Calling All Guardian Angels

Jesus answered Nathanael, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’ (John 1:50-51)

Have you seen the forests in the American West with trees consumed in an instant, people forsaking homes and villages—flames of fire reaching into the skies leaving devastation below? Fires and floods have caused much suffering around the nation, leaving only ashes or bare foundations with nothing left standing. In reading the newspapers, following media outlets and watching the news with our political, economic, racial divisions playing out so painfully; some might draw a parallel to the fires and floods. Is our way of life of under assault, our democracy in danger of being consumed by a firestorm of hate and bitterness, flooded by a sea of deceptions and waves of lies? On both sides of the cultural and political divide, no doubt election day is construed as something of a Doomsday—a day of damnation or salvation? To whom shall we turn?
Yes, the near apocalyptic images set out above are an exaggeration, but we still need to ask ourselves what role faith can play in these very anxious and challenging times. Sometimes the answers come from unsuspecting places. A fan of the cartoon strip Family Circus, I was drawn especially to this past Sunday’s edition. One of the children, the seven-year-old, Billy, I think, is about to step into the what looks like the backyard of his home; in the next panel we see the countless number of steps along the paths Billy has taken in the area. We also see a vision of a figure slightly behind and just above the child. The caption under the figure reads, “I’ve just been named the most overworked Guardian Angel in the world!”

How busy has your Guardian Angel been? I think the Guardian Angels around the world have been furiously working to help their charges navigate the challenging and sometime questionable paths being taken by everyone but particularly the leaders of the nations around the world. Each year September 29 is the day in several Christian Traditions when St. Michael and All Angels is observed. Michael and the angels defeated the Dragon, and today we ask God to send angels to defeat the dragons, the enemies of Light and Truth. One of my favorite stories of the Old Testament is of the Patriarch Jacob. On a lonely journey one night he falls asleep in the open beside Mount Bethel, and he dreams of angels ascending and descending a ladder connecting heaven and earth. Jacob realizes this is a holy place, and that he is in the presence of God. Today our dream might be of amazing Guardian Angels in earth orbit clasping hands, praying for each of us, sending messages of hope, and helping us in our journeys through life as the children of God. Can you hear the cry of the Lord? Calling all Guardian Angels!

Rev. Dan Krutz

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**Keeping disaster areas in prayer**

We continue to remember our brothers and sisters in the disaster areas of our State. Numerous churches and other organizations are working to address the needs and they can always use your help! Need a place to start? Call 211 for many areas of general information.

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**20th Anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Act**

Source: DHS Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the TVPA, U.S. Department of State declares 2020 the year of **“Freedom First,”** in recognition that human dignity, autonomy and freedom are essential to the exercise of our rights and liberties. Delivering on still unfulfilled promises of freedom for the **millions of people** whom traffickers exploit must remain a first priority for us all.

You are invited to join an upcoming WEBINAR on October 15 at 2p.m. ET

**Serving on the Frontlines: The Impact of Faith and Community Leaders Countering Human Trafficking for Over 20 Years**

The **TVPA** of 2000 (a division of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Act), is the first comprehensive law in the United States to address the transnational crime of human trafficking, child sexual exploitation and forced labor. To commemorate the Act, the **Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives** is hosting a webinar to highlight the contributions of faith and community leaders, our frontline service providers who diligently work to counter the detrimental effects of modern day slavery in all of its forms. Presenters will discuss the:

- Impacts of faith and community leaders in the prevention, protection and prosecution of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and forced labor.
- Success of public-private partnerships supporting the lives of survivors.
- Role of DHS in countering human trafficking.

**DATE:** Thursday, October 15, 2020  
**TIME:** 2 – 3:30 p.m. ET  
**REGISTRATION:** [https://fema.connectsolutions.com/serving-on-the-frontlines-event/event/event_info.html](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/serving-on-the-frontlines-event/event/event_info.html)

**How to Join the Webinar:**
- Register using the [Adobe Connect registration](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/serving-on-the-frontlines-event/event/event_info.html) web link.
- [Test your Adobe Connect](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/serving-on-the-frontlines-event/event/event_info.html) prior to the meeting; you may need to update or install software to access the audio-visual content.
- This webinar will offer captioning on the webinar platform.
- For information, contact partnerships@fema.dhs.gov

A recording of the webinar will be sent by email to all registered participants in case you are unable to attend or wish to share.

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**Fall Board Meeting - the conversation continues**

**Thanks to all who joined us for the September 22nd Zoom meeting!**

Over 40 persons joined the Zoom call for the Fall Board Meeting of the LIC held on September 22nd. The Working Theme was: “Reimagining the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.” Follow up meetings will continue to work through the goal of the above listed theme. A “Transition Task Force” is being created.

