

**Info Alert 208**

**August 8, 2023**

“This cannot continue. . . All persons of goodwill. . . cannot allow these women, these men, these children to be treated as objects, deceived, violated, often repeatedly sold, for various purposes, and at the end either killed or ruined physically and mentally, to end up discarded and abandoned. It is shameful . . . a crime against humanity.”

Pope Francis, June 2023

**Sisters against Human Trafficking**

In her August Reflection, Sister Michelle Loisel, DC, comments on the July 30, World Day against Human Trafficking. She offers insights, such as the displacement of people due to climate, war, and economics, as the reason for the rising cases of human exploitation. People who have felt abandoned by society become easy prey for predators. You can read Sister Michelle’s reflection here:

<https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/2023/08/august-2023-monthly-reflection/>

Sister Michelle suggests viewing the movie, “Sound of Freedom,” which tells the true story of Tim Ballard, a brave former government agent turned humanitarian. Tim’s journey sends him on a mission to rescue innocent children trapped in the clutches of human trafficking.

**Immigration**

Texas is not only disregarding federal border policy but it has chosen to enforce “Operation Lone Star.” This policy not only seeks to prevent migrants from entering Texas but also encourages the brutal treatment of those who do make it into Texas. According to some media reports, this policy urges state troopers to commit cruel acts such as shoving children back into dangerous Rio Grande waters, denying migrants the basic mercy of drinking water in triple-digit temperatures, and deploying floating razor wire in the river that has already resulted in the deaths of at least four people. Acts such as these lack compassion and punish migrants for their legally protected attempts to seek asylum from the horrors they are fleeing back home. Please urge the Department of Justice to investigate the Texas governor’s Operation Lone Star and its egregious human rights violations. Follow this link to send a message to Attorney General Merrick Garland.

<https://www.sistersofmercy.org/mercy-for-justice/action-alerts/?vsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f106949%2fRespond>

**U.S. Farm Bill/CRS**

We have been speaking about the Farm Bill all year. While we, in the U.S., rely on funding from the Farm Bill for SNAP benefits, CRS relies on the Farm Bill to supply global assistance to communities living with dire food shortages. Please visit this link to send a message to your member of Congress supporting the Farm Bill overseas:

[https://support.crs.org/act/farm-bill?utm\\_source=crs-briefing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=2023-crs-briefing&ms=mameve0123bri00gen04&utm\\_c](https://support.crs.org/act/farm-bill?utm_source=crs-briefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2023-crs-briefing&ms=mameve0123bri00gen04&utm_c)

**Prayer** – Excerpt from **A Prayer for Summer** by Jane Deren

O God of Light, Let us absorb your shining grace  
As growing things absorb the sun’s energy,  
So we too may know  
A season of slow and steady growth.

Bless these weeks ahead: May they be a time of ripening  
So we can take in your gifts  
And move towards the harvest time,  
To share with compassion and courage. Amen.

**Actions**

1. See the movie, “Sound of Freedom.”
2. Any Chapter Delegate who still has the lanyard that held your name tag during the Chapter Sessions, please bring it with you on August 20 as we welcome our new administration. You may turn it in at the Portress Office for recycling.