

Doing Justice Being Peace

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Biweekly Newsletter



April 12 is the **International Day of Human Space Flight**. Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet astronaut was the first person to orbit the Earth in 1961. This day honours humanity's leap into the cosmos, igniting our aspirations to venture further into outer space and to unravel the mysteries of the universe.



World Creativity & Innovation Day on April 21 recognizes the dynamic force of creativity in shaping our world. It drives ideas, advances inclusivity and promotes mutual understanding. Across fields like the performing arts, design, visual arts and music, creativity generates livelihoods and enriches our cultural tapestries by promoting global dialogues.



On April 23, **World Book & Copyright Day** emphasizes the fundamental importance of equal access to knowledge and literacy, highlighting the collective and collaborative efforts of authors, editors, translators and publishers. Summarized by Plato, "Books give a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."





Since 1970, **International Mother Earth Day** on April 22 has mobilized over a billion people in 193 countries to champion environmental stewardship and justice. The global rise in plastic production, which accounts for 6% of world oil consumption contributes to ongoing environmental harm. As plastics degrade, they break into tiny fragments of microplastics, which release toxins into ecosystems.

To tackle plastic pollution, international delegates will convene in Ottawa from April 23-29 for the United Nations Plastic Treaty talks. Their goal is to reduce plastic production 60% by 2030 and ban the export of plastic waste. Pope Francis has criticized our prevalent “throwaway culture,” where items are quickly discarded and massive amounts of waste are created. He encourages us to counter disposability by embracing an attitude of solidarity, protection and care for our common home.

It is how (St.) Francis lived in Christ that shaped his relationship to creation. Penance, poverty, humility, and compassion were the values that forged Francis into a “cosmic brother,” one who was related to all creatures and to the elements of creation.

Through penance he recognized his sinfulness and need for conversion. Through poverty he became aware of the human tendency to possess, as he realized his radical dependency on all things. Through humility, he realized his solidarity with all creatures. Through compassion, he came to have deep feelings for the things of the earth, including the tiniest of creatures.

~Ilia Delio, OSF

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