



NEA NEWSLETTER



MAY NEWS 2023

MAY by Mary Oliver (1935 – 2019)



May, and among the miles of leafing, blossoms storm out of the darkness—windflowers and moccasin flowers. The bees dive into them and I too, to gather their spiritual honey. Mute and meek, yet theirs is the deepest certainty that this existence too—this sense of well-being, the flourishing of the physical body—rides near the hub of the miracle that everything is a part of, is as good as a poem or a prayer, can also make luminous any dark place on earth.



DON'T HESITATE by Mary Oliver

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. **Joy is not made to be a crumb.**

IT'S ALWAYS THE BEGINNING

Anthony, a middle-aged monk, was on pilgrimage, visiting Benedict his good friend, a monk in another country. Arriving at the monastery, Benedict, a gracious host and friend, welcomed Anthony, and as they started climbing a long flight of steps, said,

"We have no elevators here. I apologize for the many steps we have to climb to get to your room."

Anthony, with a smile and a twinkle in his eye, answered,

"There are many steps in my home monastery, too."

Then he added,

"I count them as I climb.... This is how I count them: one, one, one...!"



MAY WE ALL LIVE LIFE by Susan Williams

May we all live life
to the point where we don't
waste one single moment of it.
May we daily find
beauty where there is beauty,
ugliness where there is ugliness,
wisdom where there is wisdom,
ignorance where there is ignorance,
joy where there is joy,
sorrow where there is sorrow,
thanksgiving where blessings daily abound,
and endurance where there is trial.
.....And thereby may we all build
.....a captivating and compassionate soul.

May I be the tiniest nail
in the house of the
Universe,
tiny but useful.

Mary Oliver

My daily
routine: get up,
be amazing, go
back to bed.

May 21-28 is Laudato Si Week 2023

Laudato Si' Week 2023 will be celebrated **May 21-28** with the film "The Letter" to mark the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on care for creation. The theme for the week is:



HOPE FOR THE EARTH, HOPE FOR HUMANITY

This is perhaps a good time to re-visit the commitment we made together last December as we walk 'the path of renewal together' (Laudato Si par 202). We resolved

**TO CHERISH ALL CREATION AND
AVOID WASTE IN OUR EVERYDAY
LIVES**

and to continue to use the prayer that was circulated to everyone after our zoom meetings.

There are many other suggestions on the website under Laudato Si week



GOD'S GRANDEUR - GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS

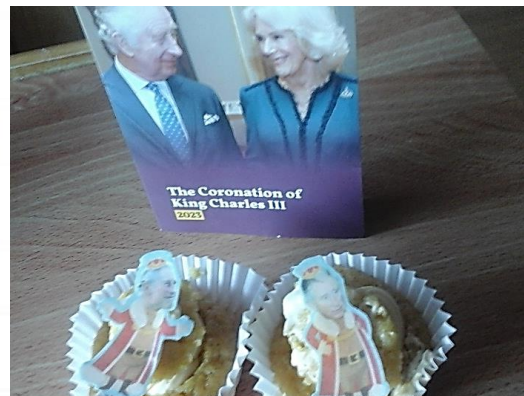


The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the
soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.
And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

THIS BREATHLESS EARTH *Malcolm Guite*

We bolted every door but even so
We couldn't catch our breath for very fear:
Fear of their knocking at the gate below,
Fear that they'd find and kill us even here.
Though Mary's tale had quickened all our
hearts
Each fleeting hope just deepens your
despair:
The panic grips again, the gasping starts,
The drowning, and the coming up for air.
Then suddenly, a different atmosphere,
A clarity of light, a strange release,
And, all unlooked for, Christ himself was there
Love in his eyes and on his lips, our peace.
So now we breathe again, sent forth, forgiven,
To bring this breathless earth a breath of heaven.



Here in Arrowsmith we joined in the celebrations for the coronation. We watched the ceremony on television and then the staff served us with a lovely buffet. Mary had a new hat for the occasion! I hope you can see the cakes that our chef made. Each one had picture of King Charles on it. I hope you were all able to enjoy watching this once in a life time occasion. *Anne Curran*



A Holy Spirit Revival ~

By Deborah Ann Belka



Real revival is the work
of the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

Lord, we need a revival,
a head bobbing, banner raising
hand clapping, foot stomping
Holy Spirit filled revival.

Lord we need an awakening,
a gospel preaching, heart
turning
sin repenting, life changing
Holy Spirit filled awakening.

Lord we need a quickening,
a daily living, life-long giving
fruit bearing, love sharing
Holy Spirit filled quickening.

Lord, we need a renewal,
a world reaching, grace saving
thirst quenching, mind
drenching
Holy Spirit filled renewal.

Lord, we need a revival,
a roof raising, earthshaking
God-fearing, soul saving
Holy Spirit filled revival!

See pictures from the ILC visit on a separate post in the website