

the Common Good

Secular Franciscan JPIC Monthly Newsletter
from Franciscan Voice Canada



Issue No 52, November 2021

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Truth, goodness and beauty



George Pennier, a Coast Salish artist, shared a dream about healing with Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria, BC in 1998. Bishop Gary was so moved by the dream, he commissioned the above carving which depicts Chiwatenhwa (Joseph), a Huron Chief, and Echon (St. Jean de Brébeuf), circled by an eagle spindle whorl drum, representing the Spirit and the Creator; the two leaders working together in hope for a good path forward for future generations... [Read more at Andrew's November Blog](#)

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Joseph Chiwatenhwa helped the Jesuits translate hymns and prayers from French into Huron. [Listen and watch the famous *Jesous ahatonhia Huron Carol* by Heather Dale in Huron, French, English and American sign language although St Jean de Brébeuf himself is credited with the lyrics]. [Learn More](#)

“The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.” (Pope Francis, 2015, *Laudato Si’*, 84)



Mt. Lefroy, 1930 [Brother Mountain?]



Algoma Country, 1948 [Our Sister Mother Earth?]

Lawren Harris, founder of the Group of Seven: [The spirituality of his art](#): the metaphysics of this Canadian’s abstract landscapes where the universe sings especially in what we do call Sister Mother Earth, and could call Brother Mountain and Sister Iceberg. [Read More](#)

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Launches November 14

Calling for a new way of thinking, feeling, understanding and living

Catholic organizations are invited to join the *Laudato Si'* initiative during what Cardinal Turkson calls "**this crucial decade**" for "**radical societal transformation**" as increasing climate change and environmental degradation threaten both the planet's ecosystems and people.

Nov. 14 is the launch of the Laudato Si' Action Platform and is also the **World Day of the Poor**, which Francis established in November 2016. The launch is following a major U.N. climate conference, COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland (Nov. 1-12).

The Laudato Si' Action Platform website is your source for resources

HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU LOOK AT THIS: **CIOFS Franciscan JPIC website**

Here is one part:

Intro to Laudato Si Action Platform (by Sr Nancy Kinsey, FCJM)
(it might take a minute or so to open the above Intro link!)

Help to cultivate **Eco-conversion** and develop a vibrant Laudato si' culture, following the "See-Judge-Act methodology.

ACTION: We are looking for individuals who are committed to doing something about the climate crisis that is upon us to come together to help promote Laudato Si' Action Platform and its goals. Contact us if you are interested.

A US Franciscans' Statement of Commitment: As the leadership for the Franciscan friars ... we humbly and publicly accept the invitation of Pope Francis to commit to the Laudato Si' Action Platform. The Laudato Si' Action Platform is an incredible gift... The seven goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform provide a framework for us to embrace our charism in new ways that build upon our current efforts... [Read more](#)

Capitalism is killing the planet

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our own destruction

Instead of focusing on ‘micro consumerist bollocks’ like ditching our plastic coffee cups, we must challenge the pursuit of wealth and level down, not up.

- by [George Monbiot](#), The Guardian



Here are a couple of quotes from the article:

- Rich people can persuade themselves they’ve gone green because they recycle, while forgetting they have a second home
- The main cause of your environmental impact is your money. You persuade yourself you’re a green mega-consumer, but you’re just a mega-consumer

This is a [worthwhile read](#)

"From a Catholic point of view, I think if we care about God's Earth, if we care about creation, if we care about the poor, if we care about our children, and if we care about the unborn children of today, we need to be engaged with this," [COP 26]

... said [Lorna Gold](#), board chair of the Laudato Si' Movement, who has attended previous climate summits. [READ MORE](#) - **Following are Several Nutshells**

Take Action

Development and Peace: [Campaign: People and Planet First](#)

Laudato Si' Plus

Fratelli tutti: “122. Development must not aim at the amassing of wealth by a few, but must ensure “human rights – personal and social, economic and political, including the rights of nations and of peoples”. The right of some to free enterprise or market freedom cannot supersede the rights of peoples and the dignity of the poor, or, for that matter, respect for the natural environment, for “if we make something our own, it is only to administer it for the good of all”.

