

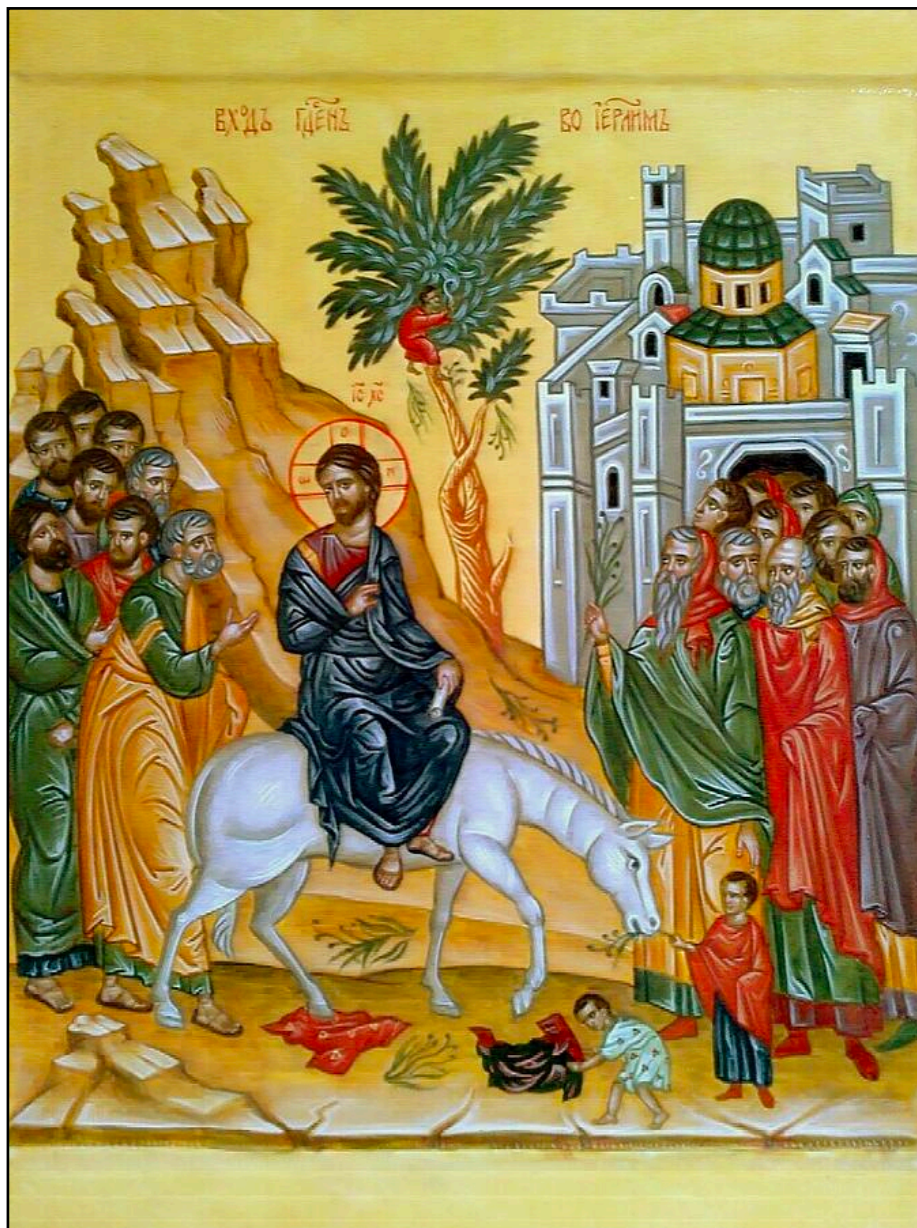
April 2019

ST MARY'S
ACADEMY

FAITH COMMUNITY JUSTICE RESPECT

Faith Walk

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY CAMPUS MINISTRY



Entry Into Jerusalem - Palm Sunday

Loretto Border Immersion

Lillian Forward and Mary Pat Mueller (HS), Christina Garcia and Joe Riehl (MS), and Michelle Irwin and Ines McCall (LS) joined Loretto Community members and Loretto Volunteers in an immersion experience at the Arizona/Mexico border the end of February to learn first-hand about faith-based groups working with migrants, the peril of crossing the desert, deportation hearings, and other issues at the border.

Read some of their reflections on Pages 4 and 6.



A church in Tucson created this memorial for people who have died crossing the desert. Names and sometimes date of death are written on the rocks.



