

March 2018

ST MARY'S
ACADEMY

FAITH COMMUNITY JUSTICE RESPECT

Faith Walk

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY CAMPUS MINISTRY

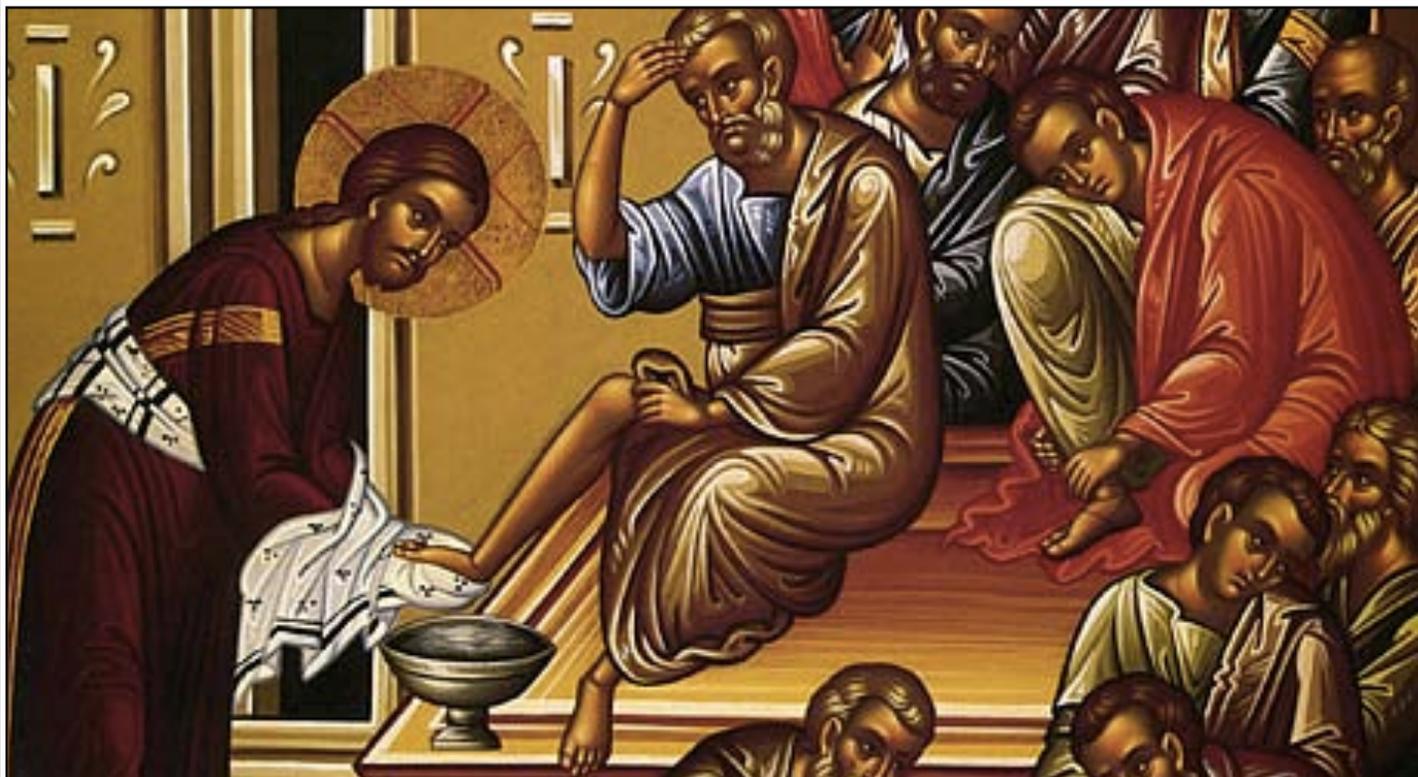


“Bright neon powder covers revelers in northern India during the annual Hindu celebration called Holi, usually held in March. Known as the festival of colors, Holi is celebrated on the last full moon in the lunar month of Phalgun.

This ancient tradition marks the end of winter and honors the triumph of good over evil. Celebrants light bonfires, throw colorful powder called gulal, eat sweets, and dance to traditional folk music.”

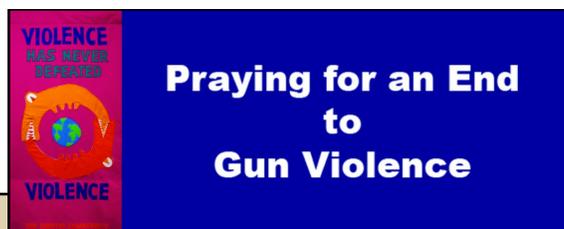
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/holi/#holi-hands.jpg>

Holy Thursday March 29, 2018



“Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion. It also commemorates His institution of the priesthood. The holy day falls on the Thursday before Easter and is part of Holy Week. Jesus celebrated the dinner as a Passover feast.”

