

Info Alert 193

May 10, 2022

Openness to God makes us open towards the marginalized of this world, and gives us the courage to leave the confines of our own security and comfort to become bruised, hurting and dirty as we joyfully approach the suffering other in a spirit of solidarity. Pope Francis

National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend

June 3, 2022 is National Gun Violence Day. It opens a weekend during which wearing the color orange will act as a rallying call to everyone who is seeking to end the death and destruction caused by the proliferation of firearms in people's homes and on our cities' streets. I was fortunate enough to be a part of CeaseFire PA on April 26, 2022 as we lobbied our representatives in Harrisburg. We had four asks that were contained in:

A Common Agenda to End Gun Violence

- 1) Use money from The American Rescue Plan to fund community programs, which provide meaningful activities for our youth. Such programs can reduce shootings by 50%.
- 2) Reporting Lost or Stolen Guns HB 980 and SB 217
- 3) Allow Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) This law would protect the gun owner from self-harm as well as the people in the gun owner's life who may be at risk. HB 1903 and SB 134
- 4) Closing Loopholes on Private Sales of Long Guns PA does not require background checks for

people purchasing guns in a private sale. HB 235 and SB 88

As we listened to heart-wrenching testimonies of mothers who have lost sons to gun violence, we were energized to advocate for laws that would stop this epidemic and make safer neighborhoods for everyone.

Visit: CeaseFire PA <https://www.ceasefirepa.org/> You can take action on this website.

Haiti Project: Dr. Paul Farmer, Public Health Luminary

When Paul Farmer was a boy, he moved often, including to Florida, where his family of eight lived for five years in an old school bus that his father had converted into a mobile home. After graduating from Duke University in 1982, he traveled for the first time to Haiti, a great connection he maintained throughout his life. While traveling back and forth to Haiti, he earned both a PhD and an MD from Harvard University and co-founded Partners in Health (PIH). His *New York Times* obituary described him as "a public health luminary." Follow the link: <https://www.pih.org/> to read more about Partners in Health.

Prayer:

Let the Shooting End

Sisters of Mercy

God, our hearts are broken at the senseless deaths caused by gun violence. Families mourn, children live in fear, and some in our nation respond by arming themselves with more guns creating a greater capacity to end life. . . We ask that you touch our hearts with your love, heal our brokenness, and turn us away from violence toward peace. Help us to transform our own hearts and to seek peaceful ways of resolving our differences. Let our hands reach out and connect with those who feel alone, those who live in fear, and those suffering from mental illness. Let us raise our voices, asking our legislators to enact gun laws that will protect all. Let our pens write messages demanding change while also scripting words of hope and transformation. We ask this in the name of the God who desires that we live together in peace. *Amen*

Action

1. Continue to support and pray for the people of Ukraine.
2. Prepare to Vote in the May Primary. We need to choose candidates who will represent us in the November Mid-term elections.
3. Continue to pray for an end to Title 42. On May 3, 2022 President Biden received a letter signed by 1,000 religious women asking that he abide by his decision to end Title 42 on May 23, 2022.