

Ministry of the Arts
2024 Calendar

ON THE COVER

Flower

by Sister Marie Benzing, CSJ



In support of Pope Francis, the Vatican’s Dicastery for Integral Human Development, and the launch of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, this year’s calendar explores art and creativity reflective of the 7 Goals of Laudato Si’. The art in this calendar provides images that are alive with passion and the call of Laudato Si’. Ministry of the Arts and the Congregation of St. Joseph encourage and affirm creativity in one another, as our shared mission of unity compels us to a deep awareness of our communion with God and all creation. Through the arts, we express the unity and holiness of all creation and the depths of the human heart that can be revealed in response to the great mysteries of existence. We affirm the power of the arts to be a ministry that brings hope and healing to our world in this critical time of transformation.



Ministry of the Arts 2024 Calendar.
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Biblical citations from the New International Version. Laudato Si’ references from Pope Francis’ encyclical letter.

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Thy Whispers
by Sister Frankie Dutil, CSJ

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 "I have a dream that we can all be friends! That we will become people of honor, tall in spirit, full of reverence for earth and for each other..." New Years Day World Day of Peace	2 "...We will drop our guns and our walls and our greeds. Then there will be enough for all and the world will be safe again for children and living things." - Mary Southard, CSJ	3 What can you do to help stop human trafficking? Be alert. Be curious. And be willing to call the human trafficking hotline if necessary. 888-373-7888 Human Trafficking Awareness Month	4 Let everything you do be done in Love. 1 Cor 16:14 ESV	5 "Loving God, the dear neighbor, and all creation is one movement." (Maxim 59) <i>This maxim points to one of the guiding principles of the Congregation of St. Joseph today, which Pope Francis describes as "integral ecology".</i>	6 "Let the Epiphany give you the courage to live your faith even in times of adversity." - Jessica Sager Feast of the Epiphany
7 Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. Job 12:9-10	8 Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. (LS 217)	9 "If you don't know the guy on the other side of the world, love him anyway because he's just like you. He has the same dreams, the same hopes and fears...We're all neighbors." - Frank Sinatra	10 In your prayer today ask to notice what attitude of yours needs changing to create a better future. Pray for the gift to change it.	11 Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life. - The Blue Campaign National Human Trafficking Awareness Day	12 Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82:3-4	13 "You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know." - William Wilberforce
14 "Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity." - Mother Teresa	15 "I have decided to stick to love... Hate is too great a burden to bear." - MLK Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16 "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Desmond Tutu	17 Labor trafficking includes situations where men, women, and children are forced to work because of debt, immigration status, threats and violence. - National Human Trafficking Hotline	18 "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." - Albert Einstein	19 In the Judeo-Christian tradition, the word "creation" has a broader meaning than "nature", for it has to do with God's loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance. (LS 76)	20 Anyone can experience trafficking in any community, just as anyone can be the victim of any kind of crime.
21 "God continues to create life through the presence of loving relationships – may we be, like God, a good friend this year." - Carol Crepeau, CSJ	22 "By acting compassionately, by helping to restore justice and to encourage peace, we acknowledge that we are all part of one another." - Rahm Dass	23 "Speaking up for people who don't have a voice is important...It's the right thing to do, even if it's hard." - Lindsay Currie	24 "Jesus is Light for those in darkness, hope for those who search, peace for those who hurt. Now it's our turn to bring these gifts to others...do we?" - Frankie Dutil, CSJ	25 God makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Ephesians 4:16 NLT	26 "Noticing that everything is interconnected, that love and light exist amid the darkness, and that not all is lost can nourish us on our paths." - Rose Zonetti	27 Find a way today to praise, honor and give glory to the Holy One whose voice is heard in all of creation.
28 "Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life." - Pope Francis National Catholic Schools Week	29 Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature. (LS 215)	30 "Each of us has a responsibility when it comes to human trafficking. whether that's to learn the signs to help identify victims..."	31 "...to change the way we purchase products, or to use our voice to speak up and create awareness of this issue." - Christine Commerce			



Hildegard at Dawn
by Anne Camozzi

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Help us to realize that Black history is all our histories. May the day come when these stories are so wildly taught that no month need be separately divided. Black History Month	2 Loving and generous God, you call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you. Inspire us as we grow to know you, and open our hearts to hear your call. World Day for Consecrated Life	3 "They made us into a race. We made ourselves into a people." - Ta-Nehisi Coates
4 Research and learn about one achievement of an African American in the United States that you never knew about.	5 "Won't it be wonderful when Black history and Native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book. Just U.S. history." - Maya Angelou	6 "In listening to people from diverse backgrounds talk candidly about relatable experiences like love and loss..."	7 ...and emotions we all know such as hope, joy, pain, and regret, we see glimmers of ourselves in the stories of others." - Jonathan Gruber	8 Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Int'l Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking	9 God shall bring forth justice to the nations...A bruised reed God shall not break, and a smoldering wick God shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth. Isaiah 42:1-3	10 "Together let us beg for God's healing graces where they are most needed, as we also pray for forgiveness for all our manifestations of the sin of racism." - Sue Torgersen, CSJ
11 As you get ready to watch the big game, consider saying a prayer for victims of human trafficking. Large sporting events, like the Super Bowl, often lead to an increase in trafficking. Super Bowl Sunday	12 "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." - Abraham Lincoln	13 Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. (LS 202)	14 Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart. Joel 2:12 "These forgiving words acknowledge that..." Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	15 ...although there is a relationship, the Love that I seek is always seeking me. Laudato Si' challenges me to deepen how I hear this re-union call." - Judith Minear, CSJ	16 "Racism still profoundly affects our culture and it has no place in the Christian heart. Together we can eradicate racial injustice." - Catholic Mobilizing Network	17 Do an act of kindness for someone today. How does this act of kindness also connect to kindness to Earth? See the connections. Random Acts of Kindness Day
18 May the Lord give strength to his people; May the Lord bless his people with peace. Psalm 29:11 ESV	19 "Believe you can and you're half way there." - Theodore Roosevelt President's Day	20 "Let ours be a time remembered for... the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life" - Benedict XVI (LS 207) World Day of Social Justice	21 "I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; Knowing what must be done does away with fear." - Rosa Parks	22 "Only people who have been discriminated against can really know how much it hurts. Each person feels the pain in his or her own way, each has his or her own scars." - Haruki Murakami	23 "My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." - Desmond Tutu	24 "We cannot live in a world that is not our own, in a world that is interpreted for us by others... Part of the terror is to take back our own listening, to use our own voice, to see our own light." - Hildegard of Bingen
25 "I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me." - Muhammad Ali	26 "Words have power to hurt and to heal. Words are the way we meet one another and share our thoughts and our hearts..." National Set a Good Example Day	27 ...We need to choose our words carefully and listen to others when they speak." - Jeanne Cmolik, CSJ	28 Take a walk today and listen for God's voice in the sounds that surround you.	29 "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." - Martin Luther King, Jr.		



