



FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2020

**SHP-SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS
NEWS BRIEF**

Dear Sisters, Associates, and Friends,

Some of you were dismayed with the attachments to the Friday News Brief from last week. In apology, my intent was to bring to awareness our Catholic Social Teaching in the context of our world today, as highlighted by NETWORK (Advocates for Justice, inspired by Catholic Sisters). This organization has been trusted to make Catholics aware of current social justice issues in light of the Church's teaching for the last 50 years, working with and on behalf of the Church in making current issues and situations known. This was done in these articles. There were quotes from the Vatican Documents of the Second Vatican Council and quotes from our papal leader, Pope Francis.

How you vote is of course to be your choice based on your properly formed conscience. The responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each person. This participation goes well beyond casting your vote in a particular election. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops do not tell Catholics "for whom or against whom to vote!"

Sometimes Catholic Social Teaching is referred to as the "best kept secret of the Catholic Church," because we have not become deeply knowledgeable about it nor incorporated it in our day to day reflection on life. It embraces life "from womb to tomb" and all the moments in between. The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Attached is a copy of [Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching](#). It lacks the human experiences of each day that enliven it, but it is a beginning.

For those interested, there are wonderful Vatican Documents, books, videos, and more you can find on Google, if you want to go deeper.

*Most respectfully,
Sr. Sarah Manchester, Vicar*

✓ **JUST DO IT!**

Sisters, please help and share the responsibility of writing a brief greeting for our feast days listed below. These greetings are usually only a paragraph. They are distributed to our sisters, associates, and other provincial councils. Please contact Donna Kroll within the next week to schedule your preference. Donna will also help with layout, artwork, and distribution. Thank you!

- November 17th Feast of St. Elizabeth
- November 19th Catherine Damen's Birthday
- November 26th Thanksgiving
- December Christmas Card
- January 1st New Year's
- February 14th Valentine's Day

THIRD TIMES THE CHARM – **SHP'S PROVINCIAL CHAPTER – RESCHEDULED**

Due to the restriction of COVID, SHP has rescheduled **their Provincial Chapter to Sunday, May 30 through Sunday, June 6, 2021.** Your council and facilitators have lots of activities and ideas to keep the motivation going for the next nine months, prior to chapter! Stay tuned!

LCWR – 2020 ASSEMBLY:

Dear Sisters, At the National LCWR Virtual Assembly in mid-August, there was discussion of making the presentations more widely available to our sisters. There were no audio or visual recording done this year, as in the past. I am forwarding the Presidential Address to each of you, a wonderful reflection on the theme for the assembly, God's Infinite Vision: Our Journey to the Borders and Beyond. It is long, but I find taking each border and long note for prayer is wonderful for contemplation. Hope it is fruitful for you. *Sr. Sarah Manchester*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE SOUL OF:

Sr. Maria Lourdes Kraemer, who died on August 25, 2020. She was born on December 31, 1914 and professed on February 3, 1957. Sr. Maria was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Province in Santa Maria, RS-Brazil.

Lizzy (Elizabeth) Durnford, who died suddenly on August 17th. Lizzy was 30 years of age. She also was a single mom with a 3-year-old son. Please keep the Durnford family (friends of Donna Kroll) in your prayers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING REQUEST(s):

Joe Tangi, who is currently on kidney dialysis. Joe recently had a hip replacement – and then was hospitalized five times for complications. (also, a friend of Donna Kroll)

PRAYER FOR THE MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES OF OUR TIME.:

All three U.S. provinces are sharing the attached prayer with their sisters and associates.



