

SISTERS OF CHARITY
OF NEW YORK



Office of
Peace, Justice &
Integrity of Creation

PJIC June Special Update Series 1 of 3

Land & Environmental Justice

“Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground” Exodus 3:5

Resources adapted from the 21 Day Environmental Justice Challenge

An Opportunity for Reflection

Take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we stand and live. What are you aware of? May we call upon our ancestors who lived on the land to help us listen to the land. How is the land speaking to and calling us?

What is environmental racism?

Environmental racism is the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of color. Environmental justice is the movement's response to environmental racism. Take this opportunity to view a few of many resources available from the [21 Day Catholic Environmental Justice Challenge](#):

On Redlining and Urban Heat Areas:

[Extreme heat is worse in redlined neighborhoods](#) from Grist, 5:07 minutes.

[Climate Change Resilience: Cooling an Urban Heat Island](#), 1:42 minutes.

[Racist Housing Practices From The 1930s Linked To Hotter Neighborhoods Today](#), from NPR.

[How systemic racism shaped the ecosystems of U.S. cities](#), 4:08 minutes, Science Magazine.

On Colonization and Environmental Justice:

[Why All Americans Should Care About 'Environmental Racism'](#), 4:41 minute video

[National Geographic article on Arizona's Oak Flat](#), a site considered holy to the Apache, which is slated to be transferred to a mining company. Many are fighting the controversial move.

[Farmworkers, Pesticides and Extreme Heat](#) – View this 5 minute video, Farmworkers & the Environment – Harvest of Justice 2020. *Take time to give thanks and pray for those who harvest our food.*

May we pray in the words written by UFW Founder Cesar E. Chavez

Show me the suffering of the most miserable; So I will know my people's plight.

Free me to pray for others; For you are present in every person.

Help me to take responsibility for my own life; So that I can be free at last.

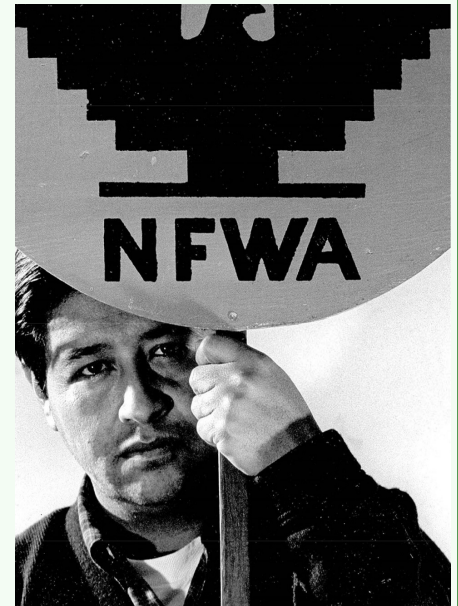
Grant me courage to serve others; For in service there is true life.

Give me honesty and patience; So that I can work with other workers.

Bring forth song and celebration; So that the spirit will be alive among us.

Let the spirit flourish and grow; So we will never tire of the struggle.

Let us remember those who have died for justice; For they have given us life.



Additional Resources

Click Here for: [A Laudato Si Focus on Environmental Justice Webinar](#)

From CatholicClimateCovenant.org

Click Here for: [What is Environmental Racism?](#) From the World Economic Forum.

Click Here for: [Our Moral Imperative to Act on Climate Change](#) from His Holiness Pope Francis (TED Talk).

Learn more about the organizations sponsoring the 21 Day Environmental Justice Challenge: [Catholic Climate Covenant](#), [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), [Ignatian Solidarity Network](#), the [Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology](#) and [the Sisters of Mercy](#).