

Info Alert 191

March 8, 2022

"If people don't vote, everything stays the same. You can protest until the sky turns yellow or the moon turns blue, and it's not going to change anything if you don't vote." — **Dolores Huerta (co-founder of the United Farm Workers)**

Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a celebration of trailblazers, innovators, champions and advocates. The Southern Poverty Law Center has highlighted seven women whose lives they consider notable. Dolores Huerta is among them. As a labor leader and civil rights activist, she co-founded, with Cesar Chavez, the organization that would fight to achieve better working conditions for migrant farm workers across the United States. She created the Dolores Huerta Foundation which partners with the government in identifying and developing community leaders. President Barack Obama awarded her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012. Read about these seven women here:

<https://www.splcenter.org/news/2022/03/01/womens-history-month-2022-inspiring-trailblazers-quotes>

Mid-Term Elections

Because the President is not elected mid-term, many people do not consider mid-term elections consequential. They are. Every Representative from the House will be on the ballot. Approximately one-third of the senate seats will be on the ballot. One-half of state governors will be on the ballot. Mid-term elections will determine which political party will have the majority in the House and in the Senate. They determine how much power the president will have for the rest of his term. We need everyone to VOTE. The primary is May 17 (in PA). If you live out of state, find out when your primary takes place. Mid-terms are in November. Most importantly – VOTE. Voting is our privilege as Americans. As Catholics, voting is our responsibility. **PA has mail-in balloting for the primaries.**

Use this link to find out information about where you live:

https://www.vote411.org/?gclid=CjwKCAiA1JGRBhBSEiwAxXblwfKzWSTxWjVqED9lhTv7DOUN6g-KevMupnsznrTy2IKdw9GUQL9BCRoC79UQAvD_BwE

Greenwashing

Greenwashing occurs when a company claims to have made innovations, which will minimize their impact on the environment but in fact, have not. Have you seen the commercials for reusable soda bottles lately? Plastic, when it is broken into pellets, can only be recycled once and then it ends up in a landfill. Ninety-one percent (91%) of the plastic produced globally is not recycled. The commercial is misleading. **The truth is we need to be creating less plastic.** The purpose of business is to make money. If a change that seems good for the environment yields a smaller profit for a company, do not believe the company will be willing to sacrifice its bottom line.

Sisters' Ministry in Haiti

The Little Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, minister to almost 150,000 Haitians each year through their elementary and secondary schools, teacher preparation center, hospitals, clinics, agricultural training center, professional centers for young women, orphanages, homes for elders, farms, and adult education in Haiti. According to their congregational history, PSST has the specific mission of "giving relief to people in the poorest and most remote areas."

Prayer for Ukraine

A Prayer for Peace by Cameron Bellm: <https://www.jesuits.org/stories/a-prayer-for-peace/>

*God of endless compassion transform our prayer
from words into bridges that span distances between us
uniting our hearts in yours.*

Actions

1. Pray for Ukraine and for Peace in the World. Use "A Prayer for Peace" if you can. Collect for Ukraine.
2. Decide to vote in the primary and in the mid-term elections. Find out who is running for office where you live.
3. Read about the seven women whose lives appeared in the Southern Poverty Law Center publication.