



*Embracing Our Neighbour
and Our Common Home*

GREETINGS FROM MARTHA JUSTICE MINISTRY

Greetings to you all!

It is so life-giving to take in the beauty of Spring – flowers are blooming, birds are singing, and the grass is vibrant green. It is a time to sit with the wonder of creation, as plants, insects, and animals bring new life after the winter quiet.



We take this into our souls as a source of joy and hope in our world, where there is so much grief and pain. We hold in our hearts so much that is happening in our world, especially those suffering from war and violence. We call out desperately for a ceasefire and permanent peace in Gaza and Israel. We pray for peace and justice throughout the world – for people and the planet.

At this time, we hold both the joy and pain of this time, facing them together with the faith that God is with us. I continue to be grateful for the Marthas and all of those we encounter in our work for social and ecological justice, reconciliation, and peace.

I hope that you are inspired and encouraged by this edition's Standing4Justice, as we continue to work together with wonderful people doing such important work for justice in our communities and the world. Peace and Blessings,

Darlene O'Leary, Coordinator, Martha Justice Ministry





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ORCIE LEARNING & LOBBYING

In March, I was able to be part of the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIE) Learning & Lobbying activities in Ottawa.

ORCIE BCRÉI



ORCIE group.

Left to right: Sabrina Chiefari; Sue Wilson, CSJ; Darlene O'Leary; Joan Atkinson, CSJ; Joe Gunn; Deirdre Pike; Sarah Rudolf, IBVM; Heather Rouselle

This week of activities started with a very helpful [webinar with Alex Cool-Fergus from the Climate Action Network](#), who offered an outline of where climate policy is in Canada and where we could focus our advocacy. Then, a group of eight religious and lay representatives joined together at Saint Paul University in Ottawa to do a half-day training session on climate lobbying led by ORCIE Executive Director Genevieve Gallant. The next day, we started our lobby day at a Parliamentary Breakfast hosted by Above Ground with a panel of speakers

on climate action. The recording is here: [Experts to MPs: Canada must stop funding fossils | Above Ground.](#)

We then divided into two groups of four and went to our meetings with policy makers and MPs to discuss increased ambition in climate policy in Canada, including capping fossil fuel production and emissions.

My group met with Frank DesRosier, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Innovative Sector, Natural Resources Canada; Jennifer Lash, Senior Advisor, Office of Minister of Environment and Climate Change; and MP Francesco Sorbara (Ontario). We had very good and engaging conversations at these meetings, and several of the meetings led to promising contacts in our ongoing work on climate policy and the UN SDGs. The second group had similar meetings that also led to some helpful information and contacts.

Following the meeting, we gathered for a debrief and lovely meal together at Joe Gunn and Suzanne Doerge's home!

It was a very positive lobby week, and it was great to help build these relationships and to let people know about ORCIE!



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SCHOOL FOR LEADERSHIP, ECOLOGY AND EQUITY

Following the ORCIE Learning & Lobbying activities, I had the great pleasure of taking part in the launch of the Saint Paul University School for Leadership, Ecology and Equity.

This new school, located in Ottawa, will offer an MA and soon a BA program building on fostering and exploring integral ecology.

At the launch event, Dr. Heather Eaton was presented with the Thomas Berry Award by the Yale Forum for Religion and Ecology's Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grimm. It was a wonderful



celebration of the work and leadership of Dr. Eaton, a world renowned scholar in eco-feminist theology.

The event included workshop sessions that introduced those gathered to some of the topics that the new school will be teaching. It was exciting to see the interest and commitment of those gathered for this new initiative!

JPIC ATLANTIC BISHOPS MEETING

On April 9th, members of the Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Atlantic planning group, Sr. Denise Lirette, DJ, Sr. Mary Tee, RSM, and myself, gave a presentation to the Atlantic Episcopal Assembly in Halifax.

This is a meeting of all Atlantic region bishops. In the weeks leading up to the presentation, we worked with Sr. Danielle Julien, FMIC, from the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) and Sr. Karen Kelly, CND, to pull together the presentation focus. Our presentation included some context for our concerns about the climate crisis and care for creation, theological supports for creation care, including *Laudato Si'*, and some initiatives and resources on climate and related issues. This included ORCIE, the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, Indigenous Rights, and water protection.



Darlene with Sr. Denise Lirette, DJ and Sr. Mary Tee, RSM

We talked about the need to share resources and collaborate in educating on creation care. We were given about an hour, and there were a few questions from the bishops. We were grateful to have the opportunity to meet with the bishops on these issues of urgent importance. We hope it planted some seeds for future collaboration.



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FR. GREG MACLEOD LECTURE

It was a great pleasure for me to give this year's Fr. Greg MacLeod Lecture at Cape Breton University this past April. The topic was "Deepening our exploration of the climate crisis through *Laudato Si'*: What does Integral Ecology ask of us?"

