

*the*  
***Common Good***

Secular Franciscan JPIC Monthly  
Newsletter  
from Franciscan Voice Canada



Issue No 54, January 2020

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**Calling on World Leaders!**



Jojo Mehta, co-founder of [Stop Ecocide](#) talks about taking forward the work of Earth Lawyer Polly Higgins.

[Ecocide defined](#): “unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and

either widespread or longterm damage to the environment.”

## [A Plea to Make Widespread Environmental Damage an International Crime](#)

### **Takes Centre Stage at The Hague**

The idea to add ecocide as the court’s fifth crime gained traction in 2019. Since then, Pope Francis, U.N. Secretary General António Guterres and more than a dozen countries, including Mexico, France, Sweden and Canada, have expressed varying degrees of support for the international initiative. Earlier [December 2021], Belgium’s parliament passed a resolution expressing support for both domestic ecocide legislation and the international effort. Learn more at [Andrew's Blog #4](#)



### **Laudato Si'**

“Society, through non-governmental organizations and intermediate groups, must put pressure on governments to develop more rigorous regulations, procedures and controls. Unless citizens control political power – national, regional and municipal – it will not be possible to control damage to the environment. Local legislation can be more effective, too, if

agreements exist between neighbouring communities to support the same environmental policies.” LS 179

### **The Mystery of the Christian Faith**

One thing I [Andrew] rediscovered from Advent was from Henri Nouwen’s *Advent Devotions*, Monday of the Third Week of Advent: “We can probe the heights and the depths of the material universe and contemplate the deepest complexities of metaphysics and still not come close to understanding God in his divinity.” But that does not stop us trying!

I remember a cherished pastor telling me: “Never let go of the mystery of our faith.” At this moment I summarise it thus: We believe in the Holy Trinity, the Immaculate Conception and the Holy Family and that we are made in the image of God. We are like Him yet so unlike Him but strive to imitate Him.



"Dorothy Day and The Holy Family of the Streets" from James Martin, SJ  
by Kelly Latimore. See: <https://kellylatimoreicons.com>



Read more at [Andrew's Blog #1& 2](#) Cartoon - [NCRonline.org/cartoons](http://NCRonline.org/cartoons)



**Calling for a new way of thinking, feeling, understanding and living**  
*The Laudato Si' Action Platform empowers the universal Church  
and all people of good will to respond to [Laudato Si'](#), Pope  
Francis' encyclical on caring for our common home.*

### **BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE—TOGETHER**

You are warmly invited to review the Planning Guide to find more information on reflecting on your values, strengthening your decision-making process, and creating your Laudato Si' Plan. As a first step in your journey to integral ecology, you are invited to complete your first annual self-assessment.

Go to <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/dashboard/> to take this step.

*You will have to register*

## Roundup - Glyphosate



*Kelly Latimore: Francis shown listening to a chaffinch Learn more at [Andrew's Blog #5](#)*

In June 2021, the EU voted for a renewal of Glyphosate. We were able to stop the Commission's plans for a renewal of 15 years. The licence got renewed for only 18 months. It is currently approved for use in the EU until 15 December 2022.

Petition:

[Sign to stop glyphosate in Europe](#)

Then tell our governments to do the same

## Pope's Christmas Homily

[In his Christmas mass homily](#) the Holy Father reminds us that

**Jesus shows the way from littleness to greatness.** An angel tells the shepherds how to find the God who has come down to earth: “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling cloths, and lying in a manger” (v. 12). That is the sign: a child, a baby lying in the dire poverty of a manger. ... His is a message of immense hope. Jesus asks us to rediscover and value the little things in life. If he is present there, what else do we need? Let us stop pining for a grandeur that is not ours to have. Let us put aside our complaints and our gloomy faces, and the greed that never satisfies! Littleness and the amazement of that little child: this is the message. Read his full message at [\*Andrew's Blog #9.a.\*](#)

### [\*\*Pope 55th World Day of Peace 1 January 2022\*\*](#)

Dialogue Between Generations, Education and Work: Tools for Building Lasting Peace

“Today the *path of peace*, which [\*\*Saint Paul VI\*\*](#) called by the new name of *integral development*, [\[1\]](#) remains sadly distant from the real lives of many men and women and thus from our human family, which is now entirely interconnected. ... [\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

### **Violence to Women is an Insult to God**

**Pope Francis** [\*\*in his homily\*\*](#) for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God - also marked as the World Day of Peace. Pope Francis ushered in 2022 by praising the skills women bring to promoting peace in the world, and he equated



violence against women to an offense against God. Francis urged everyone to step up efforts to promote mothers and to protect women. “How much violence is directed against women! Enough! To hurt a woman is to insult God, who from a woman took on our humanity,” the Pope said.

