that are time sensitive. In the spirit of summer there is nothing herein that is very complicated but rather there are opportunities to sign onto important letters, some notices about upcoming events and a few items to contemplate.

Peace and blessings to all,

Frank

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

NETWORK asks sign-ons to two letters



#1 Write to support the Afghan Adjustment Act.

As Bishop Mark Seitz, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, said in a recent letter to Congress, the **Afghan Adjustment Act's** "passage is a moral imperative for a country such as ours that embraces both freedom and the rule of law."

Most Afghans arrived with humanitarian parole, which only allows someone to remain in the United States for a temporary duration. Currently, the only pathway available to most of those relocated to the United States is asylum, a complex and paperwork-intensive process with years-long processing backlogs. In order to make a successful asylum claim, these Afghans will be asked to provide proof of their likely persecution if returned to Afghanistan—because of their work with Americans or international aid groups, because of their efforts to report the truth about conditions on the ground, because of their support for democratic values and human rights, or because of other acts not tolerated by the Taliban. Documents and other physical evidence that demonstrate this are the same ones that Afghans were advised to destroy in order to escape or elude the Taliban in the days that preceded their evacuation by the U.S. government.

Nearly two years since the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, over 85% of those evacuated remain dependent on humanitarian parole or other temporary protections, and the vast majority are unlikely to attain asylum or special immigrant status. As Bishop Seitz stated in his letter, "This is untenable—for the families themselves, their employers, federal agencies, and the communities they now call home."

The Afghan Adjustment Act, patterned after similar laws, including legislation enacted after the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam, would address this defect, fulfilling our nation's promise to these families, demonstrating the United States' commitment to its allies, and reaffirming the importance of humanitarian protection. It would allow Afghans to apply to become lawful permanent residents, the same status they would have received had they been admitted through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

Help answer Pope Francis' call for us to "welcome, protect, promote, and integrate" these newcomers by completing this action alert in support of the Afghan Adjustment Act.

[TAKE ACTION HERE](#)

#2 Sign to return dignity to Asylum Seekers

NETWORK is seeking signatures from Catholic Justice Seekers on a letter to your US Senators entitled "Restoring Asylum and Dignity for Immigrants. 10,000 signatures are needed.

Recently, NETWORK hosted a webinar, *Restoring Asylum and Dignity for Immigrants*, that made it clear that current U.S. immigration policy fails to provide people seeking a new life in our country with a respectful and fair process. All immigrants deserve dignity, no exceptions! Catholic Sisters, clergy, and laypeople can influence a change in policy so that all immigrants are met with a well-funded, lawful asylum process, and a dignified welcome.

Catholic justice-seekers*, [please sign-on to a letter](#) created by NETWORK and other Catholic immigration advocacy and human rights organizations to let Congress know that *NOW* is the time to invest in better, just immigration

policy.

Upcoming webinars with NETWORK begin in September

Our CSJP Congregation is one of the congregations in LCWR Region 3 that will be sponsoring and taking part in a course entitled "**Engaging Democracy, Pursuing Justice**" course with NETWORK, the Catholic Sisters' social Justice Lobby. There will be four sessions starting in September and continuing on the third Wednesday of the month in October, November and January. All sisters and associates are welcome to attend as we hope to be updated on critical issues and actions to take before the 2024 elections. Sessions will begin at 6:30 PM ET. More information will follow.

Contemplating nature and sharing your photos



This photo speaks to me of Nature's continuing cycles of life-death-rebirth to new life. It makes me consider how different aspects of my life are in different phases of life-death-rebirth. I also consider my own place in the larger circle of life.

The Ecological Conversion team has asked Sisters and Associates to share

photos as they spend time in nature this summer. We are encouraged to take a photo of something in nature that grabs our attention, due to its beauty or to what God might be saying to one of us at this time. Submission of the photo and a sentence or two about its meaning can be submitted to the Peace through Justice Facilitator at the address contained at the bottom of NewsNotes.

At the beginning of the Season of Creation, September 1- October 4th, we will begin to share those photos and thoughts so we can all see and hear what our sisters and brothers found in nature. After the Feast of St. Francis we will schedule a zoom call to share our thoughts and thanks for what has been shared.

Sacred Salmon Campaign



Photo by Brandon on Unsplash

IPJC is in the initial stages of mobilizing the Catholic community to advocate for the removal of 4 dams on the Lower Snake River in partnership with a coalition of indigenous communities and environmental justice organizations. A digital kick-off event will happen in mid-late August, building events in Olympia (9/23), Spokane (9/28), and Seattle (10/1)! Please stay tuned for promotional information and pathways to get involved in the work.

CSJP participation is encouraged!

To learn more about this issue, read IPJC's Spring 2023 AMOS Issue: [Sacred Salmon](#)

Vegan Diet Massively cuts environmental damage, study shows



Photo by [Anna Pelzer](#) on Unsplash

From the Guardian 7/20/23

Eating a vegan diet massively reduces the damage to the environment caused by food production, the most comprehensive analysis to date has concluded. The research showed that vegan diets resulted in 75% less climate-heating emissions, water pollution and land use than diets in which more than 100g of meat a day was eaten. Vegan diets also cut the destruction of wildlife by 66% and water use by 54%, the study found.