This makeshift outdoor stove at La Roca, a shelter in Mexico, supplements the indoor stove used to cook meals for migrants awaiting clearance from the U.S. to enter and seek asylum.



This wire fence marks the border between the U.S. and Mexico. Church groups leave bottled water as well as put non-perishable, easily opened food in a large white trash can for migrants as they cross.



Loretto and SMA Praying and Acting to End Gun Violence

The Loretto Community invites us to pray in silence on the first Monday of the month (or second if we're off school) for an end to gun violence. This call to prayer began in 2015 when the Loretto Committee on Peace felt prayer was most fitting as public statements, lobbying, letter writing on gun control had not brought about change. The committee's hope is that our prayer may bring wisdom and guidance to this important issue.

You are most welcome to join us in the Oratory in the High School at 8:15 for whatever minutes work for you, or take a few minutes of quiet wherever you are. Join us on April 1, May 6 and June 3. If you have questions, please

contact Regina Drey SL at rdrey@smanet.org.

The Triduum



Holy Thursday is the Thursday of Passion Week, one day before Good Friday. This is the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper. Two important events are the focus of this day. First, Jesus celebrated the last supper with his disciples instituting the Eucharist. Second, Jesus washed the disciples' feet as an act of humility and service, setting an example that we should love and serve one another in humility.



Good Friday is the Friday before Easter, the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus. From the early days of Christianity, Good Friday was observed as a day of sorrow, penance, and fasting.



Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Decorated eggs have been part of the Easter festival at least since medieval times, given the obvious symbolism of new life.



Ram Navami April 14, 2019



“Ram Navami is a Hindu festival, celebrating the birth of Lord Rama to King Dasharatha of Ayodhya. While the festival is particularly important to the Vaishnavite tradition of Hinduism, Ram Navami is a popular festival celebrated across the Hindu world.

The holiday is celebrated on the ninth day of Chaitra month (the first month in the Hindu lunar calendar). It marks the culmination of the spring festival of Vasanta Navratri (Chaitra Navratri) which begins on Ugadi.

Rama was the seventh incarnation of Vishnu. He was the hero of the Ramayana, the ancient Sanskrit epic.

Ram Navami Traditions

A continuous recital of the book takes place during the month of Chaitra prior to the celebration. On Ram Navami itself, the highlights of the story are read in the temple.

Houses are thoroughly cleaned on Rama Navami and a family shrine may be decorated with small statues of Rama. Offerings of flowers and fruit are placed on the shrine and prayers are recited after an early bath.

To mark the day, followers of Hinduism may fast or restrict themselves to a specific diet and won't eat certain foods like onions, garlic, and wheat products.

The celebrations at key places associated with Sri Rama, such as Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh and Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu can attract thousands of devotees.”

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Christina Garcia, Middle School Spanish and Religion Teacher

Being in the Federal Courthouse in Tucson, Arizona, felt surreal. We were told what to expect from Operation Streamline but hearing about it and seeing it are very different. When I saw the first wave of migrants walk up to be charged I could not believe they were shackled. They were cuffed, in chains. People wanting an opportunity and a chance for a better life should not be chained up like criminals. This is not natural. What we are experiencing at the border is not a criminal issue; it's a human rights issue and seeking asylum is a human right.

Michelle Irwin, Kindergarten Teacher

My experience at La Roca, a shelter for migrants waiting to seek asylum, is one that will stay with me forever. I was drawn to the needs of the children. They had nothing – no toys, books or play equipment. In addition to buying groceries, our group bought each child a pack of crayons, drawing paper, and candy. The smiles on the children's faces and the gratitude we received were evident that we had made a small difference in their lives.

Ines McCall, Lower School Spanish Teacher

I thought I had some knowledge of what the situation at the border could be but very quickly I realized how little I knew. I realized I have seen only the tip of the iceberg. This trip has certainly been an eye opening experience. It has been a journey that took me through an array of emotions: excitement, shock, heartbreaking, compassion, frustration, gladness, empathy.

Each of us can be a Good Samaritan by dealing compassionately with these neglected brothers and sisters.

This quote from Jeffrey R. Holland summarizes my feelings:

“As Jesus prepared to leave His still-innocent and somewhat confused little band of followers, He did not list a dozen administrative steps they had to take, or hand them a fist-full of reports to be filled out in triplicate. No, He summarized their task in one fundamental commandment: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Mary Pat Mueller, High School Theological Studies Teacher

Excerpts from the article in a Loretto publication:

“The experience in Nogales, Mexico, helped me become more aware of the complexity of the immigration process.

