

Which Roots Will We Water

At the National Convocation of JPIC Promoters, Keynote Speaker Cynthia Moe-Lobeda offered the following challenges regarding systemic change and JPIC Ministry:

We who stake our life on God’s promises...are beckoned to embody this Love in this world, in this time and place. Where injustice causes suffering, Love demands we dismantle injustice. What are we to do – how are we to live in light of injustice?

--Critical mystical way:

- Seeing more clearly: uncovering systemic evil; see links and demystify them
- Critical seeing; what could and should be- alternative modes
- Mystical: acknowledge the sacred in the cosmos, bringing us into abundant life for all.



- 3 deep roots:
 - Heritage of faithful resistances;
 - We are “mud creatures. We are kept moist by dew of the Holy

Spirit spread within the earth.

We can be molded into reality of justice seeking radiant Love.

- Pando: single organism over vast space connected by single vast root system.

Roots carry water and nourishment to all

--Practical implications:

- I am not primarily an I but a we; part of a cloud of witnesses
- Two complementary practices: resistance and rebuilding
- Recognize the different levels of social life in which change happens e.g. household, institutions, business, public policy, world view.
- Recognize the many forms of action: e.g. lifestyle, consciousness raising, public witness, community organizing to name a few.

Want to read more: “Resisting Structural Evil: Love as an Ecological – Economic Vocation.” by Cynthia Moe-Lobeda.

**“Many things have to
change course, but it is we
human beings above all
who need to change.”
Pope Francis**

Understanding the New Executive Order on Climate Change

On March 28, President Trump took significant steps toward removing the United States from the global effort to address climate change by instructing federal regulators to rewrite key rules meant to curb U.S. carbon and methane emissions, two potent greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. As the world's largest contributor to global warming pollution, the U.S. rules on carbon and methane emissions are especially important

What will the executive order do?

- **The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will rewrite the Clean Power Plan** (see infographic). The plan, which was set to go into effect in 2021, instructed states to replace coal-fired power plants with natural gas, wind, coal and hydroelectric energy infrastructure which would create jobs, improve health, and reduce emissions. The plan had also set targets for states and gave the states the flexibility on how they would reduce carbon emissions. Many states were already on their way to achieve the targets set in the plan.
- **The Department of Interior will rewrite a rule restricting fracking on public and tribal lands. All federal officials will refrain from considering the impact of climate change in decision-making.**
- **The Department of the Interior will remove a moratorium on coal leasing on public lands.**

Please stay alert to ways to support the Clean Power Plan and climate change solutions.....

“The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life.” Pope Francis



Resources that you may want to utilize in your community and/or with ministry groups:

- **[Mercy 2 Earth: 30 Acts of Mercy for Our Common Home](http://www.mercy2earth.org)** from the Web site at www.mercy2earth.org.
- **[Voluntary Simplicity Assessment](#)** used with permission from JustFaith
- **[Primer on Sustainability](#)** from the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center. (Note that page 12 gives some theological and ethical perspectives and page 8-10 give action suggestions in regards to food, water, energy, waste, equity and transportation.)