

What's Up? US!



March 2nd 2022 Statement on Ukraine and Calling for Immediate Cessation of the Invasion



We, the Mary Ward Family – Congregatio Jesu (CJ) and Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), together with our lay friends and associates - are deeply disturbed by the current invasion of Ukraine in the Russian military operation. Unfortunately, in times of war the people who suffer most are those who are innocent and vulnerable. The war has disproportionately adverse effects on women and children as well as the sick and the elderly. It also causes many to flee looking for refuge and it disrupts lives. It breaks our hearts what this does to parents having to flee with their children and the accompanying fear of separation and death. The immense human suffering is uncalled for; it is an abuse of the human rights of the Ukrainian people and a violation of the dignity of a sovereign state.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condemn the invasion. We add our voices to the many people around the world condemning the invasion and demand that it must stop now. The loss of life, destruction of livelihoods, property and infrastructure will have huge and long-lasting harmful effects on the people of Ukraine and it will affect the whole world, because everything is interconnected. Therefore, we ask Russia to stop the aggression and escalation and instead to engage in diplomatic solutions through dialogue for the good of the two countries and for the whole world. We join the international community in condemning the invasion and ask President Vladimir Putin to stop further military action against Ukraine.

We have contributed \$10,200 for the support of the refugees fleeing Ukraine. Continue to pray urgently for an end to this atrocity.

Mercy Circle

Taize Prayer for peace in Ukraine



Prayer for Peace—Franciscan Motherhouse along the Cosmic Walk

A decorative border of yellow tulips and small blue forget-me-not flowers surrounds the text. The tulips are in various stages of bloom, with some showing green leaves. The forget-me-nots are small, five-petaled flowers with yellow centers.

Happy Spring!

This issue of What's Up? is a mix of ideas. The world is in turmoil of war and destruction. Meanwhile Earth is also offering her beauty for all to see. It comes slowly, perhaps so we can all see and appreciate nature in its variety of color and freshness. It re-challenges us to preserve and protect our Earth, our home. Srs. Connie Steffen, Helen Timothy, Julie Stapleton and Arlene Connelly sent photos of spring happening and being enjoyed. JPIC reminds us to make care of the earth a way of living and praying.

Lent is here with Easter fast approaching. We are using a variety of sources to explore the meaning of and accept the challenge of the Paschal Mystery—suffering, resurrection, justice, hope, joy and a better world. Literature and poetry are sources of inspiration in good times and bad. Sr. Frances DeMott, Sr. Arlene Ashack and Pam Smith offer us these gifts.

As always, thanks to all who have sent contributions, made suggestions and edited this "What's Up". Have a wonderful spring!

Peace! Sr. Mary Carton



Pre-eskolar Loreto Gariuai



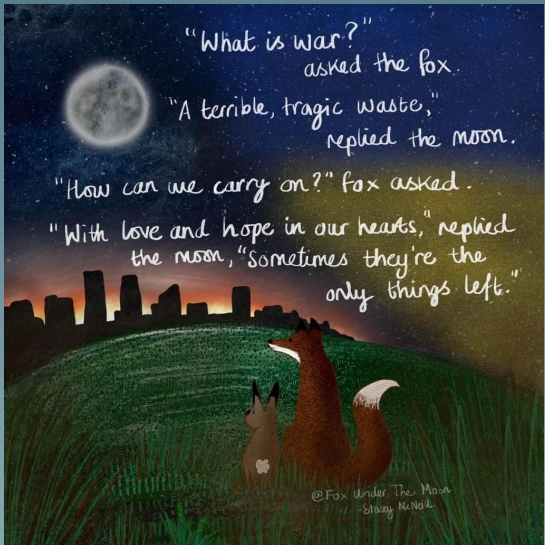
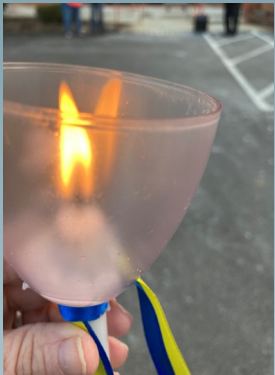
10,000 miles away in East Timor, 3 and 4 year- olds sing, pray and paint for Peace. Outside our offices the Peace Pillar stands in prayer for peace.