Signs of hope were seen in such things as shelters supported by an alliance of non-profits and churches.

Yet, it is clear there are not enough resources being invested in providing for essentials for a stable life.

Because we believe that all are equal in dignity and worth, we are challenged to act for our suffering brothers and sisters.”



About Cecily Jones SL: An English teacher, founder and first editor of Loretto's newsletter **Interchange**, published poet, avid reader, lover of words, peace activist, Cecily was beloved in Loretto for her generous, loving spirit as well as for her many accomplishments.

The photo in last month's edition was Mary Luke Tobin SL at the end of an article about Cecily Jones SL. This is the correct photo.

—Editor

Passover

April 20-27, 2019

Why Celebrate?

Passover, or Pesach (PEH-sach) in Hebrew, is a commemoration of the ancient Hebrews' exodus from slavery in Egypt focusing especially on the night when God "passed over" the houses of the Hebrews during the tenth plague—and the following day, when the Israelites had to leave Egypt hurriedly. Centered on the family or communal celebration of the Seder (ritual meal, pronounced SAY-der), Passover is one of the most beloved of all Jewish holidays.



At Home

In anticipation of Pesach, it is traditional to engage in a thorough spring cleaning. During the entire 8-day holiday, special dietary customs enable us to vicariously relive the ancient Hebrews' redemption from slavery. Because the ancient Hebrews had no time to let their bread rise during their escape from Egypt, Jewish law forbids eating (or even possessing) any food that might contain leaven. Leaven is food that contains any grain product (wheat, barley, oats, spelt and rye) that has been allowed to ferment in water.

Seder

The central ritual of Pesach is the Seder, a carefully choreographed ritual meal that takes place either in the home or in the community. A number of symbolic foods are laid out on the table, of which the most important are the Matzah (MAH-tzah), the unleavened "bread of affliction," and the Zeroa (Zah-ROH-ah) shank bone, which commemorates the Pesach sacrifice in the ancient Temple. The Seder follows a script laid out in the Haggadah (hah-GAHD-ah), a book that tells the story of the Exodus from Egypt.

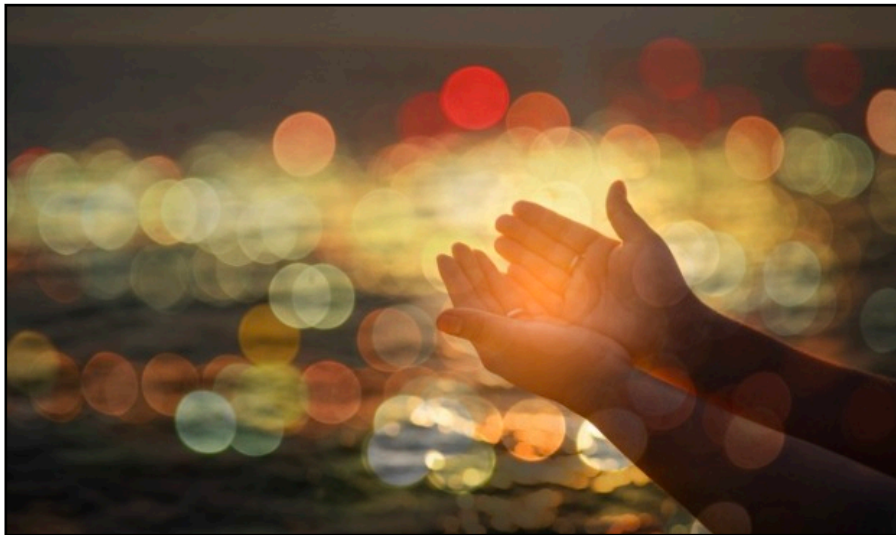
Theology and Themes

The overarching themes of Passover are redemption and freedom. The divine redemption of the Israelites becomes part of the blueprint for the Jewish understanding of morality and ethics, which can be seen in Jewish participation at the forefront of movements for social justice.

My Mercy Encompasses All

The Koran's Teachings on Compassion, Peace & Love

By Reza Shah-Kazemi



Reza Shah-Kazemi, the founding editor of the **Islamic World Report**, has translated and selected key verses from the Koran that illustrate the important role of compassion, love, and peace in Islam. In the introduction, he comments on compassion as the fundamental nature of God which human beings are to practice in their relationships. "Compassion is to oneness what radiance is to the sun: It is through compassion that the oneness of God most brilliantly shines forth and reveals its fundamental nature."

