

September 2018

ST MARY'S  
ACADEMY

FAITH COMMUNITY JUSTICE RESPECT

# Faith Walk

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY CAMPUS MINISTRY

## Yom Kippur

September 18-19, 2018



“Yom Kippur means ‘Day of Atonement’ and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. Part of the High Holidays, which also includes Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur is considered the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. In three separate passages in the Torah, the Jewish people are told, “the tenth day of the seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a sacred occasion for you: You shall practice self-denial.” (Leviticus 23:27). Fasting is seen as fulfilling this biblical commandment. The Yom Kippur fast also enables us to put aside our physical desires to concentrate on our spiritual needs through prayer, repentance and self-improvement.

Yom Kippur is the moment in Jewish time when we dedicate our mind, body, and soul to reconciliation with God, our fellow human beings, and ourselves. We are commanded to turn to those whom we have wronged first, acknowledging our sins and the pain we might have caused. At the same time, we must be willing to forgive and to let go of certain offenses and the feelings of resentment they provoked in us. On this journey we are both seekers and givers of pardon. Only then can we turn to God and ask for forgiveness: ‘And for all these, God of forgiveness, forgive us, pardon us, and grant us atonement.’”

## **A Prayer to End Gun Violence**

### **Regina Drey, SL**

God of Love,

Today we join with the sisters and co-members in the Loretto Community to pray for an end to gun violence.

Give us the spirit and will to find new ways to recreate our world into one of non-violence and respect.

Give us the courage to honor the dignity of our classmates and all people.

Give us the strength to seek adults to help us deal with problems in a constructive way  
and not act harshly to one another.

Help us forgive those who hurt us and reconcile with those we have hurt.

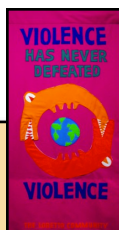
Give peace and hope to families who are affected by gun violence.

Help us live like Jesus, Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who taught us that  
love and peace are stronger than hatred and violence.

Give nations the courage to end war and end the production and threat of weapons of mass destruction  
Help us live the Loretto School Values by creating a world based on faith, community, justice and respect.  
With Loretto we pray for a time when all people —especially students in schools — can live their lives to the  
fullest without worries for their safety and that of their family and friends. Amen



Sculpture by Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd



**Praying for an End  
to  
Gun Violence**

### **Loretto and SMA Praying and Acting to End Gun Violence**

The Loretto Community again this year 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. The Mondays for the first semester are: September 10, October 1, November 5, and December 3. If you have questions, please contact Sister Regina at [rdrey@smanet.org](mailto:rdrey@smanet.org).

## Jane Addams 1860 - 1935



In 1889, Jane Addams opened the doors of Hull House, the first settlement house for immigrants in the United States, after visiting Toynbee Hall, the world's first settlement house in London. The goal of Hull House was "to provide a center for a higher civic and social life, to institute and maintain educational and philanthropic enterprises, and to investigate and improve the conditions in the industrial districts of Chicago."

The motto of the Settlement House Movement was "Residence, Research, Reform." Jane and others who ran Hull House lived this motto: they actually lived in Hull House and built relationships with the residents. Their work emphasized the practices of social action and reform, with a desire to change the systems of society that oppress immigrants and other disadvantaged people. Hull House and the Settlement House Movement worked to bridge the gap between social classes and restore an emphasis on humanistic principles rather than materialism.

From "The Subtle Problems of Charity," published in the Atlantic in February of 1899, Jane wrote: "We find in ourselves the longing for a wider union than that of family or class, and we say that we have come to include all...in our hopes; but we fail to realize that all...we are hoping, and are part of the same movement of which we are a part. Many of the difficulties in philanthropy come from an unconscious division of the world into the philanthropists and those to be helped. It is all assumption of two classes, and against this class assumption our democratic training revolts as soon as we begin to act upon it."

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## International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer September 16, 2018

### Background

The discovery of the ozone "hole" in the earth's atmosphere came in the 1980s; it has been caused by the use of certain chemicals. The depletion of this layer has caused an increase in skin cancer, a negative impact on the growth of plants and grains, and a contribution to global warming.

### Impact on Those in Poverty

Developing countries, which generally pollute much less than developed countries, are more vulnerable to environmental changes due to pollution. They have less health care resources available for environment-related problems. They also face a decrease in agricultural productivity in the tropics and sub-tropics, a decreased water quantity and quality in most arid and semi-arid regions, and an increase in the incidence of malaria and other tropical diseases. Pollution harms ecological systems and their biodiversity, which undermine all efforts for sustainable development.

### International Solidarity

The international community worked together, under United Nations guidance, for over a decade to develop the first international ozone protection agreement in 1985 (the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer). Specific commitments to reduce chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) chemical pollution came in 1987 through the Montreal Protocol on the Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, signed on September 16. Scientists have called the Montreal Protocol "a life-saving step for the planet," and are seeing the beginnings of what they hope will be an ozone layer recovery, which will take 50-100 years.





