

Standing4Justice

MARTHA JUSTICE MINISTRY
NEWS



*Embracing Our Neighbour
and Our Common Home*

A MESSAGE FROM MARTHA JUSTICE MINISTRY



Greetings to you all! What a beautiful time of year it is! The trees are full of leaves, flowers are blooming, and pollinators are busy at work. Nature is singing songs of joy. It reminds us of the beauty and fragility of our world

and our need to deeply appreciate and protect our common home.

Martha Justice Ministry continues to be involved in so many wonderful networks and efforts to educate and advocate for social and ecological justice.

We have had opportunities this spring to continue our work on poverty eradication, income security, and support for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in collaboration with local and national organizations. We've been deepening our learning on issues of importance. And we are enjoying another wonderful season with our New Growers!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for this work. We hope you find our updates encouraging and helpful!

Peace and Blessings,

*Darlene O'Leary
Coordinator, Martha Justice Ministry*

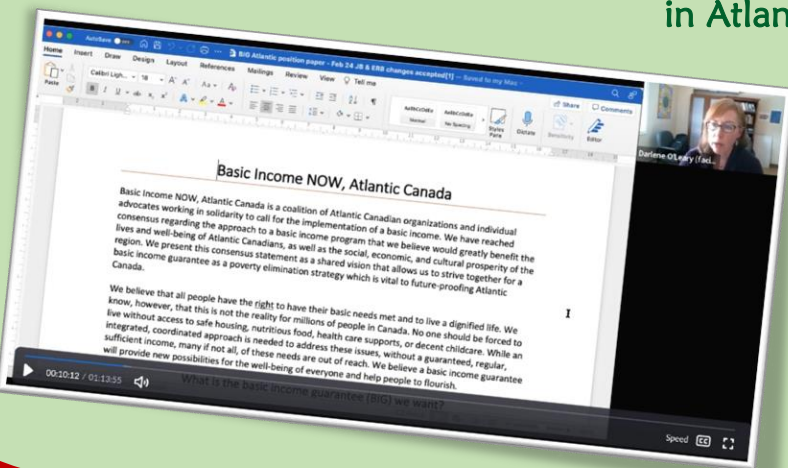




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BASIC INCOME IN ATLANTIC CANADA MEETING WITH SEAN FRASER

On April 19, Sister Marion Sheridan and I, along with Basic Income Nova Scotia's Elisabeth Kay Raining-Bird and former MP Wayne Easter, met with MP and Immigration Minister Sean Fraser to discuss the work we are doing to build support for a basic income program in Atlantic Canada.



We discussed our **Basic Income Atlantic Canada** consensus statement and hopes for an Atlantic Basic Income Summit. Wayne Easter was able to speak to the progress PEI has made in support of launching a program there. It was a good opportunity to share with Minister Fraser the progress of our Atlantic group and to hear his recommendations on building federal support.

NATIONAL CANADIAN RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE (CRC) *JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC) EVENT*

On March 23, the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) held a national, virtual event to celebrate and share the work being done by Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) offices and committees across the country.

The event started off with Sister Marion Sheridan providing a wonderful overview of the history of **JPIC Atlantic**. Several other speakers from different regions spoke about their JPIC work, which is very rich and diverse, including work in creation care, Indigenous reconciliation, anti-trafficking, refugee support, and more. I had a chance to highlight Martha Justice Ministry's work, particularly on poverty eradication and basic income.

It was a great opportunity to learn of the creative and important JPIC work being done by religious congregations in Canada!





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WEBINAR: AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN NOVA SCOTIA AND UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

On May 19, the Coady International Institute's Extension Department hosted a webinar on Affordable Housing in Nova Scotia and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The webinar was moderated by Pauline MacIntosh and featured Sister Marion Sheridan, who presented a very interesting overview of the history of the SDGs. It also featured Nikki Jamison with the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation talking about translating the SDGs into the local context. As well, Blair Crawford, the SDG program director with Engage Nova Scotia spoke about mapping and compiling data on SDG-related projects, with a focus on affordable housing, in NS.

It was a wonderful conversation that showed the continued relevance of the UN SDGs and important work being done in Nova Scotia to advance the SDGs.

Click [here](#) to watch the webinar on YouTube

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN NOVA SCOTIA and the UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Join us for the first in a series of three webinars on the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** and **Affordable Housing in Nova Scotia** as we discuss the origin of the SDGs, why they are important, what is happening related to the SDGs in Nova Scotia, and how the SDGs intersect with affordable housing.

Pauline MacIntosh
Moderator
Coady Institute

Blair Crawford
Sustainable Development Goals
Program Director
Engage Nova Scotia

Nikki Jamison
Provincial Coordinator
Atlantic Council for
International Cooperation

Sr. Marion Sheridan
Sister of Saint Martha
Antigonish

May 19, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Register: tinyurl.com/SDGNS1

Logos: StFX University, COADY, Employment and Social Development Canada, Emploi et Développement social Canada

SDG icons: 1 NO POVERTY, 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING, 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY, 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES, 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



GARDENING WORKSHOP

On April 23, we held our “Home Gardening and Food Resilience” workshop with New Growers mentor David Greenberg. It was a fun event, even though it was very, very cold!



David Greenberg

We had about 20 people in attendance, with many others who were interested but not able to attend. A couple of StFX students joined us, as well. There were very good discussions and learning, and a great deal of interest in having a follow-up workshop in the summer.

Thank you, David Greenberg, for sharing your extensive knowledge of gardening with us!



NEW GROWERS MOU SIGNING

Our New Growers Orientation and lunch was held on April 5 with this year’s New Growers, David Matheson and Meghan Johnny, who are starting their second season, and Danielle Speck and Clayton MacLeod, who arrived from Ontario in April.