We are all interconnected: IBVM, CJ, Mercy and Franciscan communities in our longing and efforts for Peace.

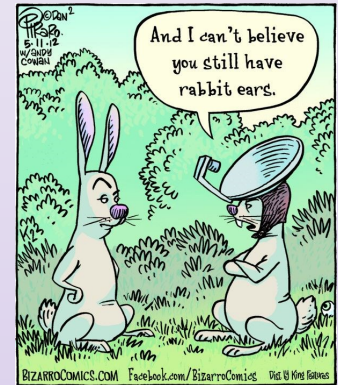
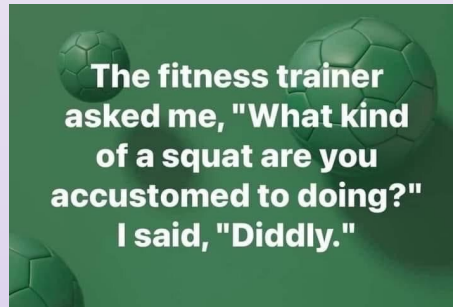
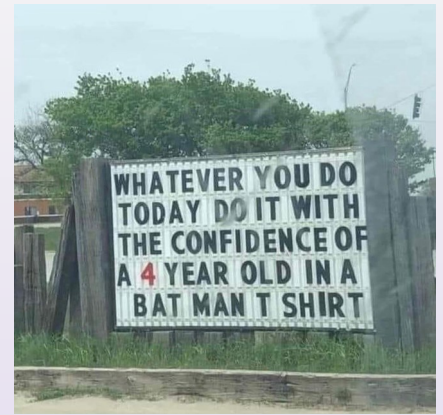
The message to the right was sent by Sr. Noelle Corscadden and Council.

Office doors were decorated to keep us aware of the need to pray for all in Ukraine and all volunteers welcoming and sheltering refugees.



Amellia Amisovych sings for Ukraine:
<https://youtu.be/JSXjocOpGwA>

Miscellaneous Bits of Humor



A Word from One of Our Sponsored Ministries: Anawim Arts

Toward a Flourishing Future

A Creation Centered, in-person art exhibit will be hosted by Anawim Arts on the campus of the Wheaton Franciscan on June 11, 2022.

We are looking for creation centered artwork in recognition of the Franciscans commitment to working for "justice, peace and integrity of creation."

Invitation to Artists:

To enter artwork, please submit up to three pieces in photo files such as a jpeg format. Include a statement about the relationship of your piece(s) to the show's theme as well as a short bio.

Deadline for submission is May 1, 2022.

Submit to anawimarts@gmail.com

For the complete flyer, please see the website

www.ibvm.us and click on Anawim Arts

Celebrations !



Celebrating 90 years of life—Sr. Lorraine Crawford

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day—Sr. Julie Stapleton with soda bread and jello!

Celebrating feeling better—Sr. Brenda Eagan with her latte!



Sudha Arul, IBVM has been studying in Berkeley for several years now, and has completed her Doctorate



At the right, Sudha is pictured at Santa Clara University defending her dissertation, "NEW FACE OF LORETO" Mission and Transformation in the Post-Vatican II Church.

All of her courses now completed, she has gone back to India to begin her ministry there. A few of us had hoped that she would go to El Paso to work with Christa for a while, but India has its own immigration challenges as well as many other areas of ministry for her. We congratulate her, and we are grateful she spent time here in the United States.



Ecological Justice



Gratitude for all God's gifts is at the heart of Ignatian spirituality. Our appreciation of the beauty of nature and our interconnectedness with all creation calls us to a focused care for all living things. Our biblical understanding of justice and relationships, and tenets of Catholic Social Teaching focus our heads, hearts and hands on careful stewardship of creation. Increasingly we are attuned to the deep connection our Indigenous sisters and brothers share with the earth and the nourishment of a spirituality that is connected with all creation. Our response to our fragile planet is a spiritual imperative, not simply a form of social activism. <https://www.loreto.org.au>

Laudato Si song - International JPIC

<https://youtu.be/Mm3J5quM4j8>



Google Earth Day activities for seniors. There are many positive suggestions with varying degrees of difficulty.