## Joining Loretto in Solidarity with Suffering People

by Regina Drey, SL

On September 15 the sisters and co-members of the Loretto Community honor the Seven Sorrows that Mary, the mother of Jesus, experienced in her life. One of those sorrows Mary experienced was standing at the foot of the cross as Jesus was dying a horrible death by crucifixion. The idea became part of the community's early name – Friends of Mary at the Foot of the Cross.

Since Loretto's founding in 1812, the idea of standing at the foot of the cross has called us to action. Who is struggling? Discarded? Humiliated? Forgotten? Deprived of dignity? Who need us to stand courageously with them?

Today in Loretto, standing in solidarity takes many forms. We stand with Dreamers, asylum seekers, the Earth, children, victims of gun violence, homeless persons, and many other situations needing our compassion.

The call to action happens in Loretto schools as well. We educate students to understand the world close to them and the global society they are also part of. The Loretto School Values of faith, community, justice and respect combined with academic learning helps provide the grounding for standing in solidarity and compassion. For younger students this might mean being kind to a classmate having a hard day or caring for the Earth by cleaning up or recycling. For Middle and High School students, service in the community encourages them to engage with people whose life situations are unlike their own, to see things with new eyes, and help bring about positive change.

Like Mary, we at SMA are called to solidarity and compassion. Guided by the words of Loretto's I Am the Way, "We strive to bring the healing Spirit of God into our world and we commit ourselves to improving the conditions of those who suffer justice, oppression, and deprivation of dignity."

### Campus: Did You Know?

The circular stone medallions on either side of the Lower School entrance represent beloved Loretto prayers dating from 1812. "OSJ" stands for O Suffering Jesus, and "OSM" stands for O Sorrowful Mary. They were said at specific times during the day and written as a heading on stationery or school papers as a moment of remembrance.





## Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 - October 15, 2018

September 15 was chosen as the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month because it is the Independence Day anniversary for five Latin American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and on September 16 and September 18, respectively, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days.



### ORACIÓN PARA CELEBRAR DIVERSIDAD

Dios Todopoderoso, por tu Espíritu creaste la unidad en medio de la diversidad; reconocemos que la diversidad humana es una expresión de tu gran amor hacia tu creación; confesamos que en nuestra debilidad como seres humanos, convertimos la diversidad en una fuente de aislamiento, injusticia, opresión y sufrimiento. Haznos reconocer y celebrar las diferencias como tu gran regalo para la familia humana. Haz que seamos arquitectos de comprensión, de respeto y del amor, por Jesucristo nuestro Señor, la fuente de toda unidad, rezamos. Amén.

### PRAYER TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

Almighty God, through your Holy Spirit you created unity in the midst of diversity; we acknowledge that human diversity is an expression of your manifold love for your creation; we confess that in our brokenness as human beings we turn diversity into a source of alienation, injustice, oppression, and wounding. Empower us to recognize and celebrate differences as your great gift to the human family. Enable us to be the architects of understanding, of respect and love; through you, the ground of all unity, we pray. Amen.

## Seven Sorrows Reflection

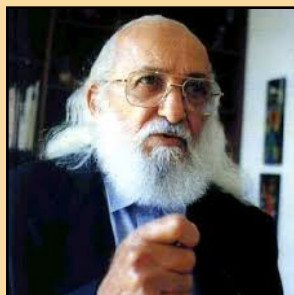
Almost 26 years ago, Sister Rose Alma Schuler wrote a beautiful reflection interpreting all of Mary's Seven Sorrows to situations contemporary women face. It is beautiful and timely for today. This is an excerpt.

"Often we are reminded that we cannot undergo any spiritual, mental emotional or physical suffering in life that was not fully endured by Christ during his humanity. But how often do we reflect that in her lifetime Mary, as a woman and mother, experienced all the trauma and the suffering peculiar to women of all cultures and all periods of history?"

Rose Alma Schuler, 1992 — Loretto Life, spirituality and faith



Our Lady of Sorrows, New Mexican folk art Source: <http://bit.ly/2vQP9OR>.



## **Paulo Freire A Capacity to Love Through Social Justice 1921-1997**

"Paulo Freire was born into a middle-class family in Recife, Brazil, on September 19, 1921. Paulo, along with his siblings, was raised in a Catholic family and brought up to have a concern for others and to recognize the dignity of every person. However, in the early 1930s, the Freire family was caught up in the financial crisis and fell into poverty.

