

Info Alert 210

November 14, 2023

"Being kind to each other, to know each other — it's not such a difficult thing to do, if you are willing to do it," she said. "The problem is our leaders are not willing to do that." Smadar Zimmerman

Solidarity

It is difficult to apply the Catholic Social Teaching principle of solidarity to conflicts such as the current Israeli-Hamas war with its complicated history and multifaceted layers. The death and destruction that is being created in Israel and Gaza seems irreconcilable but there are groups who have been working for peace in this region. These groups stand in solidarity with both Israeli Jews and Palestinians. Standing Together is one such organization with Samar Zimmerman being one of its members. The link below provides an article and a podcast that explains how these organizations have bridged the divide and are trying valiantly to hold it together as it becomes increasingly more challenging. Ms. Zimmerman still hopes for peace and believes that peace will come only through the building of relationships between Arabs and Jews. Pope Francis is urging everyone to pray for a just peace in the Middle East and Ukraine.

<https://www.npr.org/2023/10/25/1208227647/israel-gaza-hamas-jewish-palestinian-peace-activists-lod>

Black Catholic History Month

As we celebrate **Black Catholic History** month, we rejoice that Mother Mary Lange has been declared Venerable and we continue to pray for her cause toward canonization. We are reminded of the struggles our Black brothers and sisters have endured solely based on the color of their skin. One form of discrimination they have faced lies in housing opportunities. A practice known as "racial covenants" had been written into property deeds. This practice prevented home ownership by Black and brown families in certain areas, primarily in the suburbs. This video will explain this practice in more detail. It is called: The Dark History of the Suburbs.

https://www.ted.com/talks/kevin_ehrman_solberg_and_kirsten_delegard_the_dark_history_of_the_suburbs

Immigration

There is a common proverb that claims we cannot fully understand another's situation unless we walk a mile in that person's shoes. For the past 20 years, photographer and TED Fellow Jon Lowenstein has walked with the Latin American migrants, documenting their journeys from Latin America to the United States, capturing on film one of the largest transnational migrations in world history. This documentary, "Shadow Lives USA," takes us into the inner worlds of the families escaping poverty and violence in Central America -- and pieces together the complex reasons people leave their homes in search of a better life. Please watch: Family, Hope and Resilience on the Migrant Trail as we journey through Lowenstein's images with our migrating brothers and sisters.

https://www.ted.com/talks/jon_lowenstein_family_hope_and_resilience_on_the_migrant_trail

Poverty – Child Tax Credits

Child Tax Credits which were expanded during the COVID 19 crisis dramatically decreased childhood hunger and poverty. Unfortunately, when the tax credits expired Congress did not create any measures to abate childhood hunger and poverty. The result plunged thousands of families into desperate situations. Please take the time to address this issue today. Using this link please let Congress know we must care for those who are most vulnerable.

<https://p2a.co/770JA2E?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=e6f61621-546b-4d75-b44b-6b2658589a73>

Prayer : Excerpt from To Be in Solidarity by Jane Deren (Education for Justice)

To be present, to be open, to encounter:	Only be our authentic selves,
We pray for these blessings, Lord of the Living,	As we work with others so they may flourish
As we seek to move beyond our individual lives,	And dwell in abundance and grace...
Knowing we can only flourish,	Seeking to be in solidarity as our lives unfold together
On this earth, our common home. Amen.	

Action

1. Do an act of kindness for someone who is not like you.
2. Pray for a just peace in the Middle East and in Ukraine.