SEASON OF CREATION:

The attached letters are from our General Council and Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, regarding the Season of Creation from **September 1 – October 4, 2020.**

EARTHCARE:

SEASON OF CREATION – SEPTEMBER 1 DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION

A Time to Reflect on our Relationship with Creation

In recent years besides Advent and Lent, the Church has set aside the time of September 1st to October 4th to the conversion, the turning of our hearts and minds to Creation. As Franciscans this is a special invitation to grow and share our call. St. Francis was called the Patron of the Environment by Pope John Paul. He did this to alert us to “a very grave problem: the destruction of the environment. “

“The environment is the home of elements, plants, animals and humans. The world belongs to God because he made it. He handed it over to us to develop, not to destroy; to take care of lovingly, not to misuse selfishly and thoughtlessly.” *Eric Doyle, OFM 1938-1984*

Prayer: All-Powerful...God, All good, may we give You all praise! St. Francis.

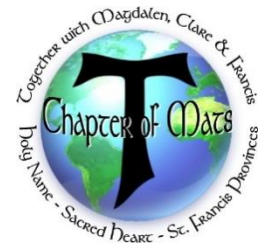
Reflect: What in creation to me is the Face of God?

Sharing: What am I aware of misusing in creation?
What is a way I feel called to acknowledge my sister/brotherhood with this aspect of creation?

Action: I commit myself to action on behalf of creation. What?

CHAPTER OF MATS – GATHERING OF SISTERS AND ASSOCIATES:

We are happy to announce that our Sisters of St. Francis - **Chapter of Mats** for all sisters and associates in the three US provinces is underway! This event will be held from **August 27-30, 2021**, in Stella Niagara, NY!

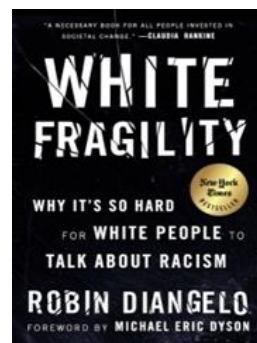


We are trying to get an estimate of how many people will be attending this gathering so we can reserve enough space. The attached invitation contains more details. We realize that anything can happen in a year – but we are asking you to give us your best tentative RSVP. PLEASE complete one of the attached tentative registration forms and return it to me (Donna Kroll) form via email, US-mail, or fax by **September 30, 2020.** (Note, one is an easy WORD fillable form, the other is a handwritten form.)

Thank you and we look forward to gathering with you!

WHITE FRAGILITY – CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACISM:

Our friends and facilitators, Melissa Bailey Kirk and Robin Caruthers will be having three Zoom sessions (90 minutes each) for Sisters and Associates to have conversations around the concepts and information in the book, *White Fragility*, by Robin DiAngelo.



- ~~✓ Saturday, August 15, 2020~~
- ~~✓ Saturday, August 22, 2020~~
- **Saturday, August 29, 2020**

All sessions at 7:00-8:30 pm, EST, 5:00-6:30 pm MST, 4:00-5:30 pm PST

Please contact Robin Caruthers via email at rmcaruthers@sbcglobal.net , and she will send you the ZOOM link.

LCWR WEBINAR: SPIRITUALITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE FOR OUR TIME

In view of LCWR's five-year focus on racism, Sr. Theresa is writing to let you know that Dan Horan, OFM, will present a webinar on "Thomas Merton and Black Lives Matter: Spirituality and Racial Justice for Our Time," on September 8th at 8:00 PM ET / 7:00 PM CT. This is the first in the "Tuesdays with Merton" webinar series sponsored by the Bernardine Center at Catholic Theological Union International and the International Thomas Merton Society. The webinar is free and open to the public. See the attachment for more info. Registration is required. Please share this announcement with your sisters and others who may be interested. *Theresa Sandok, OSM*

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIpceGqrz0uH930mrgKtM6fX6iIxEc0tR0F>

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ATTACHMENTS:

- Holy Name Province-Around The Province (ATP), August 2020

SR. SARAH MANCHESTER'S SCHEDULE:

- September 10 Zoom w Facilitators
- September 14-15 Council Meeting
- October 15-16 Council Meeting
- November 23-24 Council Meeting
- December 16-17 Council Meeting