

Info Alert 136

November 28, 2017

"If we approach nature and the environment without openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of **masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters**, unable to set limits on their immediate needs." (Laudato Si #11)

Education: the Poor, Immigrants/Refugees, Consumers

In sustaining our commitment to **Active Nonviolence**, we accept our responsibility to alert others, especially those in power, to prioritize the common good above selfish choices. Working for systemic change is critical if we wish to follow the Gospel mandate "to serve the poor--the first sign of the Christian community upon the world's stage." (Francis) The poor, the middle-class, must not be victimized by an unfair tax plan that caters to the wealthy and to corporations at the expense of the ordinary citizen. Please call your senators (**1-202-224-3121**) to encourage them to make a moral decision on this issue as they debate and vote on the proposed tax plan.

Immigrants/Refugees: We repeat our concern expressed in Info Alert 135 (11/14/17) that Temporary Protection Status be extended for 18 months to Haitian refugees. We ask you to call your members of Congress to urge the Department of Human Services to extend TPS for Haitians until their country is able to sustain them. (**1-202-224-3121**)

DACA/Dream Act: Again, we encourage you to call congress to pass the Dream Act in 2017 and to protect young immigrants under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

Throw-away Culture: In the overwhelming publicity given shopping and consumption at this time, it might be helpful for our continuing growth in social justice and awareness of the poor to reflect on the "Autumn" insert on *Laudato Si* found in the November *Angelus*.

Prayer: God, may we react against a culture of discard and waste, and embrace a culture of encounter. May we learn from the poor the valuable lessons of life, recognizing that as teachers, they help us to live our faith more consistently and faithfully. Finally, may we learn from the poor's ability to trust, to live simply and to give ourselves freely and totally to God. Amen. (PF)

Action: In solidarity with the poor, I will limit a desire to buy, and/or consume unnecessary things. Also, I will respond to the suggestions above to contact members of congress.

Upcoming Events: On Wednesday, (11/29), we commemorate the anniversary of the death of Dorothy Day, radical pacifist servant of God. Dorothy Day embodied what it means to put faith into action for social justice, deeply seated in her conviction to serve the poor and vulnerable. Day's influence and prophetic witness transcends her humble death in 1980. In 2000, the Catholic church opened Day's cause for canonization, earning her the title "Servant of God."

The Catholic Worker Movement still thrives, with more than 200 communities around the world.

In her words: "**What we would like to do is change the world**--make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And to a certain extent, by fighting for better conditions [*systemic change*], by crying out unceasingly for the rights of workers, of the poor, of the destitute--the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor in other words, we can to a certain extent change the world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever-widening circle will reach around the world. We can give away an onion."