Coming Soon! April 22, 2022

Think back to the Regional Congregation in February... We were all asked to complete paper **about recycling** - how we are involved. AS far as our actions are concerned: We cooperate with our local recyclers, sorting materials and placing them in the proper containers each week—at home or in the apartment complex. We shop with an eye to the kinds of containers used, and we reuse or recycle grocery bags. We break down cardboard to reuse or recycle. Several of us make trips to Goodwill, Salvation Army or Vincent de Paul. Andy helps with electronic recycling if we can get items to him. We acknowledge that these actions of ours are made easier by the stores and the companies in our areas, working together to protect the Earth.

Elizabeth Seton Parish in Naperville actively collects and sorts a variety of objects and items to recycle. They also sell free-trade items.

In Prescott, Anne and Terri compost food waste for the garden. They also collect shower and rinse water to water both garden and plants.

Some of us mentioned re-using paper that was used on just one side—for coloring, doodling, keeping score in games, lists for shopping or to-dos.

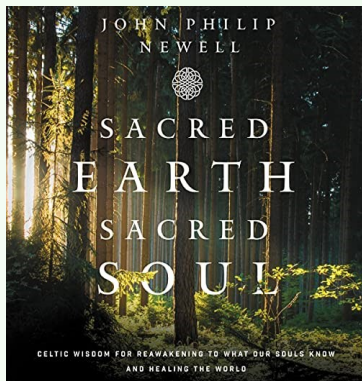
Jigsaw puzzles have been cycled through Western Springs, Carol Stream, Casa and Mercy before heading to Goodwill. Yarn has been redirected to Ellen Enright and Arlene Connelly at Casa for blankets and scarves for others.

The next step for all could be that we internalize not just the practice, but the spirituality, integrating 'Reduce, reuse, recycle' into our choices, our living.

Please see our redesigned website www.ibvm.us and then go to JPIC.

Sacred Earth Sacred Soul by John Philip Newell

Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and Healing the World



Travel is becoming a topic of discussion again.

Whether it's the time of year or the relaxing of Covid protocols, it is not uncommon for people to talk about travel.

John Philip Newell travels with the reader through time as he examines Celtic Spirituality. The roads are physical and spiritual as he shares the stories of Celtic prophets and philosophers.

Beginning with Pelagius in the fourth century there began to emerge an idea that every life form has at its essence, divinity. Pelagius spoke of a five-fold focus in stating that this sacredness was represented in the human spirit, nature, spiritual practice, wisdom, and compassion. Newell took care to express that this is not to be confused with pantheism, seeing all things as God, but rather a reverence for all the things of creation. Throughout the book emphasis is placed on relationship and interconnectedness and the responsibilities we, as humans, to be those faithful stewards of the bounty to which we have been given.

Newell is careful to remind the reader that we, our souls, have a sense of “knowing”, and that it is essential that we travel inward to connect with this knowledge. He reminds the reader that there is a river that flows through the body of earth and throughout all that has being. He cautions, “To look for the flow of the Divine in all things is not to disregard external authorities of religion, nation, or culture, but to consult the compass of our soul.”

Alexander John Scott's story is one of sacred imagination and the ways that imagination creates action. The story speaks of the way reason and intuition bond together to bring about justice. One of the ways this action can occur is through the life of John Muir whose “primal love of the earth” is legendary.

Matter is sacred. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin reminds the reader that the body of the earth and the human body have a “translucence” through which the Divine can be glimpsed. As we travel through the troubled times we face, this is so sadly lost as we construct our relationships with others and with the world around us. George McCleod's story gives the reader insight into the tools of compassion as we are reminded that in serving the material needs of humanity, we serve Heaven.

Over and over the stories resonate with the themes of interconnectedness. Whether speaking of spirit and matter, earth and human, time and eternity, or human and Divine, all things are inter-woven and acknowledging this, honoring this and acting to preserve it can restore what has been lost and allow for “the peace that passes understanding” to light the path of our travels.



