

Info Alert 138

January 9, 2018

*"To be true followers of Jesus today includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence. As Benedict XVI observed, that teaching is realistic because it takes into account that in the world there is too much violence, too much injustice. This situation cannot be overcome except by countering it with **more love**, with **more goodness**." -Pope Francis in his World Day of Peace Message*

Education: Nonviolent Action, Human Trafficking, Immigration

On January 1, 2018, Pope Francis delivered the Fiftieth World Day of Peace message, making **active nonviolence** its theme. Francis reflects on nonviolence as a style of politics for peace, encouraging all people to cultivate nonviolence in thoughts and values, in how we treat one another as individuals, in society, and internationally. Sadly, we find ourselves engaged today in a horrifying world war, fought "piecemeal." This piecemeal violence causes great suffering: wars in different countries and continents; terrorism, organized crime and unforeseen acts of violence; abuses suffered by migrants and victims of trafficking; and the devastation of the environment. ***Violence is not the cure for our broken world.***

Our own elected leaders too often ignore transparency, reality, objective truth. One of the last acts of these officials last year was to shamelessly vote for and celebrate legislation which will harm a majority of their constituents. The disregard for democracy, among those elected and sworn to protect it, is unprecedented in U. S. history.

Immigration and human trafficking: In 2006, when the role of an IHM Social Justice Coordinator was officially established, we directed our energies to address the issues of immigration reform and human trafficking. We worked on educating ourselves on the evil of modern slavery in domestic labor and the sex industry through workshops, ongoing alerts and specific involvement with hands-on efforts to limit this grave evil.

In the area of immigration reform, we provided "Justice for Immigrants" packets to every convent. We have persistently engaged in nonviolent action on behalf of our immigrant brothers and sisters through contact with legislators in many forms. Now, in 2018, we see an educated recognition of, and action on behalf of victims of trafficking and immigrants and refugees. As Pope Francis pleads for us to overcome the horror of the abuse of victims of trafficking and unjust treatment of immigrants and refugees, **we again recommit ourselves to continue nonviolent action in every way possible to bring peace to our broken world.**

Prayer: Merciful, Loving Father, we beseech you, open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality and refuge to migrants who are lonely, afraid, far from home. Give us the courage to welcome every stranger as Christ in our midst. Help us to live in solidarity with one another, to seek justice for those who are persecuted and comfort for those who are suffering. This we ask, in trust and with hope, through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Action: January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Check (info@njhumantrafficking.org)
Support Covenant House(covenanthousepa.org) and Dawn's Place (dawnsplace@verizon.net).

National Migration Week (Jan. 7 - 14), "Many Journeys, One Family"

Resources available (MigrationWeek@uscgb.net)

Tragically, on 1/8, the Dept. of Homeland Security announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status for roughly 200,000 El Salvadorans with strong and deep ties to the U.S. Many have lived here for over 21 years. Call congress to provide permanent legal status to this population. The decision creates many losers, no winners.

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