Water Warrior & Climate Warrior



If you know about Greta, you should also know about Autumn Peltier

Autumn is a Canadian environmentalist and water activist from Wikwemikong First Nation. She has been advocating since she was 8 years old. Autumn has spoken to world leaders, been honoured by the Assembly of First Nations, was the Keynote speaker at the United Nations World Water Day, traveled the world to raise awareness, and has been nominated for the prestigious International Children's Peace Prize in 2017, 2018 and 2019, as well as being named a "Science Defender" by the Union of Concerned Scientists in 2019.



The above photo is from *Meanwhile in Canada*

Let us be a support to these committed young people.

Pope Francis said: he realises some people, including within the Church, consider him to be "a pest" for defending the poor and most vulnerable, but that it won't stop him as it is part of Christianity. *[We agree!]* Pope Francis Laudato Si' 179: "Society, ... must put pressure on governments ... Unless citizens control political power ... it will not be possible to control damage to the environment." As another pest said to the BBC, Greta Thunberg: 'We need public pressure, not just summits' We need action not pretence (7 min speech to Austrian Climate Meeting) She is so articulate; right to the point!

Synodality

Communion, Participation and Mission: A Synodal Journey

The topic Pope Francis has chosen for the next Synod is
"For a synodal Church: communion, participation and

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hearing... a reciprocal listening in which each one has something to learn". In calling this Synod, Pope Francis is asking for a discussion on how all members of the Church - laity, priests, bishops and religious - may use their own unique gifts, guided by the Holy Spirit, to help the Church make decisions.

A group has formed to track Synod progress across the country, and are inviting participation from concerned Catholic laity called [Concern Lay Catholics](#). And **please send any local information about the synodal process in your diocese or parish** to concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com using Synodality in the subject box.

[Learn more](#)

Prayer: *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.
Amen*

Concern Lay Catholics: A Canadian group has formed to track Synod progress across the country, and are inviting participation from concerned Catholic laity called [Concern Lay Catholics](#). And **please send any local information about the synodal process in your diocese or parish** to concernedlaycatholics@gmail.com using Synodality in the subject box.

From Gospel to Life

When asked what are the **most important commandments**, Jesus, according to **Mk 12:28b-34**, replied: (quoting Deuteronomy 6:4): **"You shall love the**

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continues with a second commandment from Leviticus 19:18: **“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”** He adds: **“There is no commandment greater than these.”**



Photo by [Rachel Strong](#) on [Unsplash](#)

OFS Rule

Rule 11. Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life, even though he valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God’s children.

Thus, in the spirit of “the Beatitudes”, and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

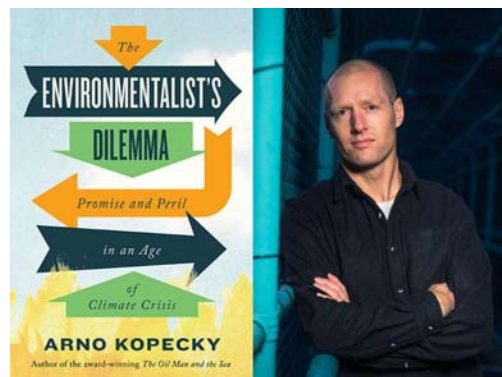


Book of the month

The Environmentalist’s Dilemma

by [Kopecky, Arno](#)

In *The Environmentalist’s Dilemma*, award-winning journalist Arno Kopecky zeroes in on the core predicament of our times: the planet may be dying, but humanity’s doing better than ever. To acknowledge both sides of this paradox is to enter a realm of difficult decisions: Should we take down the government, or try to change it from the inside? Is it okay to compare climate change to Hitler? Is hope naive or indispensable? How do you



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An interview with Arno Kopecky about his new book, 'The Environmentalist's Dilemma.' - [Read The Tyee interview](#)

Pope's Prayer Intention for November

People who suffer from depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.



