

Info Alert 198

October 25, 2022

Pope Francis' Encyclical, "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home," calls us into relationship with our planet, Mother Earth, and all who live on it. Learning the lessons *Laudato Si'* teaches, we know that the poorest are the most vulnerable to the ravages of climate change and to the harm caused by the corporate greed of wealthy countries. Therefore, our IHM Social Justice Committee chooses the Catholic Social Teaching: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable as our focus for the year 2022-2023.

Social Justice Project

The IHM Social Justice Committee is inviting our Sisters to participate in a congregational action, which would combine the message of *Laudato Si'* with our focus for this year. The Social Justice Representative will explain this in more detail at the November Local Assembly. We hope everyone will support this project.

Dealing with Disinformation

In this pre-election season, voters are often bombarded with disinformation and false information on issues and candidates. The Union of Concerned Scientists has published a few tips on how to best handle disinformation.

1. When you discover disinformation, do not repeat it but replace it with content that is accurate.
2. Let your message reflect the truth, which is validated by experience and rigorous research.
3. Do not be reactive but offer a positive message that provides clear and practical steps toward addressing the issue which has been misrepresented.

EXAMPLE

DISINFORMATION: Immigrants are criminals and a drain on our economy.

TRUTH: Immigrants are hardworking individuals desiring to secure a better life for their families. Immigrants offer a boost to our economy working in areas such as agricultural and construction. Immigrants pay taxes. undocumented immigrants collectively contribute an estimated \$11.74 billion to state and local coffers each year via a combination of sales and excise, personal income, and property taxes, according to Undocumented Immigrants' State and Local Tax Contributions by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

Take Action to Stand with Dreamers

On October 5, the U.S. Court of Appeals affirmed a ruling in a lower court that deemed the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to be unlawful. This ruling returns the case of Texas v. the United States back to the district court. This creates a precarious situation for recent DACA recipients and a non-starter for anyone who has yet to apply. Our U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops renewed their plea to Congress to provide a permanent solution for all Dreamers based on their dignity as children of God. [Read the full statement here](#). Take action by [emailing your members of Congress today](#), urging that they work to create a pathway to permanent legal status for Dreamers.

Prayer - Excerpt from [Prayer Before An Election](#)

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community. <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/election-prayers>

Action

1. Attend Villanova's Livestream of the Mother Mary Lange Lecture Series on November 3rd. <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/mission/office/mother-mary-lange-lecture.html>