



CALIFORNIA / East-West Province

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

hearts wide as the world: together making a difference



Dear Friend,

On Earth Day 2018, we are happy to share with you a brief reflection from Sr. Liz Tiernan in the Northwest, another from Sr. Terry Davis on Sunday's Good Shepherd Gospel, and a recounting by two of our Sisters on their recent experience of assisting women and children on the Texas-Mexico border.

Their thoughts speak to us of God's goodness and care for us, and invite us to continue finding ways to care for one another and all of our beautiful and fragile earth.

Happy Springtime!

Monica

Monica May
Development Director

Learning to See - Earth Day 2018

by. Sr. Liz Tiernan

As we prepare to celebrate Earth Day, I am reminded that Thomas Berry once wrote: *"We will not save Earth by simply encouraging people to re-cycle. We must engage them in psychic entrancement with our wondrous planet, and that is the task of teachers, poets, writers, musicians, artists."*

So in memory of Sr. Kay McMullin, who was all of these, I offer these words, written in stone in the Museum of the Suquamish People, Chief Seattle's own tribe:

"In ancient times, the first peoples of the Salish Sea saw all of existence as alive and feeling, having the same range of emotions as humans. As the world's most recent inhabitants, humans are believed to have the most to learn, through fasting, prayer, meditation and rituals. Teachings are possible because all of life is related, forming a functioning whole."



Gospel Reflection

A Gospel Reflection by **Sr. Terry Davis** offers insight and inspiration for April 22nd, the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

[Click here to read it.](#)



"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

...and I know my sheep and mine know me? Jesus is calling us to a deep and intimate relationship, in which we know and hear his voice, and this is reciprocal.

Witnessing trauma, terror and suffering

Recently, Sisters Judy Flahavan and Susan Olson spent time at the Texas-Mexico border, working to help women from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala prepare for their interviews with officials at the Women and Children Detention Facility in Dilley, Texas.

"There are over 2,000 women and children housed in the facility," they wrote. "During our stay we learned to give presentations to groups of women to give them an overview of what would happen in their interviews. Then we met one-on-one to help them tell their stories of "credible fear" if they were to return to their country. We worked from 7:30 a.m. in the morning until 7:30 p.m., making sure the women were ready for their appointments the next day. We completed about fifty interviews every day.

"Listening to the stories of so much trauma, terror and suffering and the arduous travel to the border of the United States, we were constantly reminded of how much we take for granted about our own security and care. There is no doubt that the gangs in the three countries are driving women with children to flee for safety."



Sr. Judy Flahavan



Sr. Susan Olson



Memories That Matter

by Sr. Edna Maier, SND in Windsor, Connecticut

*What's it all about
I wonder in delight
as well-loved songs of yesteryears
re-sing so sweetly
blessing the night.*

*Do you hear what I hear
sounds of silence
flowers gone
Michael's boat ashore
while answers, my friend
keep blowin' in the wind.*

*These songs remembered and newly blest
still catch us by surprise
with Memories unforgettable*

*Love gifts that sing from the heart
not for just an hour
not for just a day
not for just a year
but ALWAYS!*

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