### **From Gospel to Life**

The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me... to let the oppressed go free. Luke 4:18

In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers [or sisters] of mine, you did it to me. Matthew 25:40

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



### **OFS Rule & GC**

**Rule 11.** ... 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.



**GC 20.2.** As the primary and fundamental contribution to building a more just and fraternal world, they should commit themselves both to the fulfilment of the duties proper to their occupation and to the professional training that pertains to it. With the same spirit of service, they should assume their social and civil responsibilities.

## **Pope's Prayer Intention for January 2022**

### **For true human fraternity**

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



**Reflection:** We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which ... [read more](#)



As much as 67% of the world's population lives in countries where the right to religious freedom is denied. "How can we allow that in this society, which is so civilized, there are people who are persecuted simply because they publicly profess their faith?"

[READ MORE](#)

## Prayer



God of hope,

Bless all people and embrace us with your abundant grace for working together in the journey to heal the earth.

We pray for your wisdom, sympathy and creativity to take meaningful actions with a shared vision for the common good of all creation.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

*By Naw Ohnmar Shwe, Gaia Organization, Myanmar, [CAFOD](#)*

## Pillar of Shame

*Pillar of Shame* is a series of sculptures by Danish artist [Jens Galschiøt](#) memorializing the loss of life during specific events or caused by specific circumstances in history. Hong Kong Pillar of Shame at the University of Hong Kong, a memorial to the 1997 Tiananmen Square (Beijing) Massacre. It was removed (and destroyed?) on 22 Dec 2021. The Chinese Government wants to erase all memory of that massacre and forbids memorials or mention of it.

[See Andrew's Blog #8](#)

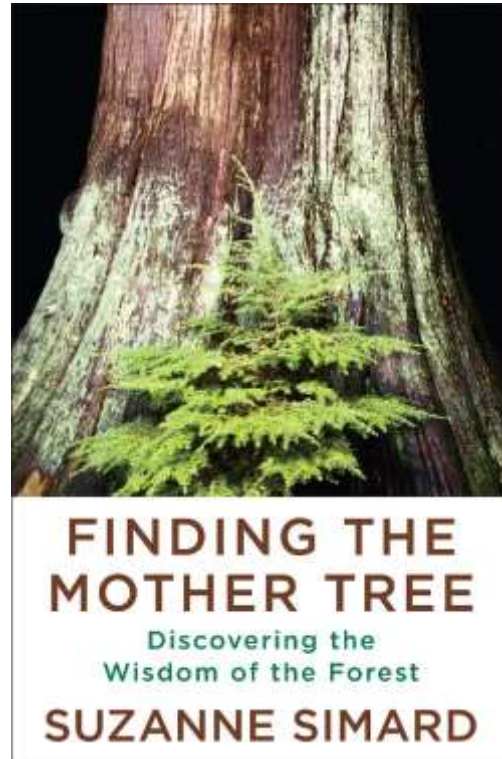


**Book of the Month:**  
**Finding the Mother Tree**  
**Discovering the Wisdom of**  
**the Forest**

"A forest is much more than what you see," says ecologist

Suzanne Simard. Her 30 years of research in Canadian forests have led to an astounding discovery -- trees talk, often and over vast distances. Learn more about the harmonious yet complicated social lives of trees and prepare to see the natural world with new eyes.

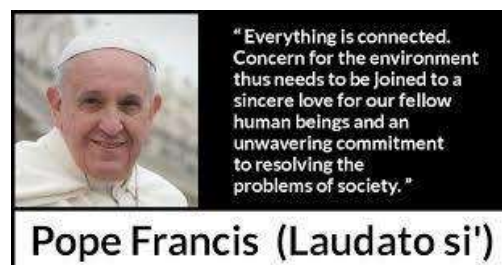
Fungi and trees form a...



...symbiotic relationship. [*i.e. everything is connected!*] Symbiosis is a close, long-term relationship between two organisms. Trees produce food, in the form of glucose sugars, through photosynthesis. The plants share this glucose with the fungus. **Humans use the internet to communicate. Similarly, trees use a complex underground network of fungi. These relationships are examples of symbiosis.** [Read more](#)

[See and listen](#) to her fascinating TED talk (18 mins). She says we must save old growth forests and move away from clear cutting forestry practices.