What Matters
by Sandy Bot-Miller

MARCH

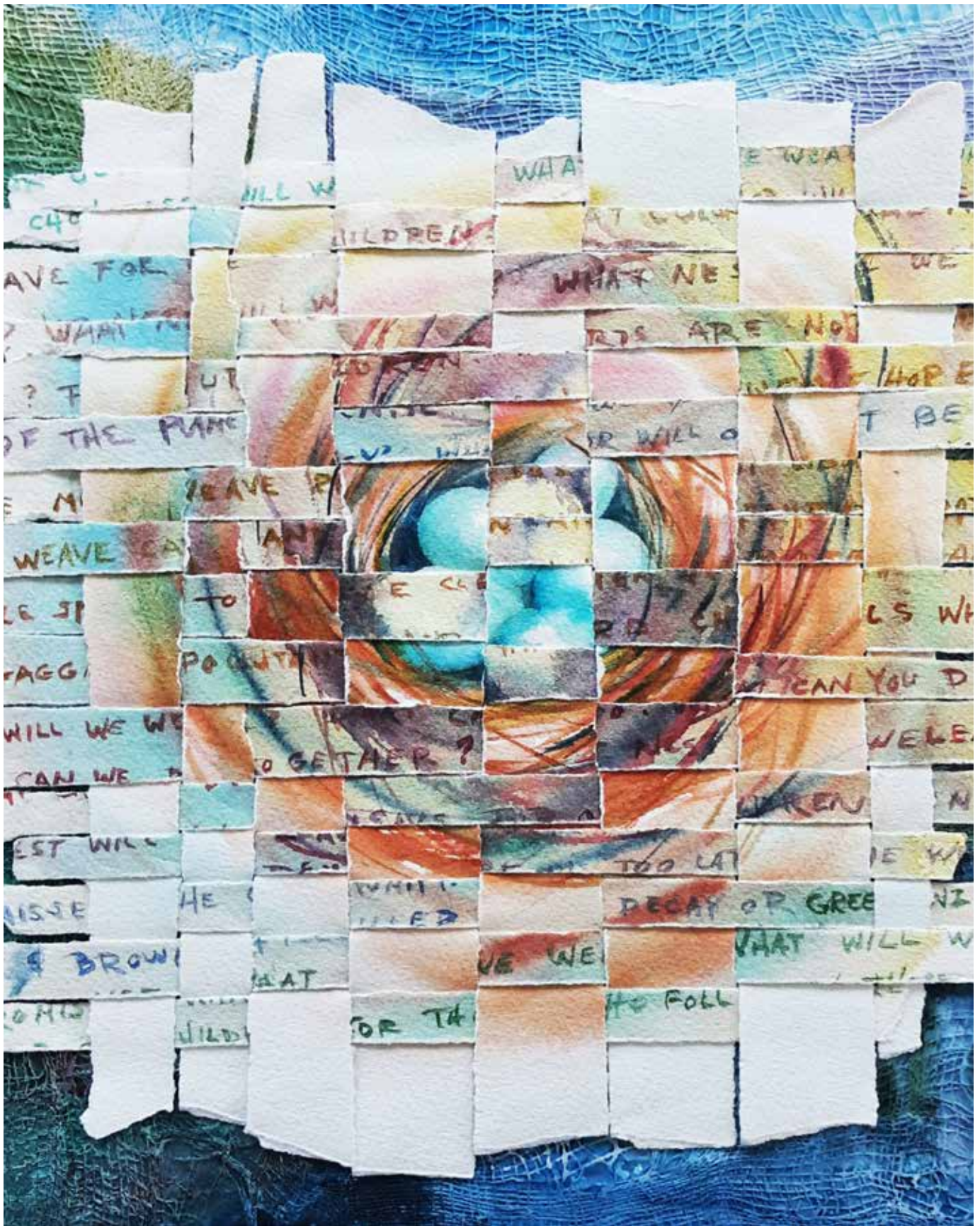
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<p>For the strength to teach our children to respond to differences respectfully, and for the courage to model it in our own behavior, let us pray to the Lord.</p> <p>World Day of Prayer</p>	<p>"By honoring the iconic women who have changed history, we encourage new generations to dream big and know that any thing is possible." ~ Molly McGrath Women's History Month</p>
<p>3 "Creator God, may these Lenten days provide a good opportunity to be more attentive to changes, large and small..."</p>	<p>4 .. that I might be called to make in my life. May my heart be open and responsive to how those changes might make a difference in large and small ways." - Jean McGrath, CSJ</p>	<p>5 "If light is in your heart, you will find your way home." - Rumi</p>	<p>6 Hope would have us recognize there is always a way out, we can always redirect our steps, we can always do something to solve our problems. (LS 61)</p>	<p>7 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. Proverbs 31:20</p>	<p>8 This week celebrates and shines a light on the spirituality, mission and community building of women religious. Catholic Sisters Week March 8-14</p>	<p>9 "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." - St. Catherine of Siena</p>
<p>10 "Service is what prayer looks like when it gets up off its knees and walks around in the world." - Michael J. Graham, SJ</p>	<p>11 The holy month of Ramadan is a time of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. Take at least 15 minutes today to pray in union with Muslims as they begin Ramadan.</p>	<p>12 "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." - Margaret J. Wheatley</p>	<p>13 "What will you do with your one wild and precious life?" - Mary Oliver</p>	<p>14 "People will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou</p>	<p>15 "Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process of gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding barriers, quietly building new structures." - John F. Kennedy</p>	<p>16 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9</p>
<p>17 May the Strength of God pilot us. May the Power of God preserve us. May the Wisdom of God instruct us. Saint Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18 "If you're not buying recycled products, you're not really recycling." - Ed Begley Jr. Global Recycling Day</p>	<p>19 "Joseph's example calls me to really see each person and to hold each with tender love." - Jacqueline Goodin, CSJ Saint Joseph's Day</p>	<p>20 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Psalm 51:10-11</p>	<p>21 "Sometimes I make it more about 'doing Lent well' rather than asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to me where I need to grow and be challenged." - Patty Breen</p>	<p>22 "We have never really learned how important water is to us. We understand it, but we do not respect it." - William Ashworth World Water Day</p>	<p>23 Spend some time in nature today, notice the unique diversity of life we share our home with.</p>
<p>24 As I enter into the mystery of this pain-filled week, how am I being called to embrace God's will as an act of love? Palm (Passion) Sunday</p>	<p>25 What has God been inviting you to do lately? How have you been responding? What has been your "yes"? Feast of the Annunciation</p>	<p>26 May this time be one of outward focus; seeking you in those we often ignore. Give us hearts hungry to serve you and those who need what we have to give.</p>	<p>27 Make a point of reaching out to someone who you know is struggling and remind her/him of God's love.</p>	<p>28 "No matter who you are, no matter where you're from, there is room at the table for everyone." - Carrie Newcomer Passover Triduum Begins</p>	<p>29 Take an hour to contemplate Christ's wounds reflected in the cries of Earth and those who are poor. Notice what happens in you as you pray this. Good Friday</p>	<p>30 Light a candle and renew your commitment to the vision of Laudato Si'. Holy Saturday</p>
<p>31 You have been raised with Christ, ...set your minds on things that are above, not on things on earth. Colossians 4:1-2 ESV Easter Sunday</p>						



