

### Info Alert 203

March 14, 2023

“...approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and “whenever food is thrown out, it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor.” LS 50; Quote JP11

### Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is a package of legislation that is passed by Congress every five years. Congress has until September 2023 to pass a new Farm Bill. It sounds pretty straightforward, but it is a multi-layered piece of legislation which helps people impacted by hunger, forced displacement and climate change. It contains poverty reducing programs at home and abroad. Ideally, the 2023 Farm Bill would ensure the right to food for all while also supporting workers and farmers who produce the food. <https://www.csg.org/2022/09/07/the-farm-bill-what-will-2023-bring/>

### SNAP

One program contained within the Farm Bill is SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Thousands of American families rely on SNAP to help stave off food insecurity. During COVID 19, SNAP allotments were increased to help families who were “at home.” On February 28, 2023, SNAP allotments returned to their pre-pandemic amount. The skyrocketing cost of food has forced families once again to rely on food banks. Their current SNAP allotment will not stretch far enough to meet their monthly needs.

### CRS

While many Sisters support CRS through Operation Rice bowl during Lent, CRS also receives funding through the Farm Bill. The Bill provides both life-saving food assistance to countries overseas and it funds long-term development projects that make communities sustainable. Watch this video to see how CRS interacts with the Farm Bill.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UytVd7\\_123A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UytVd7_123A)

### New Asylum Rule

On February 23, 2023, the Biden Administration proposed a new rule that would establish a near total ban on access to asylum on the southern U.S. Border. This new rule will require that people:

1. prove they applied for and were denied asylum in countries through which they traveled or
2. have an appointment confirmed at a port of entry using the notoriously glitchy CBP One app.

This is a very difficult new policy. It does not help people who are fleeing desperate situations. Family Detention may also be on the horizon. <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-president-biden-no-family-detention>

### Lenten Reflection Through the Eyes of Haiti

Jesus was stripped of his garments.

We recall during these Lenten weeks...but

Nakedness is about more than a piece of cloth...

It is about being rejected, unwanted, uncared for

It is a common way of the cross for millions in our world.

My name is Haiti.

Earthquakes, hurricanes, and gangs have stripped away our homes, hundreds of lives, farmland, and livelihood.

My people suffered throbbing pain waiting for food, water, searching for loved ones. So many have died, so many orphaned.

I, Haiti, am an ache in the heart of the world's body.

Loss of so much when we have so little is our Good Friday over and over.

Hold me in your heart before the mercy of God...

Sit with me in silence and just care.

Adapted from Camille Brouillard, IHM (M)

### Action

1. If you feel so moved on any of these issues, make a phone call or write a letter.
2. Continue to pray with and for our brothers and sisters in Haiti.
3. Sign the Petition Against Family Detention.