The [heavy impact of meat and dairy on the planet](#) is well known, and people in rich nations will have to [slash their meat consumption](#) in order to end the climate crisis. But previous studies have used model diets and average values for the impact of each food type.

In contrast, the new study analysed the real diets of 55,000 people in the UK. It also used data from 38,000 farms in 119 countries to account for differences in the impact of particular foods that are produced in different ways and places. This significantly strengthens confidence in the conclusions.

[Read the entire article here.](#)

IASJ initiates new Shifting Gears Campaign focused on EVs

Investor Advocates for Social Justice

Investor Advocates for Social Justice (IASJ) the CSJP partner in shareholder advocacy, will open a second phase of a campaign entitled "Shifting Gears." To consider the human rights impacts in the EV value chain.

The campaign roll out is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26 and will look at the policies and procedures of Ford, GM, Tesla, BMW and others. It will be important not to repeat mistakes of the past in the transition to electric vehicle manufacturing.

Pope Francis declares "No to war." Is anyone listening?



July 13, 2023

By Tony Magliano

"We are living at a crucial moment for humanity, in which peace seems to give way to war. Conflicts are growing, and stability is increasingly put at risk. We are experiencing a third world war fought piecemeal, which, as time passes, seems to become ever more widespread," warned Pope Francis to members of the United Nations Security Council during their recent meeting at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Due to the Holy Father's post-surgical recovery at the time of the Security Council's meeting, Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, Vatican foreign minister, read the Holy Father's dynamic message, which went on to say, "As a man of faith I believe that peace is God's dream for humanity. Yet sadly I note that because of war, this wonderful dream is becoming changed into a nightmare."

In highly critical language to weapon producing corporations, and thus to the individuals who comprise them, and those who hold stock in them, Pope Francis says, "From the economic point of view, war is often more enticing than peace, inasmuch as it promotes profit, but always for a few and at the expense of the wellbeing of entire populations. The money earned from arms sales is thus money soiled with innocent blood."

See Pope Francis' powerful video illustrating this hellish reality:

With inspiringly prophetic language the Holy Father attempts to move us to a morally higher way of thinking and acting. He says, "It takes more courage to renounce easy profits for the sake of keeping peace than to sell ever more sophisticated and powerful weapons. It takes more courage to seek peace than to wage war. It takes more courage to promote encounter than confrontation, to sit at the negotiating table than to continue hostilities."

And his powerful language continues, "In order to make peace a reality, we must move away from the logic of the legitimacy of war: If this were valid in earlier times, when wars were more limited in scope, in our own day, with nuclear weapons and those of mass destruction, the battlefield has become practically unlimited, and the effects potentially catastrophic."

And thus, Pope Francis declares in his ordinary magisterium as the leader of the Catholic Church: "The time has come to say an emphatic 'no' to war, to state that wars are not just, but only peace is just – a stable and lasting peace, built not on the precarious balance of deterrence, but on the fraternity that unites us."

With these words of the Supreme Pontiff, it can be credibly argued that the Catholic Church is being directed to understand that the "just-war theory" – if it ever had any moral legitimacy, and that's a big "if" – cannot in anyway claim today that it morally reflects Gospel-based truth. If we take this teaching by Pope Francis seriously – and indeed we should – this is monumental! It deserves serious study, discussion and prayer in our churches, schools, universities, corporations and halls of government.

Pope Francis adds, "Where will we end up if everyone thinks of themselves? So those who strive to build peace must promote fraternity."

Building peace is a craft that requires passion and patience, experience and farsightedness, tenacity and dedication, dialogue and diplomacy. And listening as well: listening to the cries of those who are suffering because of wars, especially the children. Their tear-stained eyes judge us: the future we prepare for them will be the court of our present choices."

Please reflectively read the Holy Father's [full address to the U.N. Security Council](#), and prayerfully discern what the Holy Spirit is calling you to do. Pope Francis places both the hope, and the challenge, before us: "Peace is possible if it is truly desired!"

Do we truly desire it?

Meditation for Earth



Please join Waterspirit for a 30 minute "Meditation for Earth" in-person in the Sanctuary at the Rumson Presbyterian Church 4 East River Road, or livestreamed on Waterspirit's YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFzJckCctU22hEjrmolitwQ>

[Find the Meditation on the Waterspirit YouTube Channel.](#)



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

The Season of Creation 1 September 1 until 4 October

Stay tuned to the Season of Creation 2023. Theme of this year "*Let Justice and Peace Flow*". The symbol is a Mighty River. "The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. As we join the river of justice and peace with others then hope is created instead of despair" (Season of Creation, 2023).

Anyone interested in planning an event for that time should contact Frank MCann.

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Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace | 399 Hudson Terrace, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632