Popcorn Spring
by Sister Mary Southard, CSJ

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 "In following the Risen One, may we be moved out of our complacency and towards a more just and peaceful world." - Kathy Brazda, CSJ	2 "Have courage, for without it we have no justice, without justice we have no freedom, and without freedom we have no peace." - Oglala Lakota	3 "Refuse what you do not need; Reduce what you do need; Reuse what you consume; Recycle what you cannot refuse, reduce, or reuse; and compost the rest." - Bea Johnson	4 The earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she groans in travail. Rom 8:22	5 We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. (LS 2)	6 "I credit my grandmother for teaching me to love and respect food. She taught me how to waste nothing, to make sure I used every bit of the chicken and boil the bones." - Marcus Samuelsson
7 The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. Psalm 33:5	8 Always carry a reusable bag with you. Why? The cost to recycle plastic bags outweighs their value, so most recycling facilities will not take them.	9 "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more." - Melody Beattie <i>Make a list of all that you are grateful for, and find a way to express your gratitude.</i>	10 "I don't know exactly what a prayer is. I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass, how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields." - Mary Oliver	11 "It is not enough to be busy. So are the ants. The question is: What are we busy about?" - Henry David Thoreau	12 "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." - John Muir	13 "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." - Audrey Hepburn International Plant Appreciation Day
14 Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. (LS 67)	15 "There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread." - Mahatma Gandhi	16 God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8	17 "For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver." - Martin Luther	18 "Just living is not enough," said the butterfly, "One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower." - Hans Christian Andersen	19 "There is no such thing as 'away'. When we throw anything away, it must go somewhere." - Annie Leonard	20 Help with the recovery of essential pollinators like the Monarch butterfly by planting milkweed - the only thing the Monarch caterpillar eats - in your yards or containers.
21 Inspire in me wisdom and understanding to see your vision for my life and respond with openness to whatever you call me to be. Show me your way Lord! World Day of Prayer for Vocations	22 "We know that we are interconnected with all beings, with God, with each other, with the dear neighbor, with Earth..."	23 ...Our call is to continue to be bold and creative in living greater ecological conversion and more environmentally sustainable lives." - Lucy Silvio, CSJ	24 "How lovely is the silence of growing things." - Evan Dicken	25 Ready to take the first step in protecting our planet? Consider joining a local clean-up in your area.	26 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Romans 12:16 ESV	27 Think of your garden as a feeding station and a safe haven for bees, butterflies, birds and other wildlife. Plant flowers, berries and seed heads.
28 "Always be open, be open to new opportunities, be open to new people, be open to different kinds of experiences." - Beth Knobbe	29 In assessing the environmental impact of any project, concern is usually shown for its effects on soil, water and air,...	30 ...yet few careful studies are made of its impact on biodiversity, as if the loss of species or animals and plant groups were of little importance. (LS 35)				Learn more about the plight of Monarch Butterflies and find out how to get milkweed seeds to plant at: SaveOurMonarchs.org



*What Shall We Weave
What Shall We Leave for the Children
by Marie Spaeder Haas*

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 "Perhaps the mark of greatness is not the accomplishing of great works... but in facing life as it comes, being content with the daily, what we call ordinary. Joseph was that kind of man." - Madeleva Wolff, CSC Saint Joseph the Worker	2 "We look around and see the billions of people you created in your image; uniquely, fearfully, wonderfully, and we thank you. Wrap us in your Spirit and unite us in your family, Lord." - Kathy Branzell National Day of Prayer	3 I urge you... Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:1-2	4 Find an opportunity to volunteer at a childcare or hospice center, a food bank, a homeless shelter, or community service organization.
5 "Teach me when to speak and when to listen, when to ponder and when to share. In moments of challenge and decision, attune my heart to the whisperings of your wisdom." - Pat Bergen, CSJ	6 "Small is beautiful. Choose a pathway, get creative, and use where your gifts are." - Tracy Horan, SP	7 Lord we bring to you all of the wonderful work being done to release children from poverty, and we pray that you would bless every pair of hands that works for you.	8 "Every child you encounter is a divine appointment." - Wess Stafford	9 There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from poverty caused by environmental degradation, however they are not recognized by international conventions as refugees. (LS 25)	10 "In reality, immigrants change culture for the better by introducing new ideas, expertise, customs, cuisines, and art. Far from erasing the existing culture, they expand it." - Int'l Organization for Migration	11 Fair Trade is a tangible contribution to the fight against poverty and exploitation, climate change and the economic crisis and has the greatest impact on the world's most vulnerable populations. World Fair Trade Day
12 "Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn't know you had, and dealing with fears you didn't know existed." - Linda Wooten Mother's Day	13 "We must teach our children to smell the Earth, to taste the rain, to touch the wind, to see things grow, to hear the sun rise and night fall - to care." - John Cleal	14 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3	15 Changes in climate, to which animals and plants cannot adapt, lead them to migrate; this affects the livelihood of the poor, who are forced to leave their homes. (LS 25)	16 "Above all, let us set the children free, break the traps of fear that history has fashioned for them. Free to grow, to seek and question, to dance and sing, to be dreamers of tomorrow's rainbows." - Native American Proverb	17 "Whilst many media reports of migrants focus on numbers of arrivals, returns and deportations, it is important to remember the human faces and stories behind these statistics." - Int'l Organization for Migration	18 "Safety and security don't just happen,...We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear." - Nelson Mandela
19 "Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me that my work, too, may be holy. Strengthen me to defend all that is holy." - St. Augustine Pentecost Laudato Si Week	20 Open our minds and touch our hearts so that we may attend to your gift of creation...	21 ...Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to all future generations and that it is our responsibility to preserve it...	22 ...May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need...	23 ...Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected and interdependent...	24 ...Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor...	25 ...May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world. - Prayer for Laudato Si' Week
26 "The church can't... sit on her hands and wait for people to come to us. We also have to go out to the periphery, to where people are." - Father Michael Rossman	27 In union with all people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice. Memorial Day	28 "Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!" - Dr. Seuss	29 "We are the care takers of the children for the Creator. They are His children, not ours." - Native American Proverb	30 All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace. Isaiah 54:13	31 "All of us can get frustrated with change not happening as fast as we'd like it to... But the call is to continue to show up." - Erin McDonald, CSJ	