Dr. Craig Gilliam is the LIC’s consultant to help guide the Board Members in collaborating to review LIC’s current ministry and imagine the future direction/s of LIC’s mission and ministry. This is a step along the way of a transition to a new Executive Director, as Fr. Dan Krutz is scheduled to retire at the conclusion of the Annual Assembly in 2022. The results of the work during the September 22nd Zoom Board Meeting (and its follow-up task force meetings) will be presented for consideration at the 2021 Annual Assembly.

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**Jubilee for the Earth – this Wednesday, September 30th at 6:30pm**

From the Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition:

The Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition’s *Season of Creation 2020: Jubilee for the Earth* continues this Wednesday, September 30th, 2020 at 6:30 PM with Helen Rose Patterson, from The National Wildlife Federation and Restore the Mississippi River Delta, and an expert panel.
This will be Session Three of the Season of Creation 2020: A Jubilee for the Earth. Coastal Care for our Coast, Habitats and Communities. Register at gnoicc.org

Helen Rose Patterson is Senior Outreach Coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation, in this role she identifies community leaders willing to advocate for large scale coastal restoration efforts and collaborates with them to develop the tools necessary for effective advocacy. As Vice Chair of the Outreach Committee, Ms. Patterson develops the agendas for planning to facilitate ongoing collaborative work between the staff of seven different organizations. She also manages the Summit Planning Committee for NWF's Women in Conservation Leadership program, which develops and implements a conference for over 500 women in the conservation field.

Please register for this event at gnoicc.org and share this flyer with your faith community. We will forward a recording of these Zoom sessions to all who register. If you are not able to view the sessions as scheduled, you will have the opportunity to view them at your leisure and share them with your faith community at an appropriate time.

5K “Virtual” Run/Walk to support Adoption of Foster Children
Complete the 5K on your own - anytime, anywhere between October 3–17, 2020.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is excited to share that the annual Frosty 5K Run for Adoption, hosted by The Wendy’s Company, will take place virtually this fall. Will you run or walk to help find forever families for children in foster care? Register today and complete the 5K anytime, anywhere between October 3–17.

Note: To ensure delivery of your race t-shirt by October 3rd, order your t-shirt and register by September 25, 2020. Go to: http://events.davethomasfoundation.org/site/R?i=crL-o2L_DvF58h88tqUr7A

National Christian Unity Zoom Meetings October 12th and 13th
Breathing New Life Into Our Nation: Repentance, Re-Formation, Reparation

From the National Council of Churches:

Registration is now open for the 2020 Christian Unity Gathering to be held via Zoom on October 12th and 13, 2020. As racial injustices plague the country, the novel coronavirus pandemic rages nearly unchecked, and an economic crisis plunges millions into poverty, we find ourselves at a point from which we can fall into an abyss of further division, destitution, and despair, or from which we can move back from the brink, by faith, to a place of justice, restored hope and healing. In the midst of these simultaneous crises, and as we celebrate NCC’s 70 years of public witness in the fight for justice, we invite you to join us as we explore what churches must do to turn back the tide of chaos and embrace Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s vision of the Beloved Community.  

Click Here for Details and to Register

The 2020 Census – response is still low in Louisiana - You can file online

As you may know, the 2020 Census will determine Louisiana’s share of Federal dollars to improve our state roads, hospitals, fire departments, and schools based on the number of legal residents. The results of the census also determine congressional representation & much more. Every citizen and legal resident should be counted – from infant to elderly – our congregations count. The deadline is September 30, 2020 – right now, state leaders say that Louisiana’s participation is lagging behind the rest of the country. If you haven’t already, you can complete the Census now by either going online to my2020census.gov or by calling 844-330-2020.

Offering thanks to our recent contributors – we couldn’t make it without you all!

The majority of the LIC operating income is contributed through the leadership of our member Judicatories, whom we deeply appreciate and depend upon. Additionally, we depend upon partners to supplement the needs. Our thanks to the below contributors:

Contributions received from August 18, 2020 through September 29, 2020:

FRIENDS OF THE LIC contributions: Carol S. Broussard; Hugh & Mary Ann Straub; Bishop Michael Duca; and Rev. Dr. Kristina Peterson.

Donations to help with Consultant Fee for LIC: Christian Church-Disciples of Christ

Thank you all!

Please pray for this ecumenical ministry. If you would like to help financially, please mail contributions to: Louisiana Interchurch Conference, 527 N. Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, or contribute online via PayPal.
Board Meeting Dates to Calendar

Fall Board meeting dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Sept. 20-21, Houma, LA</td>
<td>CHANGED to September 27-28, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Sept. 19-20, Alexandria, LA</td>
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Annual Assembly meeting dates:

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>March 1-2, Lake Charles, LA</td>
<td>51st Annual Assembly</td>
<td>51st Annual Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>March 14-15, Baton Rouge, LA</td>
<td>52nd Annual Assembly</td>
<td>52nd Annual Assembly</td>
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“To live the faith we hold in common”
President: The Most Rev. Douglas Deshotel; President Elect: The Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton;
Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz