

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

April 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As Spring is upon us, it invites a feeling of newness and hope. We see and enjoy new flowers starting to bloom. We hear the songs of birds returning to their homes. We smell the earth, wet from the winter, and welcoming new seeds for growth.

Then our attention is drawn to the turmoil in the world. We may remember that this month commemorates the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, probably the best known leader of the civil rights movement in our country. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Dr. King taught and led non-violent resistance and advocacy for non-discriminatory laws, practices, and policies in employment, schooling, health care, housing, voting, and labor. In short, for equality for all in our social sphere. He may be best known for his 1963 speech, "I Have a Dream," delivered on the grounds in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The speech inspired many over the years to reexamine our country's treatment of people of all races and traditions. The national conversation on equality and inclusion continues to this day. It is interesting and somewhat sad to note that Dr. King made that speech one hundred and two days after the official end of the Civil War.

But let us not feel sadness. Instead, let us hope. We are children of a loving and merciful God, our Lord of Love and Light. Dr. King taught that "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that". This quote appears in his 1963 book *Strength to Love*. So, sisters and brothers, let us join in our Franciscan circle of love, pray and act in light and love.



Compassionate Action

Let us commit to reading one book this month, in whole or in part, or see one documentary on the history of equality for all in this country. Perhaps we may choose to discuss our learning with our prayer partner or other members of our fraternity.



Let Us Pray

Our Lord God, we pray for all people knowing You are our Father and the Father and Creator of All. May the light of our Lord, Jesus Christ, burn in us and create a heart for justice and peace.

Let Us Sing



"Walk in the Light"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCTR0WXZjwk&pp=ygUyd2FsayBpbiB0aGUgbGlnaHQgdGhllGJIYXV0aWZ1bCBsaWdodCBjaGFyYGVzIHVvcGU%3D>