



# La Vista Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
January 2, 2017  
E-Newsletter

## ***La Vista Visions Newsletter***

This new year message brings a wish for your happiness, for the well-being of all life, and a new edition of *La Vista Visions!* Please click on the link below to read the winter/spring edition..

[Newsletter Winter Spring 2017 .pdf](#)

### **Inside this issue -**

The lead article is a reflection on the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and mental climate change.

You can also read two articles exploring green or natural burial.

Our Program Calendar for January - June is also included.

Enjoy!

## **January, 2017**

### **Program and Eco-Spiritual Calendar**

Below you will find reflections for special days  
and information on our January programs.

#### **January 6, Thoughts for the Feast of the Epiphany**

**"You are the light of the world"  
said Jesus to the crowd.**

**"Make yourself a light",  
said the Buddha before he died.**

**Being a candle is not easy:  
in order to give light, one must first burn",  
said the poet Rumi.**



#### **January 9, Baptism of Jesus and Standing Rock**

On this feast day, the way of Jesus honors water through the act of baptism. We also are called to honor water and protect it, and we have a special opportunity to do that by aligning ourselves with the water protectors, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, who are opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline which would cross treaty lines, disturb sacred sites and threaten drinking water for 8,000 members who live on the tribe's nearly 2.3 million-acre reservation.

*Let us continue praying, caring and educating ourselves  
about this important concern into this new year.*

## **January 10, Work Day in the Preserve**

**9:30 am - noon**

If you have cabin fever, and the weather allows, please join us for our monthly workday in the Oblates Woods Nature Preserve. We will remove honeysuckle and enjoy a day in the woods as we care for our common home. Lunch is provided. Please let us know if you plan to help: 618-466-5004 or [info@lavistaelc.org](mailto:info@lavistaelc.org).

## **January 15, Circle the Cities with Love**

**2:00 - 2:30pm CST**

Wherever you live, we encourage you to join with La Vista and many others across the world and become a part of this non-denominational, nation-wide movement of prayer and love.

Begun by a Sister of Saint Joseph in Cleveland during the Republican National Convention, Circle the Cities with Love has become a nation-wide event that invites thousands to stand together in silent meditation to embody the power of love that brings healing, peace and justice to our cities, our country and our world at this significant time in our history when our country will be inaugurating a new President.

To learn more about **Circle the City** visit [www.circlecitywithlove.com](http://www.circlecitywithlove.com) You can register your group here and/or find one to join.

## **January 21, Winterfires Coffeehouse: Brewing HOPE**

Saturday, January 21, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

*Hope is the thing with feathers-  
That perches in the soul-  
And sings the tune without the words-  
And never stops-at all-  
- Emily Dickinson*

Join us around the warmth of the fireplace in the Oblates' home and nurture hope in your soul as the depths of wintertime call us to this annual evening of inspiring poetry, camaraderie and tasty treats. Please bring original or found hope-filled poetry, story, jokes, music, and a snack/dessert to share. It's time to support one another and enjoy life.

Optional donations gratefully accepted.



Registration: Call 618-466-5004 or email [info@lavistaelc.org](mailto:info@lavistaelc.org) and leave your name and the number attending.

