

Info Alert 207

July 11, 2023

People in power are trying to convince us that the villain in our American story is each other. That is not our story. That is not who we are. That is not our America. Our United States of America is not about us versus them. It is about We the People! *Camila Alves*

July 4th

July 4th is no longer the day we cherished as children: watching parades, eating free hot dogs and ice cream in the park, and watching exhilarating fireworks. Everyone was happy and everyone felt safe! This past July 4th there were 17 mass shootings across our United States. This year is on track to become the deadliest on record with 350 mass shootings to date. What we need to realize is, the person shot is not the only victim. The gunshot victim's family and community are traumatized and suffer as well. One act of gun violence creates multiple victims. Look at these statistics for this year. Every day 327 people are shot. Of those shot: 117 are shot and killed and 210 survive gunshot injuries. On the [United Against Gun Violence/Brady](https://www.bradyunited.org/) website look for more information and ways to act against assault weapons. <https://www.bradyunited.org/>

World Day Against Human Trafficking

On July 30, the world will call attention to the crime of human trafficking. The campaign for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2023 aims to heighten awareness of disturbing developments identified by the United Nations and challenges all countries to respond with greater intensity in their prevention efforts and support for victims caught in the web of this horrendous crime. The theme for this year is: "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind." Learn more about the recent escalation of trafficking and the underwhelming response to it from across the globe in the United Nations report. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/endhht/index.html>

Learn more about the efforts of Sisters working with victims of human trafficking due to forced migration.

<https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/human-trafficking-and-forced-migration/>

Haiti

Not since 1986 has Haiti been without any elected representatives. Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced a transition plan to hold elections in February 2024 and create an interim high transitional council. The plan stipulates a 14-month transition period, which will encompass general elections and subsequently the entry into office of a newly elected government. The Little Sisters of St. Therese have shared that the police and the Haitian people are taking matters into their own hands and have started attacking the gangs.

Meanwhile, the Little Sisters of St. Therese have asked for our prayers for their Chapter, which will be from July 23rd to July 31st.

Follow the links for further information.

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/haiti-in-2023-political-abyss-and-vicious-gangs/>

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2023/01/haiti-briefing-and-consultations-5.php>

Prayer

For the people of Haiti, especially the most vulnerable, who suffer daily, that they may have access to the necessities which are currently denied to them (food, clean water, medicine, and safety).

For leaders to emerge from among the people of Haiti who will work to meet the many needs of the Haitian people.

Actions

1. Take the time to investigate each of these topics.
2. Sign actions where you can.
3. Pray for the Little Sisters as they enter their Chapter.