Despite falling behind in his schooling because of his tumultuous childhood, Paulo was drawn to the field of education, especially the education of the poor. He studied law and philosophy at the University of Recife, with a special interest in phenomenology and the psychology of language. Freire spent the beginning of his career teaching language at a secondary school and working with state-run trade unions. In 1944, he married a primary school teacher, Elza Maria Olivera. They had five children and greatly influenced each other's work before Elza's sudden death in 1986.

He became the director of the Brazilian Department of Education and Culture of the Social Service for Industry (SESI). In this role, Freire recognized the role that social and economic environments play in a child's education. It was also during this time that Freire began to embrace liberation theology. In the 1960s, Freire was one of the original supporters of the Popular Culture Movement (PCM). With his appointment to director of the Department of Cultural Extension at the University of Recife in 1961, Freire began coordinating adult literacy trainings in a "cultural circle," where everyday problems were discussed among the poorest in Brazil. This unique approach to literacy was incredibly effective: participants began to read and write after only two or three days.

In 1968, after spending several years in exile in Bolivia and Chile (the Brazilian military leaders viewed him as a "revolutionary and an ignorant"), Paulo Freire wrote his most famous book, *The Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. The premises of Freire's proposed pedagogy are that the student is a co-creator of knowledge and that an equal relationship exists between the teacher, the student, and society. His "educational thrust centers on the human potential for creativity and freedom in the midst of politico-economic and culturally oppressive structures" (Gerhardt, 11). *The Pedagogy of the Oppressed* is considered a foundational document in education pedagogy and is used by educators and scholars around the world to this day."

Prospects: the quarterly review of comparative education (Paris, UNESCO: International Bureau of Education), vol. XXIII, no. 3/4, 1993, p.439-58.

©UNESCO:International Bureau of Education, 2000

## **Pax Christi The Peace of Christ**

"Marie Dennis has been co-president of Pax Christi International since 2007, a position she shares with Bishop Kevin Dowling from South Africa. From 1989-2012, 15 years as director, Marie worked with the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, charged with bringing the global experience of Maryknoll missionaries into the process of shaping public opinion in the United States and policies of the U.S. and other governments, the United Nations and international financial institutions. Marie is a laywoman and a mother of six. She holds a masters degree in moral theology from Washington Theological Union and honorary doctorates from Trinity Washington University and Alvernia University.

Author or co-author of seven books, Marie serves on the steering committee of the Catholic Peacebuilding Network and as a contributing editor to Sojourners magazine, and recently ended her service on the national board of JustFaith Ministries. She has previously served on the White House Task Force on Global Poverty and Development; the advisory committee of Orbis Books; and the boards of the Washington Office on Latin America, the Latin America Working Group, the International Resource Center, the Washington Office on Africa and the Jubilee USA Network. A Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace, Marie has served on the board of Pax Christi International since 1999."



"Pax Christi International is a Catholic peace movement with 120 member organisations worldwide that promotes peace, respect of human rights, justice & reconciliation throughout the world.

Grounded in the belief that peace is possible and that vicious cycles of violence and injustice can be broken, Pax Christi International addresses the root causes & destructive consequences of violent conflict and war."

[www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net)



# Poetry Corner

## ANYWAY

(Inscribed on the wall of Saint Teresa's Children's Home in Calcutta, attributed to Kent M. Keith)

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered;  
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;  
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends  
and some true enemies;  
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;  
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;  
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;  
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;  
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;  
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;  
It was never between you and them anyway.



**Feast Day September 5**

## Prayer Opportunities

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

## HAPPY SEPTEMBER!

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](mailto:plee@smanet.org)*

# SEPTEMBER 2018

## Interfaith and Justice Calendar

**September is Hispanic Heritage Month and Suicide Prevention Month**

\*The event begins the evening of the previous day  
 \*\*Exact date may vary between traditions and communities  
 Adapted from: [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org) and [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
2	3 Labor Day	4	5 Feast of St. Teresa of Kolkata <b>Christian</b>	6 Birthday of Jane Addams (1860-1935)	7	8 Feast of the Birth of Mary  International Literacy Day
9 Rosh Hashana begins at sunset <b>Jewish</b>	10 Muharram begins at sunset <b>Muslim</b>  World Suicide Prevention Day	11 Terrorist Attacks on US, 2001	12	13 Birthday of Marie Dennis (1942) Pax Christi	14	15 Ntl. Hispanic Heritage Month begins  Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows
16 Int'l. Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer	17 Constitution Day	18 Yom Kippur begins at sunset <b>Jewish</b>	19 Birthday of Paulo Freire (1921-1997)	20	21 Int'l. Day of Peace	22 Autumnal Equinox
23 Sukkot begins at sunset <b>Jewish</b>	24	25	26	27 Feast of St. Vincent de Paul <b>Christian</b>	28	29
30 Birthday of Elie Weisel (1928-2016)						

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[www.smanet.org](http://www.smanet.org)

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