Sister Florence Kennedy and David Greenberg shared some history of the program and Sister Brendalee Boisvert shared about the Marthas’ Direction Statement. We had some time for questions and then had the MOU signing with Sister Brendalee, Sister Joanne O’Regan, Sr. Florence Kennedy, David Greenberg and the New Growers, with a nice lunch to follow.



New Growers signing



DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY



Development and Peace/Caritas Canada, the international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, has been active over the spring preparing for it's June Orientation Assembly.

To watch videos from some of the activities and learn more about Development and Peace check out:
#orientationassembly
Twitter @DevPeace
<https://www.facebook.com/devpeace>



The Development & Peace Orientation Assembly (OA) took place on June 16-19 in Halifax and was a wonderful opportunity to come together as delegates from diocesan councils across the country, National Council members, youth representatives, bishops, staff and executive, and most importantly international partners. We shared our hopes for the movement, along with the challenges we need to face with open hearts, minds, and spirits. And we learned more about the issues of importance that we want to prioritize over the next five years as an organization.

Participants had a good opportunity to hear from the new Executive Director, Carl Héту, as well as the new National Council President, Brenda Arakaza, who is also the francophone youth representative. The event included keynote speakers, panel discussions, and

a mass that was livestreamed. We were fortunate to have with us Cardinal Michael Czerny who attended in person as a keynote speaker and stayed for the entire conference.

To learn about Orientation Assembly and Cardinal Czerny click [here](#).

Participants at the OA were also grateful to hear from the Hon. Graydon Nicholas of the Tobique First Nation, a retired judge and former Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, who is also a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Circle and shared on being an Indigenous Elder and a Catholic. We were inspired, as well as, by our partners, including Dr. Isaac Asume Osuoka, director of Social Development Integrated Centre (Social Action), Nigeria, who spoke on climate justice. There was rich sharing and space for open and honest dialogue as participants joined to create the path forward together.



PARKLAND TALKS

Martha Justice Ministry had begun a series of monthly discussions for the Sisters living at Parkland Antigonish. We meet at the Multipurpose Room on topics relating to social and ecological justice.



At our first discussion, we watched the documentary “*Laudato Si’* +7: *The Greening of Faith Communities in Canada*”, by [Kevin Moynihan](#). This film

highlights the work that different faith communities are doing to respond to the call to care for creation.

Our second event was focussed on Indigenous Reconciliation. We watched parts of the series “*They Came for the Children*”, a five-part documentary series, also by [Kevin Moynihan](#), concentrating on the history of residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. A very rich conversation followed.

At our latest discussion, we watched part of the Voices for Peace online conference “*Blessed are the Peacemakers*,” from the [Henri Nouwen Society](#). It was a very profound reflection on how to be peacemakers and nonviolent in our fractured world. It has been so wonderful to spend time learning together and sharing our reflections on these issues of importance.

Kevin Moynihan's website
<http://www.kmproductions.ca/>



Voices for Peace conference is on YouTube. Click [here](#) to watch it.



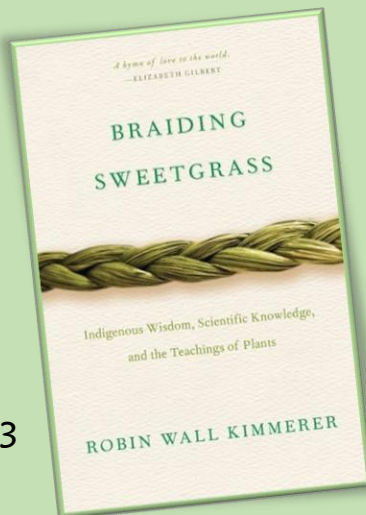
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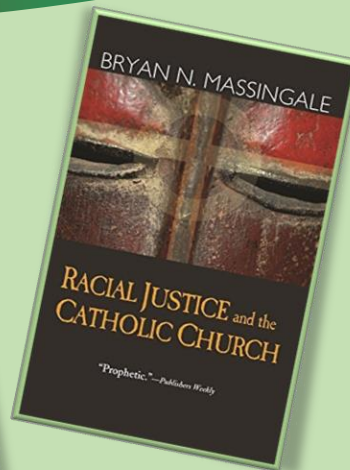
MJM RECOMMENDED BOOKS

*Braiding Sweetgrass:
Indigenous Wisdom,
Scientific Knowledge,
and the Teachings
of Plants*

Robin Wall Kimmerer
Milkweed Editions, 2013



This book is a deeply personal and poetic account by Robin Wall Kimmerer of her experiences and observations as an Indigenous woman bringing the richness of Indigenous traditional knowledge together with her scientific background as a botanist, allowing her to encounter the natural world in profound ways. She reframes our thinking of nature in terms of relationships - of nature as generous and gift-giving - and how Indigenous traditions and culture have grown with this understanding. It is a truly beautiful exploration of the sacred gifts of creation.



*Racial Justice and the
Catholic Church*
Bryan N. Massingale
Orbis Books, 2020

In this book, Bryan Massingale explores the contributions and limitations of Catholic social reflection and ethics on racial justice, specifically in the American context. He leads with the central question, “how can we struggle together against an evil that harms us all, though in different ways?” and the central Christian message, “the wounds of racism are real and deep, but healing is possible.” The book draws on Massingale’s significant theological knowledge and his deeply personal and well documented understanding of racial injustice to seek the path forward for the “beloved community” and the vocation of Black Catholic theologians.

If you would like to read any of the books we recommend or have suggestions you'd like to share, please feel free to be in touch with Darlene – justice@themarthas.com