Storms Brewing
by Sister Carrie Vall, CSJ

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p>7</p> <p>Celebrating Pride is a prayer: For justice, for reconciliation, for courage, for hope, for resistance, for equality, for liberation, for joy.</p> <p>(LGBTQ+) Pride Month</p>
<p>2</p> <p>"All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential."</p> <p>- Harvey Milk</p>	<p>3</p> <p>"Your beliefs should never leave you ashamed of who you are naturally. The way you were made is perfect and good."</p> <p>- The Proud Trust</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.</p> <p>Matthew 19:14</p>	<p>5</p> <p>"Raising awareness on the most pressing environmental issues of our time is more important than ever."</p> <p>- Leonardo DiCaprio</p> <p>World Environment Day</p>	<p>6</p> <p>"I'm taking a fresh look at the American Dream and who gets to live it and who doesn't."</p> <p>- Helen Prejean, CSJ</p>	<p>7</p> <p>The color orange was chosen to signal that the wearer does not want to be the next victim of gun violence, and to symbolize the value of human life.</p> <p>National Gun Violence Awareness Day</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Attend a prayer vigil to end gun violence.</p> <p>Wear Orange Weekend</p>
<p>9</p> <p>"Love is Love." This phrase sums up that regardless of the sexual identity of each individual,...</p>	<p>10</p> <p>...the love that exists in any type of relationship is valid and real in its own way.</p> <p>- Urban Dictionary</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.</p> <p>Proverbs 31:9</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Father, we come to you in prayer to protect your children from abductors who prey on the most vulnerable.</p> <p>World Day against Child Labor</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Lord, I ask that you help me to see people as you see them, looking past the physical and into their hearts.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Let me welcome people with open arms, minds, and hearts who look different from me.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded. (LS 13)</p>
<p>16</p> <p>"Blessed indeed is the man who hears many gentle voices call him father."</p> <p>- Lydia Maria Child</p> <p>Father's Day</p>	<p>17</p> <p>"What might we find if we dare to take a long, loving gaze into the faces of children? Would we see ourselves reflected back?..."</p>	<p>18</p> <p>...Would we be reminded that the future is theirs, but ours to protect? Would we see the face of God?"</p> <p>- Mary Jo Curtsinger, CSJ</p>	<p>19</p> <p>The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times.</p> <p>Juneteenth</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Together, we can champion the rights of people who have been forced to flee to seek safety. And advocate for solutions to their plight.</p> <p>World Refugee Day</p>	<p>21</p> <p>"Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise," says the Lord. "I will protect them from those who malign them."</p> <p>Psalm 12:5</p>	<p>22</p> <p>"I love you in all your peculiarity - gecko and giraffe, aardvark and avocado, humus and humans - all born from your womb."</p> <p>- Christine Parks, CSJ</p>
<p>23</p> <p>God created all things. It is only man who decided which ones were mistakes.</p> <p>- Beautiful Creatures</p>	<p>24</p> <p>The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on a path of dialogue...</p>	<p>25</p> <p>...which requires patience, self-discipline and generosity, always keeping in mind that "realities are greater than ideas".</p> <p>(LS 201)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>In humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.</p> <p>Philippians 2:3-4</p>	<p>27</p> <p>"Being truthful about the state of our nation and world does not equal losing hope. Hope sees truth and still believes in better."</p> <p>- Bernice King</p>	<p>28</p> <p>"Hope is an active verb. You don't have hope if you just stand on the sidelines. Hope springs through us when we begin to act and are engaged."</p> <p>- Helen Prejean, CSJ</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Help us to remember those who tonight will go to sleep unfed and unwelcome, strangers in foreign land, people who have fled for their lives and are far from their homes...</p>
<p>30</p> <p>...So many carry wounds, mental and physical for their plight, soften our hearts to their situation, and help us follow your lead in seeking justice and mercy on their behalf.</p>						



Earthsong
by Sister Marion Honors, CSJ

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 "Why would you make something that you're going to use for a few minutes out of a material that's going to last forever, that you're just going to throw away. What's up with that?" - Jeb Berrier Plastic Free Month	2 "Life did not take over the world by combat, but by networking." - Lynn Margulis	3 "Touch the earth with gentleness, touch the earth with love, touch her with a future by the way you live today." - Kathy Sherman, CSJ	4 God, source of all freedom, this day is bright with the memory of those who declared that life and liberty are your gift to every human being. Help us continue the good work begun long ago. Independence Day	5 The world cannot be analyzed by isolating only one of its aspects, since "the book of nature is one and indivisible" and includes all life, the environment, sexuality, the family, social relations, and so forth. - Benedict XVI (LS 6)	6 One of the most popular ways people reduce plastic waste is by using cleaning products without plastic packaging. You can also save money by buying in bulk or using homemade cleaning products.
7 Instead of your normal vacation, consider volunteering. Take a stewardship vacation.	8 "To be called a refugee is the opposite of an insult; it is a badge of strength, courage, and victory." - Tennessee Office for Refugees	9 "I have learned to seek first to understand and then to be understood." - Stephen Covey	10 As pollinators, butterflies are an important part of our ecosystem and supply chain, and we all must be committed to supporting them!	11 "We can reconnect our landscape by making our private properties into stepping stones that...	12 ...create a connected landscape to once again allow for the free flow of species across a healthy, native landscape." - Intro to Pollinator Pathways	13 Swap single-use, disposable coffee cups for reusable ones. They are better for our health and the environment.
14 That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. John 17:21	15 "Ask questions from your heart and you will be answered from the heart." - Native American Proverb	16 "We do not measure our success on the great things we have accomplished but on how much we loved, how we put that love in to action and become sowers of justice, peace, and kindness." - Erin McDonald, CSJ	17 There are positive examples of environmental improvement: rivers, polluted for decades, have been cleaned up; native woodlands have been restored; landscapes have been beautified...	18 ...thanks to renewal projects; beautiful buildings have been erected; advances have been made in the production of non-polluting energy and in the improvement of public transportation. (LS 58)	19 Find some time today to enjoy the outdoors and stop and smell the flowers.	20 Choosing reusable produce and shopping bags is a simple way to help reduce the impact of plastic waste on our oceans and the environment. It's also worth considering if you need a bag at all.
21 Shun the gadgets for a day and enjoy the feeling of truly being in the moment.	22 We honor Mary Magdalene by trusting women - when they preach the gospel, when they see God, and when they make decisions about their own lives and futures. The Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene	23 "It is the obligation of every person born in a safer room to open the door when someone in danger knocks." - Dina Nayeri	24 "In the world around us, it seems that it is often easier to label or name-call something or someone...	25 ... than it is to see the potential value or beauty in something or someone who doesn't conform to our notion of value or beauty." - Christine Parks, CSJ	26 "The sorrow is great. Let us learn to love greater - riotous love, expansive love, love so rooted, so common we almost forget the world could look any other way." - Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer	27 Support the efforts of community gardens. Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to participate and unite efforts for the ecosystem's good.
28 Many bars and restaurants put plastic straws in every drink. Reduce plastic waste and protect wildlife by requesting your drink without a plastic straw, and bring your own reusable alternative.	29 Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other. Zechariah 7:9-10	30 "At times we forget that we are all one body...Awaken us to the reality of human trafficking that plagues our collective body... World Day against Trafficking in Persons	31 ...Help us to be agents of healing and transformation so that all might have life and have it abundantly." - Catholic Sisters Against Trafficking			