Shah-Kazemi notes that in Islam, love is seen to be the fountain-head of creation. " 'I was a hidden treasure,' God declares, 'and I loved to be known, so I created the world.' " God's love is infinite and reflects the pre-eminence of God's Mercy over all things, even God's anger.

Shah-Kazemi concludes that "whenever God is described in terms of compassion and peace and love, it is always implied that the soul is being called upon to assimilate these qualities."

Here is a small sampler of quotations from the Koran:

- "Whoever saves the life of one human being, it shall be as if he had saved the whole of humankind." (5:32)
- "O you who believe, be steadfast and upright for God, bearing witness with justice, and never let hatred of a people cause you to deal unjustly with them. Be just — that is closest to piety." (5:8)
- "Truly, those who believe and do good works, the Compassionate will grant them love." (19:96)
- "My mercy encompasses all things." (7:156)
- "O you who believe, if you are mindful of God, He will grant you discernment, and efface your sins, and forgive you. And God is of infinite grace." (8:29)

<https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/book-reviews/view/18138/my-mercy->

Loretto Border Immersion

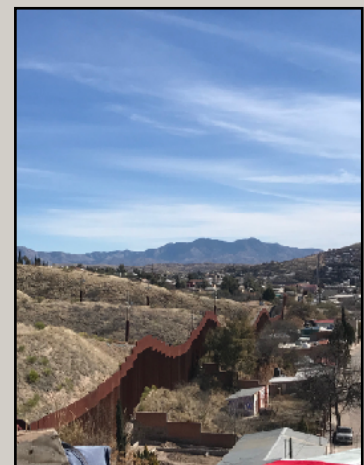


Artists represent migration in artistic way on the Mexican side of the fence.

Lillian Forward, High School Administrative Assistant

Visiting the border with five of my colleagues, I was able to meet some of the migrants, and it was overwhelming.

- o Watching in court while several people, shackled on their wrists, ankles, and waists, pleading with the judge, telling her they needed to work, asking why they couldn't step foot on our soil.
- o Meeting the migrants in shelters in Mexico, relieved to finally feel somewhat safe, smiling and talking about where they'd like to be reunited with family or friends — places like California, Texas, Minnesota.
- o Walking through the desert, finding remnants from weary travelers, clinging to the hope for a better life for their children.



The border fence separates Nogales, Arizona, (left) from Nogales, Mexico (right)

Poetry Corner

Remember

By Joy Harjo

Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star's stories.
Remember the moon, know who she is.
Remember the sun's birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember sundown
and the giving away to night.
Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath. You are evidence of
her life, and her mother's, and hers.
Remember your father. He is your life, also.
Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
brown earth, we are earth.
Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them,
listen to them. They are alive poems.
Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe.
Remember you are all people and all people
are you.
Remember you are this universe and this
universe is you.
Remember all is in motion, is growing, is you.
Remember language comes from this.
Remember the dance language is, that life is.
Remember.



Prayer Opportunities

- Parents and Faculty/Staff: First Wednesday of the month at 9:15 in the HS Oratory
- Prayer Intention Boxes - Near the Prayer Wall in the HS, MS Lobby and LS Lobby
- Prayer Wall in the High School: Open to All!
- Send your prayer requests via the SMA website under "Resources," "All Academy Resources," "Prayer Requests." Or email smaprayergroup@gmail.com. All prayers are handled in confidentiality, and may be submitted anonymously.

HAPPY APRIL!

St. Mary's Academy is a school that believes the fundamental message of God as taught and lived by Jesus, to love without bounds.

Together we continue to build and live the Loretto School values of faith, community, justice and respect!

*Paula Lee, Ph.D.
Campus Minister
plee@smanet.org*

APRIL 2019

Interfaith and Justice Calendar

April is Genocide Awareness Month

*The event begins the evening of the previous day

**Exact date may vary between traditions and communities

Adapted from: www.interfaith-calendar.org and www.adl.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Laylat al Miraj* Islam	4	5	6
7	8	9 Mahavir Jayanti** Jain	10	11	12	13
14 Palm Sunday Christian Rama Navami Hindu	15	16	17	18 Holy Thursday Christian	19 Good Friday Christian Theravada New Year* Buddhist (4/19-21)	20 Holy Saturday Christian Passover/ Pesach* Jewish (4/20-27)
21 Easter Sunday Christian Festival of Ridvan* Bahá'í (4/21-5/2)	22	23	24 Armenian Martyrs' Day	25 Loretto Foundation Day	26	27
28 Pascha - Easter Orthodox Christian	29 Ninth Day of Ridvan Baha'i	30				

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