

Info Alert 206

June 13, 2023

Struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won; you earn it and win it in every generation."
- Coretta Scott King

Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States, which commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Although slavery had been formally abolished by the Emancipation Proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, the slaves who were living in Texas never learned of this until June 19th, 1865. Juneteenth derives its name from combining "June" and "nineteenth" and is celebrated on the anniversary of the order, issued by Major General Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865, proclaiming freedom for slaves in Texas. Originating in Galveston, Juneteenth has since been observed annually in various parts of the United States, often broadly celebrating African-American culture. The day was first recognized as a federal holiday in 2021 when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law after the efforts of Lula Briggs Galloway, Opal Lee, and others. As Coretta Scott King so aptly put it, the African American struggle for racial equality continues today. If you would like to learn more about racial justice, consider registering for: **Building the Beloved Community which is sponsored by Georgetown University.**

<https://catholicsocialthought.georgetown.edu/events/building-the-beloved-community>

If you have not read Archbishop Perez's Pastoral Letter on Racial Healing, you can find it here:

[Pastoral Letter on Racial Healing, June 11, 2023.pdf](#)

World Refugee Day June 20th is World Refugee Day. The Theme for this year is "Hope Away from Home. A world where refugees are always included." Refugees have been forced to flee their homes due to violence or persecution and at this time, many refugees are the victims of climate destruction. Their homes are no longer habitable. The best way to support them is to include them in our parish communities if they have found refuge there. Many refugees have come here seeking asylum. Continue to support them in prayer and support of our Sisters in McAllen, Texas. Learn more here: <https://www.unhcr.org/events/world-refugee-day-2023>

US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking The Sisters will be holding a briefing on the intersection of migration and human trafficking. Please register if you are interested in attending.

<https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/2023/06/briefing-to-highlight-the-nexus-between-human-trafficking-and-forced-migration/>

Recent News in Haiti Sister Camille Brouillard (M) recently received news from Sister Denise Desil, (PSST) that the recent earthquake in Haiti was in the area of Jeremie. There has been flooding as well due to the torrential rain. The Sisters who live in the affected areas are safe. Sister Denise also said that the gangs were in Riviere Froide, where the Motherhouse is. People were banging on pots and pans to make noise to keep the gangs away. Despite all that goes on around them, they are having a meeting of their leadership and a retreat for their Sisters. The Little Sisters are resilient. **Let us keep our Little Sisters of St. Therese in our prayers.**

Juneteenth Prayer

God of all peoples and all nations on this day of freedom, we celebrate triumphantly with all people of goodwill that we might walk arm in arm towards justice for all. See the entire prayer:

<https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/juneteenth-prayer>

Action

Learn more about these topics. Support racial healing and our Sisters' efforts in working with immigrants in whatever way you can.