Lisa's Apron
by Cindy McKenna

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 "We ask you to protect and watch over our families, so that in your grace we may live good lives, filled with your peace, and show your glory." - Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers	2 Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. (LS 246)	3 Take a mini-retreat today and go to a beach, a nearby nature preserve, or a park.
4 God decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors teach their children...	5 ...so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Psalm 78:5-6	6 Spirit of love and belonging, help us to love each dear neighbor and continue to strive to embrace unity in diversity so that in radical love, all may be one. Anniversary of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph	7 Breathe deeply. Pray often. Listen more. Reflect.	8 The milkweed planted in the spring is doing its job! Beautiful butterflies have been spotted across the congregation this summer.	9 "Now fly away butterfly as high as you can go, I'm right there with you more than you know." - Jill Haley	10 "I didn't realize that what I did affected so many people. I'm sorry and want to make things better." - Anonymous
11 "Mercy is stronger and more God-like than vengeance." - Helen Prejean, CSJ	12 "I did not know that the very thing I was taught in school - how the criminal justice system and incarceration were fair and justified - was far from the truth." - Laryn Ridgeway International Youth Day	13 Make your community stronger by volunteering, becoming a role model, or joining peer group activities.	14 "If only I sat still long enough to touch and be touched by the holy today." - Christine Parks, CSJ	15 "The first few feet of sea-level rise alone will displace more than 100 million people worldwide..."	16 ...and turn all major Gulf and Atlantic coast cities into pre-Katrina New Orleans - below sea level and facing super-hurricanes." - Joseph J. Romm	17 "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhumane." - Martin Luther King Jr.
18 "I learned that there are ways around, or through, the wall that will present itself in whatever way the Spirit chooses, if I will listen." - Karen Van de Walle, CSJ	19 "Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give them wisdom and knowledge to their minds; peace and zeal to their hearts." - Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers	20 "I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can." - George Bernard Shaw	21 By this will all know that you are my disciples by your love for one another. John 13:35	22 "With the exception of parents and siblings, our teachers from pre-school through post college years have the most profound influence on our formative years and help shape the person we become." - Jean McGrath, CSJ	23 "They say, 'it takes a village to raise a child,' and I just want to say thank you to my 'village.' If you have watched, loved, or prayed for my child, thank you." - Unknown	24 "One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals." - Jean Vanier
25 "I think massive migration is inevitable. As sea levels rise, as climate change happens, as fertile fields become arid, as wars are fought, people are going to move. They always have." - Mohsin Hamid	26 "Through our votes, we're able to express our values around concerns like health care, climate change, criminal justice, taxes, and so much more..." Women's Equality Day	27 ...And yet our voting rights are under attack. Bills that make voting harder for women and Black and brown Americans - these obstacles threaten our democracy." - League of Women Voters	28 "Everything is a learning process: Any time you fall over, it's just teaching you to stand up the next time." - Joel Edgerton	29 Today, we pray for all of our dear neighbors around the world who are experiencing natural disasters, violence, civil unrest, sickness, and despair. Join us as we pray for comfort, hope, and peace in these difficult times.	30 "For it's our grief that gives us our gratitude, Shows us how to find hope, if we ever lose it. So, ensure that this ache wasn't endured in vain: Do not ignore the pain. Give it purpose. Use it." - Amanda Gorman	31 Spend some time today praying for all victims of gun violence.



