

**Info Alert 211**

**December 12, 2023**

*“God, grant us the grace to work tirelessly for justice, solidarity, and peace, so that all your children may enjoy the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay.”* Pope Francis

**Immigration: HR 5560 Reuniting Families Act**

On September 19, 2023, Representative Judy Chu with a substantial number of representatives as sponsors, introduced the Reuniting Families Act as a way to move our immigration process forward. This bill focuses on the retrieval of unused visas and the reuniting of family members who are waiting for visas outside of our country. HR 5560 is presently waiting to come to the floor of our House of Representatives. Consider educating yourself on the finer points of HR 5560 by watching this YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhiEoFsVYWO>

Disclaimer: This bill has only been introduced in the House. Congress is a long way from passing it.

**COP 28**

What is COP28? It is the 28<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference, from November 30 until December 12 in Dubai. Climate scientists, activists, heads of global corporations, and government officials are attending it. The central issue here is what must be done if we are going to preserve our planet for future generations. Our planet is accelerating toward unsustainable extremes in temperature and weather which threaten our very existence. Please watch this United Nations video to see what is already happening: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REWXV1TIEo>

Do you want to do more? Sign this petition from Interfaith Power and Light coming from COP28.

[https://mnipl.nationbuilder.com/fair\\_share\\_petition?utm\\_campaign=cop\\_28\\_1&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=mnipl](https://mnipl.nationbuilder.com/fair_share_petition?utm_campaign=cop_28_1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mnipl)

**Haiti Needs the U.S. to Provide Nonviolent Support**

During an interview, Pope Francis shared that Haiti continues to be in a critical situation. It does not seem to me that international organizations have understood what to do. If there is one thing we can do as a Church, it is certainly prayer and penance. We must ask ourselves how we can help. Haiti needs the U.S. to provide nonviolent support.

1. Help pass the Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act (S. 396/H.R. 1684), which requires the State Department to investigate and report on collusion between Haitian elites and violent gangs and impose sanctions on officials and private individuals supporting the gangs terrorizing Haitians.
2. Pressure the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to eliminate illegal gun smuggling from the U.S. to Haiti. Haiti does not produce weapons or ammunition, and most are coming from the United States, usually through another Caribbean country. Homeland Security should step up inspections in Miami.
3. Help fight rising hunger by leading Congress to use its appropriations, oversight, and legislative authority to change USAID's approach to hunger and agriculture in Haiti to invest in initiatives to mitigate the impact of drought, as well as training and technology for small-scale farmers, so that Haitians can feed themselves.

**Prayer Lord, When Every Night Is Winter**

<https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/usops-resources/when-every-night-is-winter.pdf>

Lord, you split no sky when you came among us,	No thunder, no storm, no cataclysm announced you,
And you rose not from the sea.	Just the cry of a lowly refugee,
A star was seen in the heavens but only by those who looked.	Turning to no one, turning to everyone,
A choir of angels was heard but only by those who listened.	Saying, “Will you let me in?”

*(finish the prayer using the link above)*

**Action**

1. Read Sister Elvia Mata’s Reflection from the Angelus to appreciate more fully the challenges at the border: [The Overflowing Migratory River](#)
2. Join CRS Digital Advent Calendar <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/digital-advent-calendar>
3. Use this link to send a Christmas peace advocacy card to President Biden: <https://franciscanaction.org/christmas-peace-advocacy-card/>