There was a wonderful group of about 60 people at the event. We had an engaging discussion on integral ecology and Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, as well as the concrete ways we can deepen our work to address the climate, ecological, and socio-economic crises together.

The previous day, I was interviewed by CBC Sydney Mainstreet's Wendy Bergfeldt about the topic, and Wendy also introduced me at the event, offering an excellent reflection on the challenges we are facing.

Thank you to Fr. Doug MacDonald, CBU Chaplaincy, and the Newman Society for



inviting me to speak at this wonderful event and for their commitment to issues of social and ecological justice and faith.



GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE

We are happy to support the Kairos campaign that took place this Lent and Spring, "GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE: CANADIAN CHURCHES FOR JUST PEACE."

Some Marthas and MJM Core Group members did prayerful walks for peace during Lent. Others joined local Ceasefire rallies. Several Marthas and I were able to join a silent prayer vigil in front of Town Hall, sharing with others our prayers, grief, and hope for Gaza.

The Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage global network outlines the following global calls:

- ◆ Enduring and Sustained Ceasefire.
- ◆ Immediate flow of life saving food, water, aid, fuel, and humanitarian assistance.
- ◆ Release of all captives.
- ◆ End all arms transfers to Israel.
- ◆ End of occupation so a just-peace can begin.

<https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/>

**GAZA CEASEFIRE
PILGRIMAGE**

A Via Dolorosa of Solidarity

Across every continent,
we walked in prayerful
solidarity — but the
injustice continues, so
we will too.

[Come, walk with us](#)

Learn more about the Kairos campaign at:
<https://www.kairoscanada.org/gaza-ceasefire-pilgrimage>



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NEW GROWERS

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This is a transition year for the New Growers program!

As we let some of the land rest to replenish the soil, we have hired David Matheson as the New Growers On-Site Manager to work with David Greenberg on testing new methods of growing. David Matheson and Meghan Johnny are continuing to farm during this transitional year, growing beautiful veggies to share with the Lochaber Growers food boxes.



During this season we will offer a series of gardening workshops for anyone in the community who wants to learn about gardening at different stages through the growing season. See the poster for more information!



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BIG FORUM

The Basic Income NOW Atlantic Canada group participated in the national Basic Income Guarantee (BIG) Forum that took place in Ottawa (hybrid) from May 23-26.

Martha Justice Ministry Core Group member Joanne Tompkins attended the event in person and acted as the moderator for the Atlantic group's workshop, "BIG Advocacy in the Atlantic Provinces." Sr. Marion Sheridan and I joined virtually and contributed to the presentation. This event was **the first of its kind in Canada** and was a great opportunity to share ideas and learn about effective advocacy to move forward a basic income or guaranteed liveable income in Canada.

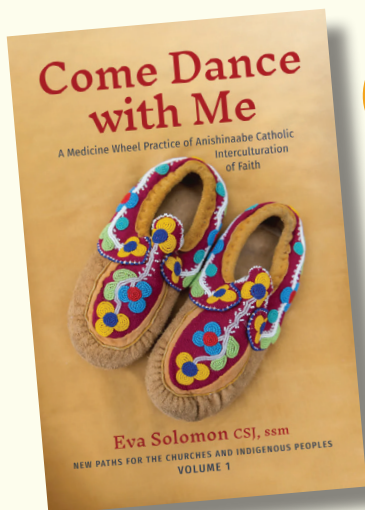
You can find more information about the event at this link: <https://forum2024.ca/>



BIG Forum

L to R: Elisabeth Kay-Raining Bird (NS); Joanne Tompkins (NS); Natasha Pei (Tamarack, QC); Susanne White (NB); Susan Hartly (PEI); Joshua Smees (NL); and Orpah Cundangan (Tamarack, ON)

MJM LIBRARY



Sister Eva Solomon, CSJ, SSM *COME DANCE WITH ME: A MEDICINE WHEEL*

PRACTICE OF ANISHINAABE CATHOLIC INTERCULTURATION OF FAITH

This new to the MJM library is a book that is part of the *New Paths for the Churches and Indigenous Peoples* series by Novalis.

Sister Eva Solomon is an Ojibwe Elder,

Sacred Pipe Carrier, and Sister of St. Joseph, Sault St. Marie. In her book, which is based on her doctoral thesis, she explores the

intercultural engagement, or dance, of her Christian faith and her Ojibway Anishinaabe community and traditions. Recognizing the enduring legacy of colonialism, Sr. Solomon invites a new vision for the Church for healing and reconciliation. She invites us to dance the path of the medicine wheel, drawing on Ojibwe traditions and practices as a new way of encountering Christ among us. This book offers deep wisdom and vision for living full both Indigenous and Christian "interculturation of faith."