Children 23
by Sister Pat Willems, CSJ

SEPTEMBER

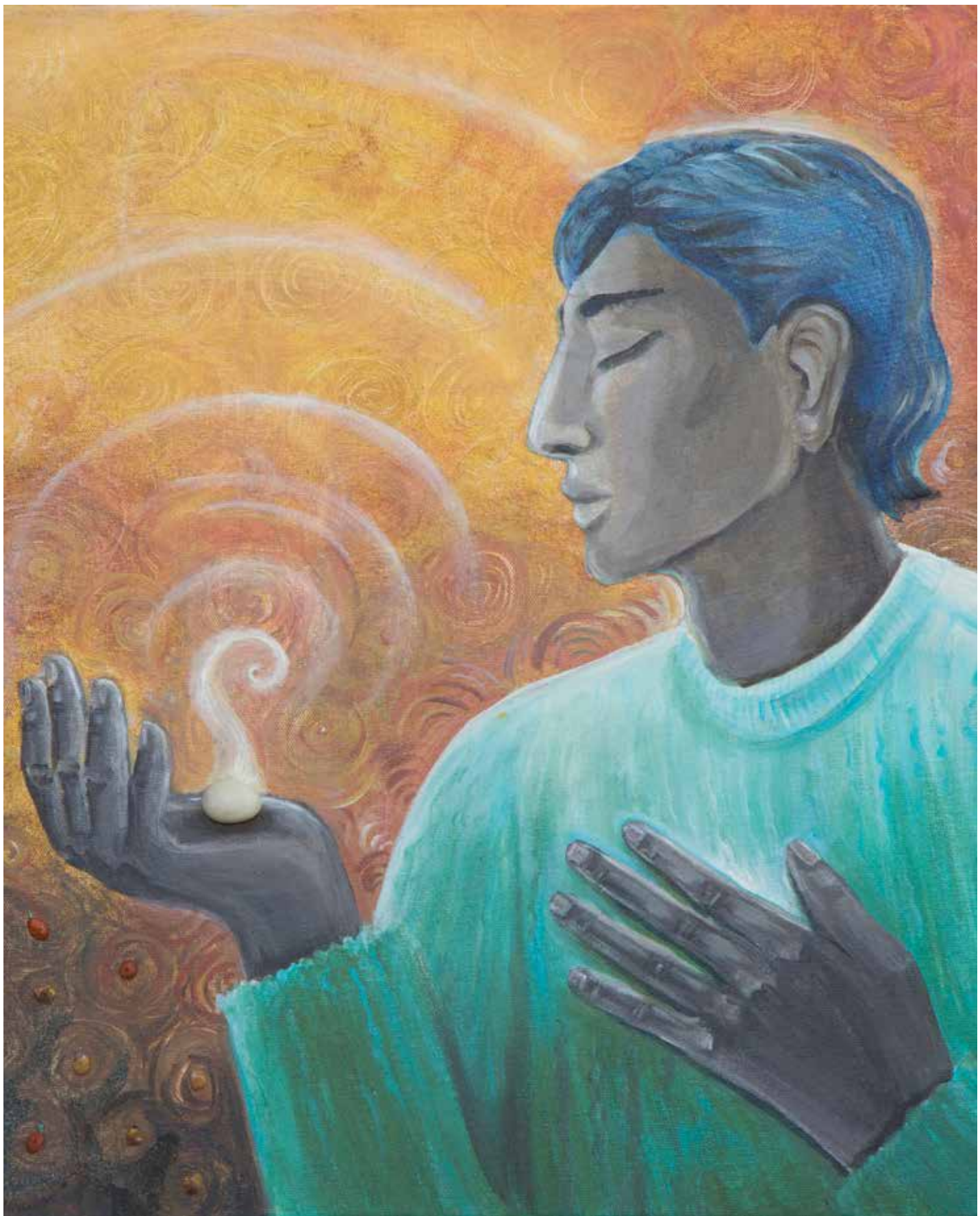
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>"As we enter into the Season of Creation, take time to recognize the reality that Earth is dying, to claim your oneness with Earth, and take steps to strengthen, heal and renew the face of Earth." - Christine Parks, CSJ Season of Creation</p>	<p>2</p> <p>To all those who wake up early, work hard, and never give up. Your efforts are appreciated and valued. May we never forget the importance of workers' rights and the fight for social and economic justice. Labor Day</p>	<p>3</p> <p>The Ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things. (LS 233)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>"Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs." - St. Francis of Assisi</p>	<p>5</p> <p>"Have you forgotten you are made of star dust? Have you forgotten you are one with everything? It's not too late for you to remember." - Kathy Sherman, CSJ</p>	<p>6</p> <p>In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Psalm 95:4-5</p>	<p>7</p> <p>So what we all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in our relationship with the world around us. (LS 217)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>What can we do to help reduce our carbon footprint? From the food we eat, to the clothing we buy, to the way we get around, there are many small ways we can make a difference.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>"The whole climate is changing: the winds, the ocean currents, the storm patterns, snow packs, snow melt, flooding, droughts. Temperature is just a bit of it." - John Holdren</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Commit to one meatless day per week to reduce the emission of carbon and methane in the atmosphere.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>May we remember this day and share memories with those who cannot forget. May we stand with strangers who became neighbors that day and learn to trust in your unfailing love. Anniversary of 9/11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Watch (or re-watch) Laudato Si' The Letter: A Message for Our Earth. TheLetterFilm.org</p>	<p>13</p> <p>How am I caring for the environment and the contributing to the common good? How do my life choices support a just expression of the environmental and the related call...</p>	<p>14</p> <p>...to alleviate suffering of the most vulnerable? Is there a balance in life in caring for myself and promoting care for the common good of all?</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Examine your purchasing practices. Try to reduce buying new items and items that are single-use.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>How does my lifestyle reveal my connection to creation and the gratitude, celebration and care of creation invited by St. Francis of Assisi and Laudato Si'?</p>	<p>17</p> <p>You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12</p>	<p>18</p> <p>We are called by our faith to welcome the stranger and care for the most vulnerable and we are challenged by our national values to promote the welfare of our children and tend to the common good.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Think about packaging before you buy products.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love." - St. Francis of Assisi</p>	<p>21</p> <p>"Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, of gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, and quietly building new structures." - John F. Kennedy Int'l Day of Peace</p>
<p>22</p> <p>I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2</p>	<p>23</p> <p>"I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued." -Dr. Brené Brown</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Take time this week to learn about the biodiversity around you. Ask yourself questions like, what are two plants native to your area? On whose ancestral homelands do you live?</p>	<p>25</p> <p>"I thank you God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes." - E. E. Cummings</p>	<p>25</p> <p>"Prayer gradually changes our face into the face of God, our presence into the presence of God's love." - Marcella Clancy, CSJ</p>	<p>27</p> <p>While the existing world order proves powerless to assume its responsibilities, local individuals and groups can make a real difference...</p>	<p>28</p> <p>...They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. (LS 179)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Collect gifts of the local harvest and deliver them directly to someone you know who is in need or to a local food pantry.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>"May we focus on the power and authority that creates and sustains life; and not that which claims false power and authority - in fact, that destroys life." - Sally Latkovich, CSJ</p>					



St. Francis
by Betsy Kinnick

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 "The commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill,' refers to both the innocent and the guilty." - Pope Francis Respect Life Month	2 Authentic human development has a moral character. It presumes full respect for the human person, but it must also be concerned for the world around us. (LS 5)	3 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity. 1 Timothy 5:1-2 ESV	4 Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. (LS 11) The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi	5 "Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters." - Dau Voire
6 May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of God's creation. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is God who gave us the breath of life.	7 "It is time to consider more deeply why every human life is valuable and to reflect on how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death." - U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops	8 "Raise your heart, not your hand." - Abhijit Naskar	9 Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. 1 Cor 12:22-23	10 "For most people, the death penalty is an issue that's just out there and they don't reflect on it very deeply. They hear about a terrible crime and think 'that person...' World Day Against the Death Penalty	11 "...deserves to be executed'. But I knew if we could bring people close and educate them, we'd shut the death penalty down." - Helen Prejean, CSJ	12 "Sing through my voice, play through my hands, let the way be opened." - Beautiful Chorus
13 "The violence and trauma of indigenous boarding schools happened to everyone Native American..."	14 "...The collective grief and trauma of this truth needs to be acknowledged and discussed before any healing can happen." - Maka Black Elk Indigenous Peoples' Day	15 We unite our hearts in love and in service to our dear neighbors in celebration of the anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of St. Joseph! CSJ Founder's Day	16 Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Matthew 18:21-22	17 "In restorative justice, which some have learned from indigenous culture, the questions are who was hurt, what do they need, and what needs to be done to bring about healing." - Rose Ann Hefner, CSJ	18 "What you focus on becomes reality. Everybody carries anger inside. But also happiness. Those who focus on anger will always be angry." - Ben Mikaelson, Touching Spirit Bear	19 "Restorative justice states that those most affected by the crime – including the offenders and the victims – should participate in the healing." - Global Peace Careers
20 Our love for God is revealed in our love for our neighbor. Help a neighbor you know is in need of friendship or assistance.	21 "Everything we need to promote positive change is already here." - Carolyn Boyes-Watson and Kay Pranis	22 "At any given moment you have the power to say this is not how the story is going to end." - Christine Mason Miller	23 Pray for the ability to respect all creatures, non-human as well as human.	24 "We must remember how to honor and respect life with each breath, step, word, and thought. What you bless blesses you in return. This is the power of reciprocity." - Sandra Ingerman	25 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10	26 What courageous act will you do today to preserve and protect health, families, livelihoods? Make a Difference Day
27 "Justice is never advanced in the taking of human life. Morality is never upheld by a legalized murder." - Coretta Scott King	28 "Violence is a dark contrast to what so many of us still believe in – love." - Robi Ludwig	29 Strengthen our hope when we are tempted to despair, and open our minds and hearts to new partners in mission even if we experience opposition, hostility, or fear.	30 "Courage is fear that has said its prayers and decided to go forward anyway." - Joyce Meyer	31 "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." - L.M. Montgomery		



