



La Vista Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
January 1, 2018
E-Newsletter



[Click here to read the 2018 Winter/Spring edition of La Vista Visions](#)



Where do you find yourself in this photo taken at La Vista?

Standing tall with a view of the bigger picture

Enjoying the present moment

Waiting for the sun to make its way toward the east and the warmth of springtime

Grateful to be in the Meeting of the Great Rivers region of our sacred Earth

Wherever you are, may this new year of life bring encouragement to deepen your sense of place and commitment to its healing.

January 1: World Day of Prayer for Peace

Even though this day has passed, continue the theme by making it a year of prayer for peace as well as action on behalf of the whole Earth community. Suggestion: Make it a year of cutting down on single use plastics.

"Humans have created 8.3 billion tons of plastic in the past 67 years-6.3 billion tons of which have become waste in our landfills and natural environment, especially the ocean. Though these numbers may seem insurmountable, the simple decision to not buy single-use plastics, such as plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic straws and any products containing microplastics such as exfoliators and glitter, would help tremendously." Source: <http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/318-66/47630-10-ways-to-be-a-better-environmental-steward-in-2018>

Please join us for a film and discussion about giving up plastics on Monday, February 12th at 7:00 at La Vista. Read more about this event in La Vista Visions and on our web site: www.lavistaelc.org

January 6: Solemnity of Epiphany

The story of the Magi is our story in a special way today. We also are called to an awareness of a bigger story, one that helps us make sense of our lives and the lives of all beings in the universe we are part of. As we "broaden the context" we see dualisms, separation, and alienation disappear; while oneness, belonging, and connection take hold in our common home.

Spiritual Practice for this Feast Day

Contemplate these needs of our time and your response to them:

- letting go of our rational minds to recover imagination
- embracing shifts of consciousness that allow us to follow the truth wherever it leads
- seeking personal integration and global solidarity in tandem
- abandoning consumerism for a deeper life in the Spirit
- seeking clues for what is being born in our midst

January 28: Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas has gifted eco-theology with this marvelous thought:

"A mistake about creation means a mistake about God."