See [How trees secretly talk to each other](#) (2018) by BBC News (1:47 min.).



## A novena based on the Canticle

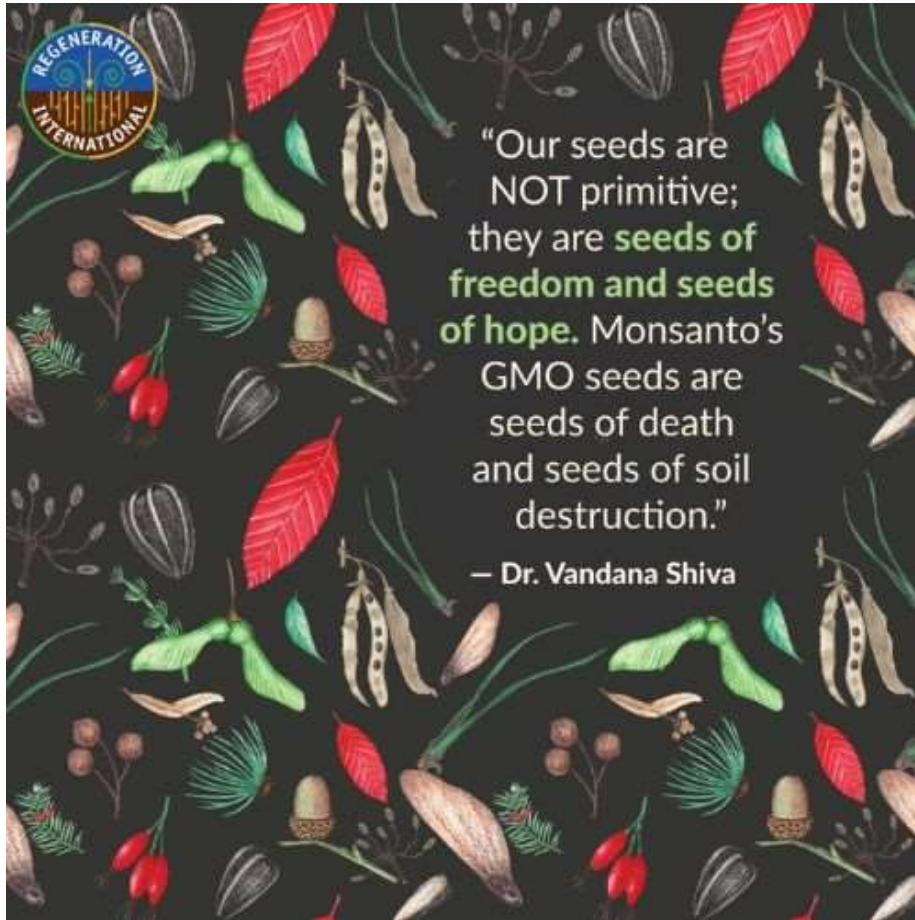


[CAFOD](#) has given us this novena series of videos (54 sec each). This novena is a song of penitence and praise, guiding us to care for the earth and for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, especially the Amazon peoples. This is the first one. Nine brief reflections asking St Francis of Assisi to pray for us and our world, based on his beautiful Canticle of the Sun. [Learn more](#). The can be done over a period of 9 days if you wish. We will be posting one each month.

This novena is a song of penitence and praise, guiding us to care for the earth and for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, especially the Amazon peoples. Communities with whom we work are reporting a sharp increase in predatory attacks on land. People smugglers are also active and those being trafficked are in more danger than ever, having no access to healthcare.

Use these video prayers for personal prayer. Each has four phases: Canticle; Amazon voice; penitential prayer; a plea for intercession.

**Last Minute Addition**  
from [Regeneration International](#)



**Important Dates on the JPIC Calendar:**

- + **January 15 - [World Day of Migrants](#)**
- + **January 18 - 25 - [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#)**
- + **February 8 - [Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking](#)**



**Other Recent Postings on**  
*Franciscan Voice Canada*



- [Empowering Haitian Farmers - Investment in Local Food Systems](#)
- [122 Organizations Transforming Food Systems in 2022 - Action](#)
- [Give Earth a Voice - Action](#)
- [Oppose the Relicensing of Glyphosate in European Union - Action](#)
- [South Sudanese Church leaders praise prosecution of oil executives](#)
- [OFM JPIC Newsletter "Contact" for 2021](#)
- [A Merry Christmas from Franciscans International](#)

**Earlier Posts you may want to check:**

- [Recycling was a lie - a big lie - to sell more plastic](#)

*Note the calls for "Action" in some of the postings*

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