<http://www.catholic.org/lent/thurs.php>



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 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 are: March 5, April 9, May 7. If you have questions, please contact Sister Regina at rdrey@smnet.org.

Also: Connect with groups working to end gun violence like Everytown For Gun Safety (<http://everytown.org>) or The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence (<http://bradycenter.org>). Check out their recommended legislative actions and other ways to be involved.

Research what the U.S. Catholic Bishops have said on prevention of gun violence and passage of common sense gun laws. Become involved with Faiths United to End Gun Violence (<http://faiths.org>) and commit to witnessing, educating, and advocating for shared values and common sense solutions to gun violence.



Water is an essential building block of life. It is more than just essential to quench thirst or protect health; water is vital for creating jobs and supporting economic, social, and human development.

Today, there are over 663 million people living without a safe water supply close to home, spending countless hours queuing or trekking to distant sources, and coping with the health impacts of using contaminated water.

This year's theme explores how we can use nature to overcome the water challenges of the 21st century.

Environmental damage, together with climate change, is driving the water-related crises we see around the world. Floods, drought and water pollution are all made worse by degraded vegetation, soil, rivers and lakes.

When we neglect our ecosystems, we make it harder to provide everyone with the water we need to survive and thrive.

Nature-based solutions have the potential to solve many of our water challenges. We need to do so much more with 'green' infrastructure and harmonize it with 'grey' infrastructure wherever possible. Planting new forests, reconnecting rivers to floodplains, and restoring wetlands will rebalance the water cycle and improve human health and livelihoods.

Sustainable Development Goal 6 - ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030 - includes a target to halve the proportion of untreated wastewater and increase water recycling and safe reuse.

World Water Day is coordinated by UN-Water - the UN's inter-agency collaboration mechanism for all freshwater related issues - in collaboration with governments and partners.

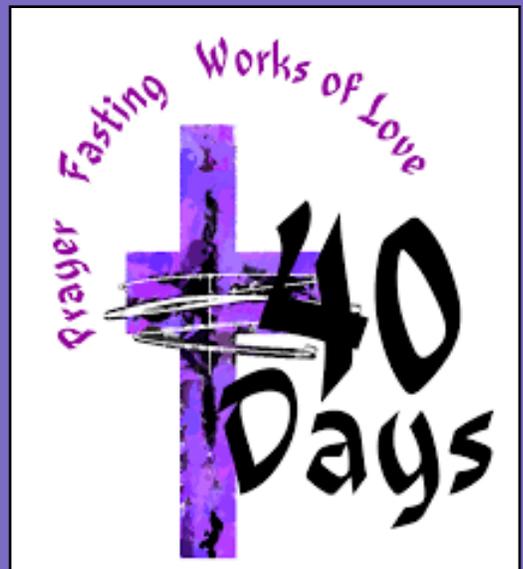
For more information, visit: <http://www.un.org/en/>

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com



Loretto's Commitment to Empowering Women

By Regina Drey SL

Loretto's work for equality and the empowerment of women is a long-standing tradition that finds new expression with changing times. Beginning with academies to educate girls and later the expansive opportunities for mission since Vatican II in the 1960s, Loretto engages in a broad array of work with and on behalf of women.

Here are some examples of work going on today, by individuals or by Loretto Community.

The Loretto Women's Network is a group within Loretto working toward personal and institutional transformation.

The Loretto Investment Committee makes alternative investments and microloans to women, particularly in poor countries, to open businesses and provide for their families.

Begun in 1981, each year the Mary Rhodes Award honors women making notable contributions in fields as varied as government, community organizing, health care, arts, writing, and education. This year's four awardees include two Denverites. Cass Cronin the Director of EarthLinks, a small non-profit co-founded by a Loretto member, that cultivates transformation and self-worth with people experiencing homelessness and poverty. Jennifer Piper's work focuses on fostering faith-based dialogue and faith based actions supporting immigrants and immigration reform.

Loretto has NGO status the United Nations, working mainly in areas such as the rights of women and girls, human trafficking, the rights of indigenous people and environment. Each year students from Loretto-sponsored schools attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

In addition to running a school, the Loretto Sisters in Pakistan teach women literacy and marketable skills such as embroidery and knitting.

