

NEWS

EXTRAORDINARY URBI ET ORBI BLESSING ON FRIDAY 27 MARCH

Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis has announced that he will give an extraordinary blessing to the world, "urbi et orbi", at 6 p.m. Rome-time, 27 March. The formal blessing is usually given only immediately after a new pope's election, on Christmas and Easter. Pope Francis also invites all Christians to recite the Lord's Prayer at noon March 25. [Read the article](#) in *La Croix*.

OUR LADY OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Pope Francis is entrusting the whole world to the protection of the Virgin Mary and calling us to consider Mary not as an abstract helper but as a mother who has a proven track record of healing, protecting and watching over her people. Read the article in America Magazine.

CICLSAL –LETTER FROM CARDINAL AVIZ

This letter from Cardinal Aviz, Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life is food for thought during Lent. [Download the letter](#).

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS (LCWR) RESOURCES

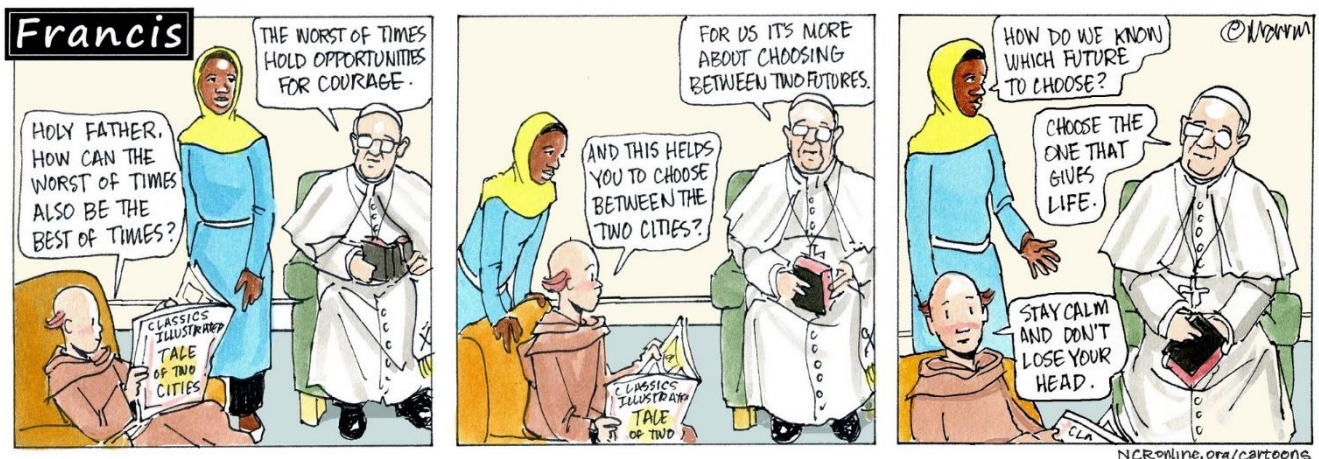
LCWR have set up a [resources webpage](#) to assist during this pandemic. It will include a prayer with focused questions to use for your reflection during that week.

FRATELLI PROJECT MAICAO

This project was born as a joint resolution between the De La Salle and Marist brothers, to provide a prompt international response to crises related to displaced persons, especially children and youth, in cross-border situations in different parts of the world. The first project was set up in Lebanon for displaced Syrian, Iraqi and Lebanese refugee children and young people. The success of the project has inspired them to open a second project in Maicao, Colombia. [Read about it here](#).

REFLECTIONS

Click on the link to read a reflection from Fr Richard Hendrick OFM, entitled [Lockdown](#). We also thank Jill Harding FCS for sharing the cartoon below.



ARCHBISHOP OF ADELAIDE ELECTED: BISHOP PATRICK O'REGAN

Pope Francis has just announced that Bishop Patrick O'Regan, currently Bishop of the Diocese of Sale in Victoria, will be the new Archbishop of Adelaide. It is not yet known when Bishop O'Regan will be installed as Archbishop of Adelaide. Those details will be shared when they are known. [Read more here.](#)

NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

The Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception have been recently declared by the Minister as a participating institution in the National Redress Scheme.

IMPORTANT DATES/EVENTS

EARTH HOUR – 28 MARCH 2020, 8.30PM

Observing Earth Hour is just one small and effective way we can unite as a community to protect our earth. The events of the past few weeks and months with catastrophic bushfires and now the Covid-19 pandemic only proves how fragile and vulnerable we and our home are. In the words of Pope Francis, [Laudato Si](#), 49:

“Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

Download [CRA Earth Hour poster 1](#) and [CRA Earth Hour poster 2](#). Also on the [CRA Resources webpage](#).

CRA LENTEN CARBON FAST CALENDAR 2020

- Download [CRA Lenten Carbon Fast Calendar 2020](#).

CRA EVENTS

As you would know from prior emails sent to participants, the following events have been postponed in an effort to keep all our participants safe from exposure to COVID-19:

- **CRA National Justice Seminar Day**
Wednesday, April 1, 2020 | Treacy Centre, Melbourne
- **CRA National Health & Well-being Seminar Day**
Wednesday, April 22, 2020 | Mercy Place, Brisbane
- **CRA National Seminar Day on Finance and Health & Well-being**
Thursday, April 30, 2020 | St Catherine's House of Hospitality, Perth
- **CRA National Health & Well-being Seminar Day for Younger Religious**
Saturday, May 2, 2020 | St Catherine's House of Hospitality, Perth
- **CRA National Stewardship Seminar Day**
Wednesday, May 6, 2020 | Treacy Centre, Melbourne

We will keep in touch with you regarding future events, but you can expect further postponements. We will advise you next week regarding the 2020 National Assembly, scheduled for 15-18 June in Melbourne.

Once a new date to hold a postponed seminar is arranged, we will advise you. If you are unable to attend on that new date, we will arrange for a reimbursement unless you request a refund earlier.