



La Vista Ecological Learning Center

A ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
August 1, 2018

E-News

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August E-NEWS AND ECO-SPIRITUAL CALENDAR

Precious Jewels of August!



Sweat bee on New England Aster in
La Vista's pollinator garden

"Every second of life is filled with precious jewels."

Go outdoors in the early morning in August and sit with this quote by Thich Nhat Hanh from his book *Love Letter to the Earth*. Make a list of all the precious jewels you see, hear, touch and smell. We usually think of the "dog days" of August being particularly devoid of beauty, calling forth images of sultry days, low energy, dry grass and not much else. However, if you are mindfully looking for jewels, you will be amazed at life's gifts this month! Go on, do it!

August 6th Bombing of Hiroshima and August 9th Bombing of Nagasaki

Recently, a group of School Sisters of Notre Dame from Japan visited La Vista. They gifted us with a lovely pin shaped like a leaf, containing words from the Japanese Constitution. Currently pacifism is enshrined in the Constitution, with a clause known as Article 9 calling for the complete renunciation of war. That clause represents a cherished part of the country's postwar identity, but the prime minister and many citizens want to change the valued stance. Our Sisters asked if we would pray that this not happen. Please join us in this prayer that Japan remain a pacifist country.



August 11th Perseid Meteor Shower and the Tears of St. Lawrence

August 10th is the feast of St. Lawrence, and in his honor, Catholic tradition calls the Perseid meteor shower the tears of St. Lawrence. Ancient people considered meteors to be symbols of enlightenment or illumination. St. Lawrence was an enlightened person who, when told to bring the Church's wealth to the emperor before his execution, brought people who were suffering, lame or living in poverty, saying that they were the true wealth of the church. This year the Perseid meteor shower promises to be wonderful, since moonlight will not get in the way. So, consider your own need for enlightenment, take your lawn chair, and get outside around midnight to

view the tears of St. Lawrence.

August 20 LISTEN, LEAD, SHARE 6:30 PM National Great Rivers Museum, Melvin Price Lock and Dam

Join a community conversation about advancing clean energy jobs in Illinois in order to build a clean energy economy for all. Organizers want to listen to you, share facts, listen to your facts, and help Illinois become a leader. Sponsored by the United Congregations of Metro East, Sierra Club and others.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Discussion Course A World of Health: Connecting People, Place, and Planet Monthly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 9/4, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 11/6, 11/20 7:00 - 8:30 pm

A healthy environment is essential for human health and well-being. A World of Health helps participants explore the connections between the health of our communities and the health of our planet. You will also learn about the limitations of the current medical model and the places where our personal health intersects with the environment - from our food and homes, to our communities and society. Together, we'll discover actions that promote good health and in turn, promote a healthier environment.

Cost: \$30 (This is the cost of book.)

Registration: Send your check by Aug. 28 to La Vista, 4300 Levis Lane, Godfrey, IL 62035 so books can be ordered. Class Size: Payment refunded if six person minimum is not met.

Nature Journaling through the Seasons September 15, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

As we head toward autumn, join us again at La Vista to learn more journaling techniques and to enjoy practicing them on the land among the colors of the season. Angie Jungbluth will return to share her enthusiasm and know-how. Past participants gave Angie "two thumbs up", saying that they left feeling motivated and confident in their ability to continue journaling on their own.

No artistic skill is necessary. Upon registration you will receive a materials list via e-mail.



Summer session participant drawing milkweed.

Cost: \$15.

Registration: Send your payment to La Vista, 4300 Levis Lane, Godfrey, IL 62035. Include your e-mail address, please. Confirmation and materials list will be sent via e-mail.