Many individual Loretto members do extraordinary work with women. Here are a few examples:

Volunteer in prison helping women get their GED and leading a writing (Kentucky)

Co-founded and staff member at the Bridge Community, a residence for women with developmental disabilities. (Denver)

Caseworker at the Healing Place serving women experiencing addiction. (Louisville)

Foot massage for homeless women. (Denver)

Founder of Starfish Impact School which educates adolescent and high school age girls in Guatemala to become change agents in their communities. (Denver, Guatemala)

Board members and a staff member of Marian Middle School, a school for low income families and begun by seven religious communities. (St. Louis)

And on a lighter note, Manager of the Colorado Peaches Softball team, a spirited group of 74-86 year-young women. (Denver)

And the list could go on! Behind each of these works is passion, love and courage and a reminder of our Loretto founders who, quite simply, saw a need and responded. Similarly, we encourage students to do likewise – to use head and heart for the good of others.



4 Sister Simone Campbell, a member in 2016 and keynote speaker at Diversity Day the previous year.



Mary Ellen McElroy SL at the Women's March in Denver.

Lenten Journey to Easter

We walk this Lenten journey
With immigrants and refugees, Lost, unsure of their journey's end,
Still longing for a home.

We walk with those in poverty, Unable to live lives of dignity,
Besieged by hunger and fear, Trying to hold on day by day.

We walk with those mourning
What is happening to God's Creation,
Calling us all to better care and stewardship
Of the earth, its creatures, and all growing things.

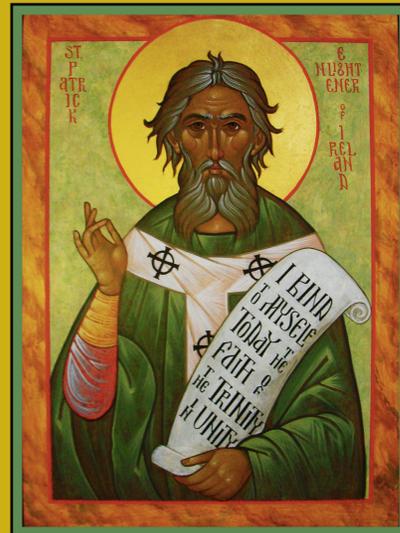
We walk with women who are trafficked, Who are abused, who are harassed,
Who still live in the silences,
And who want to flee the darkness.

We walk with the peacemakers, Walking a very rocky road toward peace
When so much conflict rages
And so many fan the flames of violence.

We walk with all those carrying burdens, Yet we walk in faith and hope
Despite the suffering of the Cross,
We walk toward an Easter dawning.
We move toward the seemingly impossible
Resurrection, a time of justice and peace.

We walk, called forward through the darkness By the Risen Christ.
In his name we pray. Amen.

— Jane Deren, Ph.D.



"First, a few misconceptions about Patrick:

Patrick isn't really a Saint with a capital S, having never been officially canonized by Rome. And Patrick couldn't have driven the snakes out of Ireland because there were never any snakes there to begin with. He wasn't even the first evangelist to Ireland (Palladius had been sent in 431, about five years before Patrick went). Patrick isn't even Irish. He's from what's now Dumbarton, Scotland.

Patrick was 16 years old in about the year 405, when he was captured in a raid and became a slave in what was still radically pagan Ireland. Far from home, he clung to the religion he had ignored as a teenager. Even though his grandfather had been a priest, and his father a town councilor, Patrick "knew not the true God." But forced to tend his master's sheep in Ireland, he spent his six years of bondage mainly in prayer. He escaped at the suggestion of a dream and returned home.

Patrick was in his mid-40s when he returned to Ireland. Palladius had not been very successful in his mission, and the returning former slave replaced him. Intimately familiar with the Irish clan system (his former master, Milchu, had been a chieftain), Patrick's strategy was to convert chiefs first, who would then convert their clans through their influence. Reportedly, Milchu was one of his earliest converts.

Though he was not solely responsible for converting the island, Patrick was quite successful. He made missionary journeys all over Ireland, and it soon became known as one of Europe's Christian centers. This, of course, was very important to fifth-century Christians, for whom Ireland was one of the "ends of the earth."



Ursula Le Guin 1930 - 2018



"Writer Ursula Le Guin died on January 22, 2018; she was 88. She believed that the imagination is "the single most useful tool humankind possesses." She certainly proved that to be true, turning the free exercise of her imagination into a spiritual practice.

Immensely creative and prolific, Le Guin wrote more than 20 novels, dozens of books of poetry, 100 short stories, seven collections of essays, 13 children's books, and five translations, including her much heralded Tao Te Ching of Lao Tzu. Her books have sold millions of copies around the world.

In 1974, she won the Nebula Award for the future-facing novel *Dispossessed* in which she carefully and convincingly fashioned a society based on the political philosophy of anarchism. Anarus is an evolutionary society with no government, laws, property, currency, or competition. The citizens live collectively, work for work's sake alone, and nourish their community life on mutual sharing and cooperation. This deep sci-fi story helps us develop a future consciousness; raises the right questions about the quality of life; and shed lights on our contemporary institutions and ideas.

