

The Summer Solstice is June 20th.

A Summer Prayer

May you breathe in the beauty of summer with its power of transformation.
May this beauty permeate all that feels un-beautiful in you.

May the God of summer give us beauty.

May you seek and find spaces of repose during these summer months.
May these moments refresh and restore the tired places within you.

May the God of summer give us rest.

May you be open to times of celebration and recreation that are so much a part of summer.
May you find happiness in these times of play and leisure.

May the God of summer give us joy.

May your eyes see the wonders of summer's colors.
May these colors delight you and entice you into contemplation and joy.

May the God of summer give us inner light.

May you feel energy of summer rains penetrating thirsty gardens, golf courses, lawns and farmlands.
May these rains remind you that your inner thirst needs quenching.
May your inner self be refreshed, restored, and renewed.

May the God of summer give us what we need for healing.

May you savor fresh produce that comes to your table and enjoy the fruits of summer's bounty.

May the God of summer give us a sense of satisfaction in the works of our hands.

May you find shelter when the stormy skies of summer threaten your safety.

May the God of summer give us shelter when inner storms threaten our peace of mind and heart.

May you enjoy the unexpected and find surprises of beauty and happiness as you travel the roads on summer vacation.

May the God of summer lead us to amazing discoveries as we travel the inner roads of our soul as well.

By Joyce Rupp and Macrina Weiderkehr, *The Circle of Life, The Heart's Journey Through the Seasons* (2005).

According to the [Farmers' Almanac](#), The summer solstice has long been celebrated by cultures around the world:

In Ancient Egypt, the summer solstice coincided with the rising of the Nile River. As it was crucial to predict this annual flooding, the Egyptian New Year began at this important solstice.

In centuries past, the Irish would cut hazel branches on solstice eve to be used in searching for gold, water, and precious jewels.

Many European cultures hold what are known as Midsummer celebrations at the solstice, which include gatherings at Stonehenge and the lighting of bonfires on hilltops.

[Discover more ways that this special day is celebrated around the world.](#)

Laudato Si Action Platform

The Sisters of Notre Dame will be following the plan for a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations, and individuals. This is a grass roots approach, to reach a critical mass for change. The JPIC Office will be working with Creation Care Teams of sisters and associates from across the province. This ground-up approach will be rooted in the strengths and current realities of the SND community. We will be looking at what we are already doing in ministries and integrate care of our common home into that work as we journey towards a better future together.

Action is urgently needed, and that is why this call comes to the entire world. Our Creator called the human family to be the steward of creation, but we have neglected that call. Our hotter, dirtier, deader planet is driving up the risk of suffering. The most vulnerable suffer above all. Since we are already focused on caring for those on the margins, our focus is already right on point! Just as we have been doing in our anti-racism work and our anti-trafficking work, we are responding to the call for healing in our relationships with God, our neighbors, and the Earth itself.

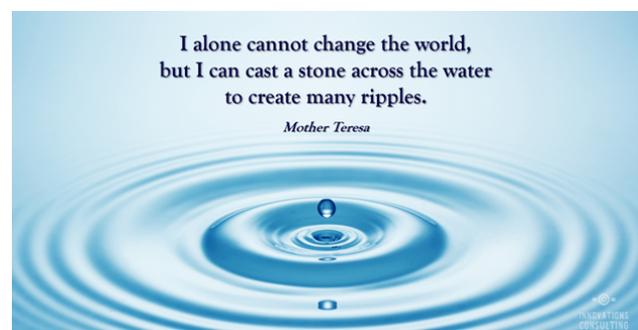
Something to think about...

B Corps are businesses that meet the highest standards of social and environmental performance, public transparency and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose. B Corps are a global response to redefine success in business and build a more inclusive and sustainable economy. These are companies that value the dignity of each worker and each consumer, as well as the beauty and value of our common home.

This short video explains [What is a B Corp?](#)

Here you can find just a few businesses to support: [16 Corporations Making a Difference](#) and <https://bcorporation.net/>

When you shop from companies that meet this specification, you are tackling racism, human trafficking, and sustainability as well as helping to build a more equitable economy. You are casting a stone to create ripples around the world.



Refugee Week is June 20-27

Several sisters have gone to the Border. Last month the spotlight was on Srs. Joyce Bates from Toledo and Roseanna Mellert from Chardon, who went to Laredo, TX for two weeks to help those coming across the border.

Srs. Nancy Vance from Toledo, Carol Dikovitsky and Jacquelyn Gusdane from Chardon returned recently from a ministry experience at the McAllen Humanitarian Respite Center in the Rio Grande Valley.



From left: Sr. Carol Dikovitsky SND, Sr. Nancy Vance SND, Sr. Norma Pimentel MJ, Sr. Jacquelyn Gusdane SND.

Fast for Freedom

Starting June 9, faith leaders and directly impacted immigrants will hold the #WeAreEssential Fast for Freedom to shine a spotlight on our nation's moral obligation to fully and finally include our immigrant siblings as part of the American family. [Read more about this call to action.](#)





Moving Forward on Racial Justice

This month we officially begin summer, and we may be traveling for the first time since the start of the pandemic. As you prepare to travel here are some action steps to consider in relation to our Corporate Stance Against Racism.

When choosing a travel agency, hotel, airline or car rental look for companies owned by or well represented by People of Color.

If you witness public racism or injustice in actions or words, what should you do? The best response is to let the person who is being harassed know that you are there for them. Speak to them and not the person who is doing the harassing. Offering support to the victim, is much better than trying to talk to the person causing the problem, as that will most likely escalate the issue. **Safe Bystander Intervention**

Your privilege and words carry weight and by calling out racist words and actions, you let others around you know that it is intolerable.

As we look across the province, how diverse are we? Find race statistics by geographic areas at <https://censusreporter.org/>

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Median Age	Median Income	Below poverty line
Los Angeles, CA	12%	8%	48%	29%	35.9	\$67,5000	16.7%
Covington, KY	1%	11%	6%	78%	36	\$43,000	23.1%
Chardon, OH	1%	2%	2%	95%	43.3	\$65,000	11.4%
*Cleveland, OH	3%	48%	15%	34%	35.5	\$32,000	30.8%
Toledo, OH	2%	28%	9%	59%	38.4	\$53,500	15.3%

Note that Hispanic statistics are not as accurate due to self-reporting as white or self-reporting as more than one race. Black statistics are likewise often in the more than one race category.

In Ohio, both Toledo and Chardon/Cleveland area have very large Hispanic populations outside of the cities. Many of these people are not included in census statistics as they are immigrant workers who only live here 5-10 months of the year. Roughly 30 % of these workers have been working and living in the United States seasonally for 20 or more years.

*Cleveland, Ohio was included because the Provincial Center is in Chardon but more than half of the sisters who are in active ministry work predominantly in the Greater Cleveland Metropolitan Area.