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**August 5, 2019**

**We, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and our partners assembled for our Congregational Chapter, make public our concern about the disturbing state of politics in the United States. We are appalled and saddened at the growing polarization, which is intensified by incivility, bigotry, racism,**

**intolerance, and deception.**

**August**

August 6 74th Anniversary of bombing of Hiroshima

August 9 74th Anniversary of bombing of Nagasaki

August 9 International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples

August 19 World Humanitarian Day

August 26 Women’s Equality Day

**September**

Sept.1-Oct 4 Season of Creation

Sept. 14-22 Nonviolent Week of Action

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**TAKING ACTION**

**Be a voice for the voiceless
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***When will it stop?***

Another shooting, 250 people killed since January 1st. Congress will not be in DC during the month of August. You can call your local Senator or representative’s office to voice your support for safe gun control and financial support for research addressing the underlying cause of this epidemic. Call Senator Mitch McConnell to encourage him to bring legislation on safe gun laws to the floor for a vote. Phone number for Mitch McConnell in his DC office is [(202) 224-2541](https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&ei=coFAXYKMA6H59AP_wrLYDQ&q=address+for+senator+mitch+mcconnell&oq=address+for+Senator+Mitch+McConnell&gs_l=psy-ab.1.0.0j0i22i30.2821.16535..20981...0.0..0.327.3036.35j3-1......0....1..gws-wiz.......35i39j0i131j0i67j0i131i67j35i305i39j0i20i263j0i131i20i263.ONb_KNVytUw) and (270) 781-1673 for local office in Kentucky.

[***Stop ICE Detention Contracts with Hotels***](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=CBkO%2FUJF3QKOt6%2FlElHq%2BLn8cUgOmeNv)

Stay tuned for more information on joining the campaign to stop ICE contracts with hotels for detention purposes! If you want to sign now, please go to [http://bit.ly/NNIRRNoHotelsforICE](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=qp1i8%2FEBaLzpePqb1ieE0bn8cUgOmeNv)

***Stop Plastic Pollution***

More than 270 community and conservation organizations are calling on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to rein in pollution from industrial plants that make plastic. Right now the industry is filling our waterways with tiny plastic pellets and toxic chemicals — and being allowed to do so by lax rules from decades ago. It has to stop.

[**Tell the EPA we have a plastic pollution crisis: It has to fix those outdated rules and, using the Clean Water Act, ban those companies from discharging plastic pellets and other toxic pollutants.**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/8629117/83834145/559536570?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9DQkQvQ0JELzEvNjE0MjkiLA0KICAiRGlzdHJpYnV0aW9uVW5pcXVlSWQiOiAiNzQ0ZDgzYjktZTdiMS1lOTExLWJjZDAtMjgxODc4MzkxZWZiIiwNCiAgIkVtYWlsQWRkcmVzcyI6ICJkc21pdGhAY3NqbGEub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=Vg9xeTUSZRCjIR-pMukvXQBRvXseZ45aKLt0wlMqYfw=&sourceid=1005295&utm_source=action&utm_medium=email&emci=c954f799-0ca8-e911-bcd0-281878391efb&emdi=744d83b9-e7b1-e911-bcd0-281878391efb&ceid=650609&smartlinkdata=JmZuPURpYW5lJmxuPVNtaXRoJmVtPWRzbWl0aCU0MGNzamxhLm9yZyZhZGQxPTExOTk5K0NoYWxvbitSZCsmY2k9TG9zK0FuZ2VsZXMmc3Q9Q0EmcGM9OTAwNDkmbXA9MzEwODg5MjExOSZtcGNjPVVTJnA9U3IuJmM9VVM%3D)

***Carbon Offset***

Did you know that air travel is one of the worst things one can do for the climate because of the pollution is causes. Our community has calculated the greenhouse gases caused by flying to our province and general chapter. A financial commitment was made organizations dedicated to offset these emissions. This could include projects to develop renewable energy, capturing methane from landfills or by planting a tree. Click on the following link to learn more.

<https://nativeenergy.com/our-approach/carbon-offsets/>

***And*** from Earth Day network: [Help plant billions of trees around the world](https://default.salsalabs.org/T313d1264-f4e8-457b-8056-10c3eb9d5158/7e44523c-d9d2-489e-adb0-45eb039f29f9) through the Canopy Project. With your support, we can seize the enormous benefits of trees, for people and planet!



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**INFORMATION/RESOURCES**

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[***UN chief warns INF treaty expiry increases missile threat***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lIeuCCjbkDDihIbHCieHdeCicNFakH?format=multipart)

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres this week voiced his concern over escalating tensions between states in possession of nuclear arms, warning that the expiration of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty will increase threats posed by ballistic missiles. The United States has said it will pull out of the deal and develop new missiles since the Russians have declined to destroy theirs.

[***UNICEF builds schools from plastic waste in Cote d'Ivoire***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lHxeCCjbkDDiheqbCieHdeCicNhiey?format=multipart)

UNICEF is working in partnership with a Colombian social enterprise to build a factory in Cote d'Ivoire that will convert plastic waste into building blocks for the construction of schools. "This factory will be at the cutting edge of smart, scalable solutions for some of the major education challenges that Africa's children and communities face," says UNICEF executive director Henrietta Fore.

***Youth and the Earth***

A link to a site for youth involvement in Laudata Si (the month of prayer and action on behalf of our common home begins Sept. 1).  This might be of interest to your students and youth groups.

<https://laudatosigeneration.org/>

(Courtesy of Sr. Sara Sanders)

***Congress Approves Budget Deal***
Following approval by the House last week the Senate voted in favor of the two-year budget agreement worked out between the White House and congressional Democrats on Aug. 1. The agreement sets funding levels for appropriations until 2021, raising spending by $320 billion, lifting the debt ceiling for two years and allowing the Budget Control Act of 2011 to expire. President Trump has indicated that he will sign the bill. The passage of the budget deal clears the way for Congress to adjourn for the next five weeks, reconvening on Sept. 8. CHA will provide an action alert next week with messages to take to members of Congress over the August break.