



La Vista Ecological Learning Center

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

E-News

Email: info@lavistaelc.org
Website: lavistaelc.org

November E-NEWS AND ECO-SPIRITUAL CALENDAR



This quote from American poet David Ignatow helps us live the spirit of this beautiful month.

*One leaf left on a branch and not a sound of
sadness or despair.
One leaf left on a branch and no unhappiness.
One leaf left all by itself in the air and it does
not speak of loneliness or death.
One leaf and it spends itself in swaying mildly
in the breeze.*

November 1 and 2 Saints and Souls for Earth

The newspaper *The Guardian* in collaboration with *Global Witness*, is attempting to record the deaths of environmental defenders all over the planet. This is a powerful web site showing pictures and listing names and brief descriptions of hundreds of men and women who have lost their lives since 2015 while protecting their community's land or natural resources. You might want to use the names listed to create a litany, praying for the defenders and their communities.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2018/feb/27/the-defenders-recording-the-deaths-of-environmental-defenders-around-the-world>

Some of the last who have died include:

- + Teum Soknai, a forest defender killed after confronting illegal loggers on January 30, 2018 in Cambodia
- + Jose Unahan, an indigenous peasant leader who died defending ancestral lands against large-scale mining on June 6, 2018 in the Philippines
- + Kaliappan, one of 13 demonstrators shot by police while protesting against copper smelter pollution in southern India on May 23, 2018

November 3 In Pursuit of Silence A Quiet Afternoon of Reflection Saturday, November 3, 1:00 - 4:30 PM

Mid-term elections and upcoming holidays are just two of the many reasons we need quiet in our lives. Join us and nurture this essential

part of yourself. Our afternoon of reflection begins with viewing the DVD *In Pursuit of Silence*, a meditative exploration of silence and the impact of noise on our lives. This film takes us on a journey around the globe, inspiring us to experience silence while celebrating the wonders of our world.



Afterward, you'll have time on the land to enjoy autumn and the quieting of nature, when crickets cease calling, and leaves gently fall to the ground. You are encouraged to bring your journal, lawn chair and water bottle. We'll re-gather for a conclusion together and time to share refreshments provided.

Cost: Thank you for offering a donation to support La Vista's programming.

Registration: Email the address given above in the banner

November 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends

As the amount of daylight lessens, we have a tendency to increase our use of outdoor lighting without considering the effect on wildlife. *Photopollution* is the term coined to describe situations where artificial light has an adverse effect on wildlife. Since many migratory birds typically travel at night, this has become an issue as it disorients them leading to greater mortality. In warmer months light pollution is also an issue for nocturnal wildlife, such as moths. Decreased pollination is one of the results. These are just two of many examples of the negative effects of photopollution. What can be done?

We need to make certain that outdoor lighting is directed toward the ground whenever possible. Floodlights on the ground that point upward to illuminate homes, bridges, monuments are harmful and should be avoided. Take time this month to monitor your home's outdoor lighting and make needed changes. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper if this is a concern in your town or city.

November 6 Election Day and Last Cricket Calls

We hope you use your ballot to vote for Mother Earth through those candidates committed to protection of water, land and clean energy. Not only does this day mark the end of endless political ads, but also the end of those lovely cricket voices that have accompanied us all summer.

November 13 Monthly Work Day in the Oblates Woods Nature Preserve and First Frost Flowers



Monthly from 9:30 - Noon, we work on restoring health to the Preserve by removing honeysuckle and trash. This month we'll also be on the lookout for frost flowers that appear with the first hard frost. These beauties are formed when freezing temperatures form cracks in the stems of some plants which are still alive. Sap is pushed through the cracks, and when it hits the cold temperatures, ribbons of ice fold out from the stem and form unusual shapes, like flower petals. If we are really lucky, we may see some.

Register to join us via email, using the address given in the above banner.

November 22 Thanksgiving Day Reflection

On this day when so many of us gather with families to share a meal, you might use this quote from the encyclical *Laudato Si* for prayerful reflection:

"One expression of this attitude is when we stop and give thanks to God before and after meals. I ask all believers to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom. That moment of blessing, however brief, reminds us of our dependence on God for life; it strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation; it acknowledges those who by their labours provide us with these goods; and it reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need." (Paragraph 227)

SAVE THE DATE --- Winter Solstice Celebration Saturday, December 22, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Please plan on joining us as we welcome the winter season and celebrate the coming of the LIGHT on December 25.