The Woman at the Well

She came, not with the other women, but alone
Not in the cool of morn, but at noon she left her home
And made her way very quickly to the well
Aware of desires that within her dwell.

There upon arrival was a stranger tired from his trek
He greeted her with a request she could easily grant,
“Give me a drink, “ he humbly asked with gentle voice
As she lowered the bucket into the well, she knew she had
no choice.

He came, dependent, Creator before creature,
Seeking, knocking, asking—childlike in demeanor
He asked her for a drink to quench his thirst,
And offered her Living Water that gives eternal birth.
You are a prophet, the Messiah long awaited for?
“I am He who grants your heart’s desire at its very core.”

The woman came with all her sins and left them there
At the feet of Jesus, believing that He cared.
She put down her water jug and off she ran
Bringing back the whole town to the Son of Man.
With this new relationship the town seemed not so far,
Because Jesus the Messiah had become her guiding star.



Our Poet at Resurrection

Sr. Frances DeMott



A Bit of Reprieve

What is it
About winter
That confines
The soul?

There are bursts
Of beauty every
Now and then
With fresh blankets of snow

But oh, more
Is needed
A bit of color or
Signs of new growth

Subdued sound
A side effect
Unless the wind
Blows through

Ice on the
Path restricts
The walking and
Limits the trek

A bit of reprieve
Is needed and
Every now and then'
It comes

A warm day
Hinting of spring
Enticing, inviting
You outside



Sun causing
Icicles to drip
Snow to melt
Green to break
through

A bit of an opening
Occurs within
And the imagination
Runs free

Boundaries recede
For that brief time
And new life and
Hope set in.

-By Sr. Arlene Ashack



Spring Cleaning leads to discoveries such as finding this painting by Margaret O'Connor!



Spring Events

Pi Day March 14



St. Patrick's Day !



Green—
Chicago River,
Shamrocks,
Clothes.

Brown—
Walking sticks
and
Baileys !



Gardening!

Good for the earth.
Good for the soul!



*We Remember,
We Celebrate,
We Believe*



Sr. Mary Simpkin enjoying the
warmth of Spring!

Our Spring Event! Come one! Come ALL!

STEPPING



FORWARD

Walk & Picnic | Benefitting Mary Ward Center

Saturday, April 30, 2022 | 10AM – 1PM
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Herrick Lake, Wheaton, IL 60189

Walking for a Cause - Take a step towards supporting Mary Ward Center, their students and staff by joining the IBVM on a 1-mile walk around Herrick Lake, followed by a picnic lunch. Learn about students' journeys and Mary Ward Center's impact and role in enriching their lives.

Make a direct impact by donating towards books, computers and the Mary Ward Center Scholarship Fund while reconnecting with Sisters and IBVM friends.

Can't attend? You can still register and walk with us virtually or donate!
Interested in gift-matching? Contact development at 630-682-9097 or 815-531-7461.
All donations go to the Mary Ward Center.

***Registration Opens April 1st**

Ways to register or donate:

Call Us - (630)682-9097

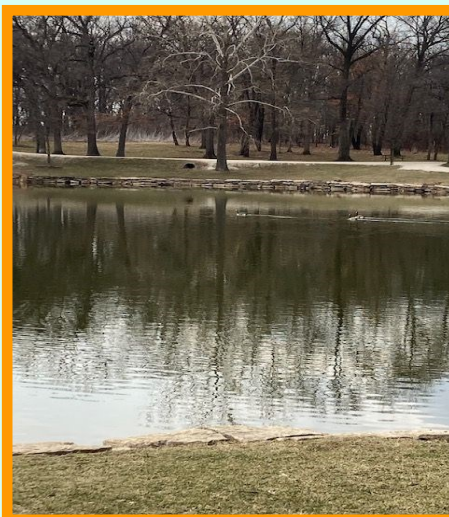
Online - ibvm.us/support-us/events/



**STEPPING
FORWARD
2022**



**See
You
There!**



*Herrick Lake,
a place of
reflections
and the
beauty of
Nature*

East Shelter, for our gathering and lunch. I guarantee that the grass will be greener by April 30. The paths will be full of friends of IBVM for Mary Ward Center.