



# La Vista Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
April 1, 2017  
E-Newsletter



## APRIL FOOL'S DAY:

Thoughts from Patricia Siemen, OP, on Being Fools for Earth:

In addition to adding some humor, the court jester is an ubiquitous character whose role includes risking his tenure in order to tell the truth to the King or ruler. In European medieval times, the jester even dared to tell the king/ruler when he was in error or blindsided. If the king listened, there was a chance that he might be saved from doing grave harm to the kingdom.

**Today, Earth needs court jesters, fools even,**

\*to step forth and speak basic truths to world leaders about the disruption of Earth's evolutionary processes and the gross inadequacy of current legal and economic policies.

\* to communicate imaginative alternatives that are grounded in the functions of the Universe so that our laws and economic policies are modeled on Earth's laws and practices so as to sustain long term health for all species.

\*to be pointing to a vision and practice of Earth jurisprudence, where the viability and sustainability of Earth frames all governing policy and duties of care.

*May we celebrate this day by becoming advocates, even fools, for Earth!*

## Sunday, April 16: An Easter Sunday Reflection

### ***Everything Rushes***

*The brisk blue morning whisked in with a thought:  
everything in creation rushes, rushes  
toward God - tall trees, small bushes,  
quick birds and fish, the beetles, round as naught,  
eels in the water, deer on forest floor  
and we, the spearhead that run on before. . .*

*So I, with eager voice and news-flushed face,  
cry to those caught in comas, stupors, sleeping;  
come, everything is running  
flying,  
leaping,*



*hurtling through time!  
And we are in this race.*

*By Jessica Powers (Abbreviated version)*

## **Sunday, April 22: Earth Day**

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us: "Nonetheless, science and religion, with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality, can enter into an intense dialogue fruitful for both."

### **Celebrate our rare, precious, and sacred planet by joining a March for Science in your area!**

**Science serves all of us.** It protects our air and water, preserves our planet, saves lives with medical treatments, creates new industries, puts food on our tables, educates the next generation, and safeguards our future.

Science isn't Democratic or Republican, liberal or conservative. Indeed, threats to science are pervasive throughout governments around the world.

The vital role science plays in our democracy must be preserved.

Read more here: <http://www.earthday.org/marchforscience/>

## **Saturday, April 29: People's Climate March**

### **Another opportunity to celebrate our rare, precious, and sacred planet - join a People's Climate March in your area.**

Just before the 100th day of the Trump administration, Catholics will join the wider climate movement for a massive family-friendly march in the streets of Washington, D.C. and across the country. We will "pray with our feet" and stand up for all that we love, urging Congress and the Trump administration to take bold action against the injustice of the climate crisis.

Read more here: <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/april-29/>

## **Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>: Summer Solstice Celebration and Pollinator Garden Fundraiser/Concert**

**5:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Spend a relaxing evening at La Vista  
for a good cause!**

Pollinators care for us, responsible for every third bite of food we eat. At La Vista we care for them by providing a pesticide free habitat and a way station for migrating monarchs. **Join us and be part of this special effort.**



- Enjoy great music
- Savor delicious hors d'oeuvres
- Revel in sunset on the bluffs
- Contribute to the ongoing creation of our pollinator garden

**Music by Chaz and Friends:  
American and Celtic Folk Rock, Irish and African traditional**

**Donation: \$15 Adults, \$10 Students, Free for children under 10**

**Registration: Send your donation to  
La Vista Ecological Learning Center 4300 Levis Lane Godfrey, IL 62035**

**Confirmation via e-mail; please include yours.**

**For more information: 618-466-5004 or [info@lavistaelc.org](mailto:info@lavistaelc.org)  
Please bring a lawn chair.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows presents...

**CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME - The Environment  
August 12, 2017, 9:00 - 11:30 am**

With

**Mike Roberts**

Former KSDK - Channel 5 Meteorologist

**Dr. Peter Raven**

Senior Science Advisor

Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Science

**Vic Hamer**

Founder of Give Me Water, Lord

Place: Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, Belleville, Illinois  
Cost \$20 To register or for more information,  
call 618-394-6270 or email [Programs@snows.org](mailto:Programs@snows.org)