Extreme exhaustion, depression, and anxiety are some of the most common illnesses in today's world. Often, "sadness, apathy, and spiritual tiredness end up dominating people's lives, which are overloaded due to the rhythm of life today." What can we do to help ...?

[November Reflection – People who suffer from depression](#)

If you or someone with whom you are close has suffered from depression, you might know how isolating it can be. Depression is a mental illness that touches every part of one's life: family, work, friendships, hobbies. It can feel dark and alone. ... [READ MORE](#)

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women of the white Buffalo



A feature documentary film by Deborah Anderson. An ancient Native matriarchal society was upended by centuries of genocide and colonialism. This resulted in culturally sabotaged and isolated communities that are in a constant struggle to save what remains of their sacred identity.

[Learn more about this film at Andrew's "Silent No More" article](#)

Film Series Coming in December

Pope Francis, Martin Scorsese, Jane Goodall and a group of less famous "over 70s" talk to young filmmakers about love in the first episode of a four-part documentary available worldwide on **Netflix on Christmas Day**. The documentary is based on "Sharing the Wisdom of Time," a book in which Pope Francis called for creating "an alliance between the young and old people" by sharing their stories.

[READ MORE](#)

Love: Stories of a Generation - Netflix



UN Live - Grita Tierra ft. Catalina García, Roco



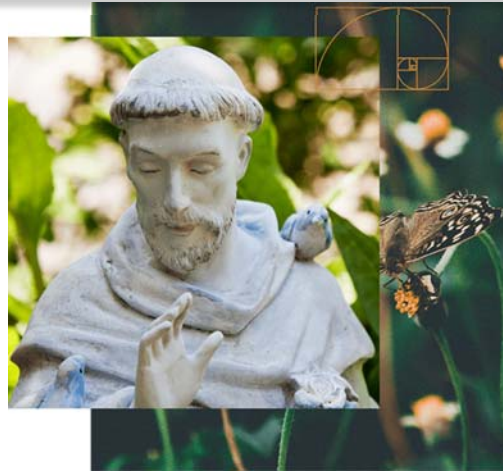
[The song "Grita tierra"](#) has just been released and is available on digital platforms so that it can be heard and shared by as many people as possible who want to raise their voices and demand immediate action from world leaders to stop climate change.

"Grita Tierra" a musical project promoted by [UN Live - Museum for the United Nations](#) in Latin America is a testimony of universal solidarity, it is the result of an alliance with the [OFM-JPIC Office](#) of the Franciscans and high level artists. The project also has the collaboration of the Humboldt Institute and the support of the Hempel Foundation.

Make Me An Instrument **Sacred Steps For Living An Inspired Life**

Make Me An Instrument is a 7 week online journey in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare of Assisi.

In **Make Me An Instrument**, Nina Hirlaender and Robert Holden present seven modules featuring a rich mix of multimedia offerings – including LIVE online classes, films from Assisi, interviews, meditations, and weekly assignments. [LEARN MORE](#)

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Important Dates on the JPIC Calendar:

- + **November 14** - [World Day of Prayer for the Poor](#)
- + **November 25** - [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)
- + **December 5** - [World Soil Day](#)
- + **December 10** - [Human Rights Day](#)
- + **December 12** - [National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples](#)
- + **December 12** - [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) (Video 4:04)

Other Recent Postings on *Franciscan Voice Canada*

- [St Francis of Assisi, PEI, JPIC Committee Sharing](#)
- [October 2021 Issue of the JPIC Communique](#)
- [Faith Events at COP26](#) - Action
- [Make Me An Instrument](#) - [Sacred Steps For Living An Inspired Life](#)
- [JPIC OFM Latest News](#) - November
- [The Colonial Dimension of Climate Migration](#)
- [Catholics united for the 2021 Season of Creation](#)
- [Shoal Lake 40 First Nation can drink from the tap](#)
- [Malala – A personal message](#) - Action
- [The Economy of Francesco](#) - Dr. Vandana Shiva
- [We Matter](#) - Five year anniversary

Earlier Posts you may want to check:

- [JPIC OFM Latest News](#)
- [Fairtrade](#) - [Olga's Story](#) - Action



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