Another favorite of ours by Le Guin is *Language of the Night: Essays on Fantasy and Science Fiction* where she comments on the works of Stanislaw Lem and Philip K. Dick. In response to those who label fantasy an escape from life, the author quips: "Children know that books about unicorns, if they are good books are true books." And then she hurrahs science fiction as "the capacity to face an open universe."

At the 2014 National Book Awards, Ursula Le Guin was given the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. What a perfect choice!"

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/blogs/posts/spiritual-literacy/531/ursula-le-guin-an-appreciation>

The International Day of Happiness

The International Day of Happiness is March 20th, every year, forever. Founded in 2012, the United Nations created the International Day of Happiness through adopting UN Resolution 66/281 in order to achieve two goals:

1. TO ESTABLISH A SET OF PRINCIPLES for addressing the complex, interrelated challenges faced by humankind in the ultimate quest to achieve happiness.
2. TO PROMOTE, PRESERVE, AND CELEBRATE the principles outlined in UN Resolutions 65/309 and 66/281, especially that happiness is a universal human right and goal.

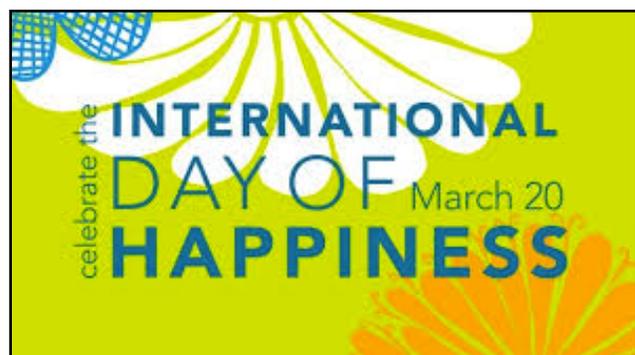


THE KINGDOM
OF BHUTAN

The Kingdom of Bhutan has measured "gross national happiness" since the 1970's. In 2009, Ambassador Lhatu Wangchuk of Bhutan authored the first UN happiness resolution: UN 65/309 Happiness towards a holistic approach to development.

For over 33 years, Illien Global Public Benefit Corporation has been creating happiness and promoting it as a human right and goal. Illien Global founded the International Day of Happiness when CEO Jayme Illien conceptualized the idea of a new global day, authored UN resolution 66/281, campaigned to gain approval for the new resolution from the UN Secretary-General as well as the adoption of UN 66/281 by consensus of all 193 member states. CEO Jayme Illien served as a United Nations adviser and now as a United Nations representative of Economists for Peace and Security.

To make a pledge to create more happiness in the world, share happiness, and read the resolutions, visit: <http://www.happinessday.org/>



Poetry Corner

Holy Saturday/Barely Believing

The longest day,
Waiting
For resurrection,
Death already having come.
The in-between, the meantime
That hanging onto a string
Time
Barely believing
That emptiness is not
All there is,
That the bitter, burnt taste of
Defeat, and the great chasm
Of fear
Will not reside forever
In our bones.
Barely believing
That the rock will open itself
And produce sweet water,
That the broken strings will
Knit themselves into
New melodies,
That the betrayed child's eyes
Will again reflect
Trust,
Enough at least to grow a garden.
Barely believing in the
Waiting itself,
Not knowing yet that
Resurrection doesn't just
Come. It has to be
Birthed. --Mary Anne Perrone



Prayer Opportunities

- Parents and Faculty/Staff: **NEW TIME!** 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. All prayers are handled in confidentiality, and may be submitted anonymously.

HAPPY MARCH!

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@stmarys.academy

MARCH 2018

Interfaith and Justice Calendar



March is National Women's History Month

*The event begins the evening of the previous day
 **Exact date may vary between traditions and communities
 Adapted from: www.interfaithcalendar.org and www.adl.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Purim* Jewish	2 Nineteen-Day Fast Baha'i 3/2-3/20	3 Holi** Hindu
4 Third Sunday of Lent Christian	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day	9	10
11 Fourth Sunday of Lent Christian	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18 Fifth Sunday of Lent Christian	19 Feast of St. Joseph	20 International Day of Happiness Vernal Equinox	21	22 World Water Day	23	24
25 Palm Sunday Christian	26	27	28	29 Holy Thursday Christian	30 Good Friday Christian Passover/ Pesach* Jewish 3/30-4/7	31 Lazarus Saturday - Orthodox Christian Holy Saturday Christian