Patience
by Angela L. Chostner

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 "We thank you, God, for hardworking saints: artists, builders, teachers, caregivers, blue collared or three piece suited. They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for those yet to come..." All Saints Day	2 "...Bless the memories of your saints and ours. May we follow the examples they have given, and share the love you inspired in them." - Safiyah Fosua All Souls Day
3 "I believe that the vowed life is relevant and vital for our world today. When there is division, we seek unity. When there is hatred, we love expansively. And when our society tells us happiness... National Vocation Awareness Week	4 "...is equal to consuming things, we try to find joy in intentional community and in a relationship with God. With so much fear in our world today, I know that our charism of unioning love can be the antidote." - Sarah Simmons, CSJ	5 "It is up to 'We The People' to seek policies that reflect Gospel principles, and make our voices heard by voting." - Mary Ellen Gondeck, CSJ Election Day	6 "Each of us is called to answer God's love with her or his life. How can I best respond to God's love? How can I best spread God's love in my life and in others' lives? How can I best lead a loving life?" - Eileen E. O'Brien	7 We ask you, God, to bless the Church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.	8 "Vocation does not come from a voice out there calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice in here calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original self hood given me at birth by God." - Thomas Merton	9 In the family we learn to ask without demanding, to say "thank you" as an expression of genuine gratitude for what we have been given, to control our aggression and greed, and to ask...
10 "...forgiveness when we have caused harm. These simple gestures of heart-felt courtesy help to create a culture of shared life and respect for our surroundings." (LS 213)	11 Bring healing and peace to all who have been wounded physically, mentally and spiritually during wartime. Help us bring your saving grace to heal the invisible wounds of war. Veteran's Day	12 "Grant me daily the grace of gratitude, to be thankful for all my gifts, and so be freed from artificial needs, that I might lead a joyful, simple life." - Edward Hays	13 "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." - Leo Buscaglia	14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12	15 We pray in gratitude for the work of the farmers who have tilled and cared for the land, planted the seed and tended and gathered the harvest.	16 Gather a small group of friends monthly to share meatless recipes, cook and eat a meatless meal together. Calculate the carbon effect of this.
17 "Innovations in urban agriculture - from the creative reuse of stormwater to soil rehabilitation - can help fight food insecurity and prevent further food issues." - D. J. McCauley	18 Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:4-5	19 Many food pantries are in need of specific food items. Take time to research what is needed at your local facilities, make a plan and donate items or your time.	20 Learn the importance of native prairie plants to support a flourishing ecosystem and combat the impacts of climate change. Use this information to start planning your spring garden.	21 Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? Matthew 7:9-10	22 What would it be like to spend a few minutes each day naming 3 things for which you are most grateful? Practice having an attitude of gratitude.	23 Refrain from using harmful pesticides on your lawn and garden. Instead, learn about the good that many of these insects do to keep your lawn and garden healthy.
24 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34	25 "An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and..."	26 "...contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence must not be contrived but found, uncovered". - Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium (LS 225)	27 "To cultivate a fully, authentically positive mindset, we must practice both gratitude and thankfulness." - Holly Lebowitz Rossi	28 "The harvest is not merely a time of abundance in the fields but a spiritual reminder that God faithfully provides for us in every season of our lives." - Max Lucado Thanksgiving Day	29 Read a story about or by a Native American. Visit one of many Native American museums, heritage centers, or historical sights. Watch a movie or documentary about or by a Native American.	30 "I changed from being a nun who only prayed for the suffering world to a woman with my sleeves rolled up, living my prayer." - Helen Prejean, CSJ Cities for Life Day



Tree of Life
by Sister Mary Southard, CSJ

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>"May I hear and act on the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor this Advent. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. (LS 244)"</p> <p>- Cynthia Sabbathier, CSJ</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Remind the people... to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.</p> <p>Titus 3:1-2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Join a Laudato Si' working group to create new connections with a community of Catholic climate champions.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.</p> <p>Ecclesiastes 4:6</p>	<p>5</p> <p>"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."</p> <p>- Kahlil Gibran</p>	<p>6</p> <p>"People rarely think about the life cycle of the gift they give: how it was made, who made it, how long it will last and where it will ultimately end up."</p> <p>- Rachel Jonat</p>	<p>7</p> <p>"Ensure that Holy Christmas is never a celebration of appearances or of useless gifts, or of excessive waste, but that it is a celebration of joyfully welcoming the Lord into the crib and into the heart."</p> <p>- Pope Francis</p>
<p>8</p> <p>"Loving God, inspire us, through the example of Mary, to have the courage to say 'yes' to your call, trusting that nothing is impossible to you."</p> <p>- Ileana Fernandez, CSJ</p> <p>Immaculate Conception</p>	<p>9</p> <p>"Peace is not something you wish for, it is something you make, something you are, something you do and something you give away."</p> <p>- Robert Fulghum</p>	<p>10</p> <p>"God, Fill the hearts of all people with your love and the desire to ensure justice for all their brothers and sisters."</p> <p>- Newman Catholic College</p> <p>United Nations Human Rights Day</p>	<p>11</p> <p>"If God has given you the world's goods in abundance, it is to help you gain those of Heaven and to be a good example of sound teaching to your sons, servants, and relatives."</p> <p>- Saint Ignatius</p>	<p>12</p> <p>"Giving someone your time may be one of the most valuable gifts you can give them."</p> <p>- Melissa Romano</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests."</p> <p>Luke 2:13-14</p>	<p>14</p> <p>"We shall never learn to know ourselves except by endeavoring to know God.. by meditating upon God's humility, we find how very far we are from being humble."</p> <p>- St. Teresa of Avila</p>
<p>15</p> <p>How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles!</p> <p>(LS 65)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.</p> <p>Philippians 4:4-5</p>	<p>17</p> <p>"If you are going to do something for the poor, the abused, or the imprisoned, above all be faithful. People with broken lives often come from lives with broken promises."</p> <p>- Helen Prejean, CSJ</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Loving God, be near to all who have been touched by violence: those who have been hurt, lost their loved ones, or lost their sense of security. Be for them a steady comfort and safe resting place.</p> <p>Intl' Migrants Day</p>	<p>19</p> <p>"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."</p> <p>- Arthur Ashe</p>	<p>20</p> <p>The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good. Anyone who...</p>	<p>21</p> <p>...has grown up in the hills or used to sit by the spring to drink, or played outdoors in the neighborhood square; going back to these places is a chance to recover something of their true selves.</p> <p>(LS 84)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>"Over and over again, God is born in our own lives and in all of creation. God comes in every possible situation."</p> <p>- Lucy Silvio, CSJ</p>	<p>23</p> <p>"Faithful love of husband and wife, families supporting one another, people caring for the poor, the elderly, and the homeless... God is with us, cherishing."</p> <p>- Jeanne Cmolik, CSJ</p>	<p>24</p> <p>May the Light of Christ shine radiantly in you, grounding you in love, and filling you with the utter fullness of God.</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25</p> <p>May you see the Light of Christ reflected in all faces and places, moving the world into harmony and peace.</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.</p> <p>Psalms 89:1 ESV</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Joseph fleeing to Egypt with his family is part of the Christmas narrative and an opportunity to remember migrants and refugees in this season of giving.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>While Christmas is a time for celebrating, it is also a time to remember our dear neighbors!</p>
<p>29</p> <p>"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins..."</p>	<p>30</p> <p>...To find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, release the prisoner, rebuild the nations, bring peace among people, make music in the heart."</p> <p>- Howard Thurman</p>	<p>31</p> <p>What positive change will you make in the world this year? How can you improve the lives of other people and help our planet in 2025?</p>				

Meet the Artists



On the Cover:

Flower

by Sister Marie Benzing, CSJ

Sister Marie taught young children for many years, and found that painting added dimension to her life. It rose out of her love for beauty and creation and the sheer excitement she experienced working with color, shape and design. She intends her work to stand as a pledge to honor God, who is the primary artist of all beauty.

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January:

Thy Whispers

by Sister Frankie Dutil, CSJ

Sister Frankie has enjoyed art since childhood. After working with several different media, she came to love watercolor the best. This medium defies precise control yet yields wonderful results when we are able to let go. She thinks of watercolor as a lesson for living - when the water and the paint take off on their own and we feel that we are not in control. However, this is where the unexpected becomes better than what we had originally planned. Watercolor teaches us that beauty often emerges when we stop struggling for control in our lives.

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February:

Hildegard at Dawn

by Anne Camozzi

An artist and author, Anne paints and writes as a form of meditation and prayer to transform her physical pain into comfort and serenity for others and to inspire acts of social justice. From an early age, Anne experienced the Divine in nature and is a life-long advocate for the environment, women's issues, and the disabled. This image, painted on silk, celebrates the connectedness of all life and with our mother, the Earth.

AnneCamozi.com



March:
What Matters
by Sandy Bot-Miller

Sandy is an artist and poet from St. Cloud, MN, who works primarily with fibers and oil pastels. Although most of the figures and images in Sandy's art rise from her own inner stirrings/proddings - from dreams, questions and experiences of loss, deep connection, mystery and healing - her hope always is that viewers may find part of their life story present in her works as well.

sandybotmiller@gmail.com



April:
Popcorn Spring
by Sister Mary Southard, CSJ

Sister Mary is an artist whose paintings reflect her close connection to and love for the natural world and what it is to be a participant in the magnificent universe. Her art explores and gives expression to our soul's journey within this intimate and interconnected sacred community of life, with all its beauty, pain and mystery.

MarySouthard.org or MinistryoftheArts.org



May:
What Shall We Weave What Shall We Leave For the Children
by Marie Spaeder Haas

Marie is an avid watercolorist, originally from the Pennsylvania shores of Lake Erie, who now enjoys a home in rural Tennessee near the Ocoee River. Though her academic training was in biology, and teaching was her early career, interest in painting and drawing were very important to her from a very early age.

SpaederHaasGallery.com



June:
Storms Brewing
by Sister Carrie Vall, CSJ

Sister Carrie first taught art at a mission school in Lumberton, NM, and later at Saint Joseph Academy in Cleveland. These experiences showed her the healing benefits of artmaking, which led her to go back to school where she earned a Master of Arts in Art Therapy Counseling. Carrie enjoys working with a variety of groups, using a variety of media, and interweaving prayer and reflection. *Storms Brewing* is part of a series of small watercolors which Sister Carrie created during the Covid lockdown.

MinistryoftheArts.org



July:

Earthsong

by Sister Marion Honors, CSJ

Sister Marion is a nationally and internationally recognized artist. Her work includes relief and intaglio prints, monoprints, monotypes, drawings and paintings, collages, painted embossments and monotype printmaking with water-based inks. She has painted embossments and illustrations for children's books and other publications. Her latest work is an exploration of what she calls "painting/print assemblages." Sister Marion lives at the Albany Provincial House in Latham, NY.

CSJCarondelet.org



August:

Lisa's Apron

by Cindy McKenna

Whether painting, doodling, or working with fibre, Cindy McKenna's prayers roll out through her fingers, filling her images with a prophetic energy that transforms. Called to be an artist at a young age, her work changed dramatically after committing to Jesus. Her heart breaks for women and children oppressed by poverty and addiction. She and her husband (who is also an artist) run a Christian based gallery in Blyth, Ontario, Canada. Their passion is to release freedom and healing through art to the community around them.

CindyMcKennaArtist.com



September:

Children 23

by Sister Pat Willems, CSJ

Before her passing in 2023, Sister Pat taught watercolor painting at The Well Spirituality Center in LaGrange Park, IL. She was certified in art therapy and spiritual direction, and loved to paint nature, people and landscapes. Sister Pat often said, "Self-expression is a privilege each of us has, and when used, unites us with the energy of God as Creator."

MinistryoftheArts.org



October:

St. Francis

by Betsy Kinnick

Betsy is an artist from Omaha, NE. She was introduced to the universe story ten years ago and has since been a source of inspiration for her artwork. Betsy says, "When I do art, I like to express what is alive in me. Creating art is a way to touch the heart of things that matter most."

kinnickbetsy@yahoo.com



November:

Patience

by Angela L. Chostner

Angela lives in St. Louis and exhibits throughout the Midwest. About her art she says, "When I paint, it feels like a dance, where my heart speaks to the canvas, and the painting that slowly emerges reflects every feeling, prayer, meditation and intention poured in. My themes are virtues I explore, such as trust, respect, and wisdom. My paintings evolve as my understanding does, often in directions that surprise me. My process is fluid and requires that I stay in the moment, my skills always in service to my vision."

AngelaLChostnerArt.com



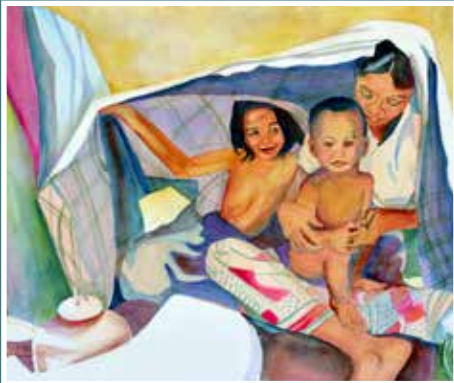
December:

Tree of Life

by Sister Mary Southard, CSJ

Sister Mary is an artist whose paintings reflect her close connection to and love for the natural world and what it is to be a participant in the magnificent universe. Her art explores and gives expression to our soul's journey within this intimate and interconnected sacred community of life, with all its beauty, pain and mystery.

MarySouthard.org or MinistryoftheArts.org



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To learn more about **The Congregation of St. Joseph**, visit CSJoseph.org