

**May 18, 2020**

***"Quietly go to work on your own self-awareness. If you want to awaken all of humanity, then awaken all of yourself. If you want to eliminate the suffering in the world, then eliminate all that is dark and negative in yourself. Truly, the greatest gift you have to give is that of your own self-transformation."***

***—Lao Tzu (translated by Brian Browne Walker***)

**May**

**Asian American Month**

**Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

May 16-24 Laudato Si’ Week

May 21 Cultural Diversity Day for Dialogue and Development

May 24 Anniversary of Laudato Si’

May 25 Memorial Day

**Taking Action**

**(Be a voice for the voiceless)**

***Not too late to Join CSSJs Nationwide in Prayer, Programs, Action during Laudato Si’ Week, May 16-23***

To mark the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si’*, the Carondelet congregation and the U.S. Federation are offering opportunities to act together in a strategic way to care for creation. Our emphasis will be the impact of plastics on our environment. Artwork and prayer services from by Federation artists, along with videos and discussions, presentations by S. Lin Neil, and suggested ways to respond are part of the *Laudato Si’* Week’s activities, May 16-23. For a list of activities and registration links, go to: <https://csjcarondelet.org/laudato-si-week/>

***Claim your Power!***

Citizens’ Climate Lobby is a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change.

Our consistently respectful, nonpartisan approach to climate education is designed to create a broad, sustainable foundation for climate action across all geographic regions and political inclinations. By building upon shared values rather than partisan divides, and empowering our supporters to work in keeping with the concerns of their local communities, we work towards the adoption of fair, effective, and sustainable climate change solutions.

In order to generate the political will necessary for passage of the [Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act](https://citizensclimatelobby.org/energy-innovation-and-carbon-dividend-act/) we train and support volunteers to build relationships with elected officials, the media and their local community. For more information click here: [Join Us!](https://citizensclimatelobby.org/join-citizens-climate-lobby/)

***Take the Pledge***

Pax Christi USA has initiated the [**“Pledge to Protect Others”**](https://mypledgetoprotect.org/) as a thoughtful, compassionate response for this next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pledge helps people to pause and think about how they will act as communities begin to reopen—what that means for themselves and the larger community. Secondly, it functions as an act of solidarity with others, articulating how we will demonstrate concern for how our actions affect others, how we are taking personal responsibility to protect friends and strangers, and how we are prioritizing the common good.

[**Click here to visit the website to learn about and take the pledge.**](https://mypledgetoprotect.org/)

**Information/Reflection**

***Stories of hope and resources:***

Catholic Charities USA [highlights the inspiring work of local organizations](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=341bfb2901&e=3a5fc3789d)

St. Vincent de Paul Society [responds in communities](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=723503b6cb&e=3a5fc3789d) with resources and programs

Bread for the World shares impact of COVID-19 on [African American](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=31643e736b&e=3a5fc3789d), [Latino/a](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=515a7ae712&e=3a5fc3789d), and [Indigenous communities](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=7ba4a46d6c&e=3a5fc3789d)

***12.7 Million Workers Estimated to Have Lost Health Insurance Due to Coronavirus***

New research from the Economic Policy Institute reveals that the number of Americans who are losing their employer-based health insurance is growing rapidly, with more than 30 million people laid off or furloughed in the last six weeks due to the coronavirus pandemic. EPI estimates that 12, 7 million of the people who have lost their jobs since early March have lost their health insurance. Read more:

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/04/30/terrifying-indictment-profit-system-127-million-workers-estimated-have-lost>

***How do every day Iraqis perceive the possibilities for peace?***

Despite policymakers’ and analysts’ focus on Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein 17 years ago, there remains a lack of reliable data on how everyday Iraqis perceive the possibilities for peace and stability. A new USIP framework aims to fill that gap, says USIP’s [**Lee Tucker**](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=a6383dd5645aa1531368a6da4b4e78aec792a33855aedeba049816168f4b0fd847bd4715d44c8dc8b5cd064b7cc334849a6750628ef69ef7).

[Read her blog](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=a6383dd5645aa153aa3bcec2819dba5e6dd32dc52501a01ace523c60c64f01e4aeada457cdaa9a5bdd24b115cc7275721dd0584470d1b0da)

***USCCB Office of Justice, Peace and Development***

U.S. Bishops have been lifting their voices to [respond to COVID-19](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=7d375899d1&e=3a5fc3789d) through:

[prayer](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=84562ed784&e=3a5fc3789d)

[advocacy for immigrants](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=a75352c73b&e=3a5fc3789d)

speaking [out against racism](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=a75e20e978&e=3a5fc3789d)

working against [unjust conditions](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=9f5d348c9a&e=3a5fc3789d) that cause disproportionate infection rates in African American communities

**Words to Ponder**

"Nonviolence, Gandhi urges, is the spirit behind the action. . . . (Protesters) must ask themselves: Was the act intended to harm an opponent or alienate someone? Was it done out of fear instead of courage? Did it strive to maintain the dignity of all parties involved? These questions are not easy to answer. They require a lot of introspection and humility."

—Michael Nagler

"Humanity needs to make a choice. Will we travel down the route of disunity, or will we adopt the path of global solidarity? If we choose disunity, this will not only prolong the crisis, but will probably result in even worse catastrophes in the future. If we choose global solidarity, it will be a victory not only against the coronavirus, but against all future epidemics and crises that might assail humankind in the 21st century."

—Yuval Noah Harari

"Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it."

—Arundahti Roy