

Info Alert 215

April 9, 2024

" We are stewards not masters of our earth. Each of us has a personal responsibility to care for the precious gift of God's Creation." - Pope Francis

Earth Day

April 22nd celebrates "Earth Day." The theme for Earth Day is: the planet vs. plastics. Plastic is everywhere today. It wraps our food, it makes up our technology, and it is a standard element in our household items. Unfortunately, it is overflowing from our landfills, floating in our waters, and polluting our soil. More and more, we can even find it in our bodies and those of other living creatures. Catholic Climate Covenant has prepared a celebration of Earth Day that can be used in schools and parish communities. The link to download it is here: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/programs/earth-day/?eType=EmailBlastContent&id=a9d9a4f2-670c-47ec-9ae3-10e2eb0d0f61>

Sign this petition from Friends of the Earth against plastic pollution:

<https://action.foe.org/page/65961/action/1?ea.tracking.id=Email&ea.url.id=2443841&forwarded=true>

Child Poverty

Expanding the Child Tax Credit can make a huge impact on the rate of childhood poverty in our country. It can: 1) Lift 500,000 children out of poverty; 2) Provide support to 16 million children in families below the poverty line and 3) Reach 1 in 5 children under 17, including 1 in 3 Black and Latino children under 17. This type of investment will have an especially important effect on communities that have been shut out of economic opportunity in the past. Follow this link to see how you can make a difference. <https://action.splcenter.org/a/reduce-child-poverty-us?emci=14c112e3-96ef-ee11-aaf0-002248223794&emdi=197eb77c-fdf0-ee11-aaf2-002248223353&ceid=615743>

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

As we prepare for upcoming elections, let us continue to pray for all those involved in our elections on a county, state, and national level. Let us research issues and make the best choices our conscience will allow. This short video called "Catholics Participate in Public Life" underscores the need for each of us to vote, bringing our faith to bear on the issues each candidate represents.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpiJvheFjAA&list=PL18AF7577177E12D9>

CRS World Hunger

The 2024 Budget has been created in Congress. It has been passed in portions that have" come down to the wire" deadlines. In this budget, global aid programs have suffered a cut. Please join Catholic Relief Services in advocating for an increase in global funding for hunger relief programs in the 2025 Budget. Under **Prevent Global Hunger** you will see **ACT NOW**. Click that button and you will be able to send a message to your members of Congress. <https://www.crs.org/get-involved/campaigns/hunger>

Arms to Israel

If you would like to send a message to President Biden and members of Congress asking them to stop arming Israel and "normalizing" a genocide, click on the link below and then click on the first box. It will take you to information and the ability to send a message directly to Congress.

<https://sistersofmercy.org/mercy-for-justice/action-alerts/>

Faith in Action in Haiti

Faith in Action is the largest, global faith-based organizing network. The nonpartisan organization works with 1,000 congregations in more than 200 cities and towns through its 46 local and state federations as well as in Haiti, Central America, Africa, and Eastern Europe. <https://faithinaction.org/about-us/history/>

In response to the increasingly dire situation in Port-au-Prince and across Haiti, clerical leaders from **Faith in Action's: A Way Forward in Haiti** sent the following letter to President Biden . . .

<https://faithinactioninternational.org/urgent-way-forward-in-haiti-letter-to-president-biden/>

God, our Father, we pray for peace and provision in Haiti, believing that you are already at work amid the crisis. Amen.

Stop the Illegal Flow of Arms to Haiti

Let us join with our Maryknoll Brothers and Sisters and ask Congress to stop the illegal flow of arms to Haiti.

<https://maryknollogc.org/action/tell-congress-stop-flow-illegal-weapons-haiti?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=42119aff-927b-49fe-8649-87be7eb66abc&eType=EmailBlastConte>

Prayer for Those Who Suffer in War

GRACIOUS GOD, we pray for all those who suffer in the midst of war.

Hold them in your loving care. Protect them.

Give them the courage to endure great suffering and hardship.

Transform the hearts and minds of all who perpetuate violence and oppression.

Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward world peace.

May they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference.

We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, and in the name of your Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN

Action

1. Read the information given for each action and take the actions you support.
2. On April 22, refrain from any type of single-use plastic. Be intentional and note the number of times plastic crosses your path.
3. Pray for the residents of Chester as they March for Environmental Justice on April 20th.



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