

Info Alert 216

May 13, 2024

“In the present condition of global society. . . the principle of the common good immediately becomes, logically and inevitably, a summons to solidarity, and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters.” *Pope Francis, LS #158*

Laudato Si Week

May 19-26th marks the week we call *Laudato Si* Week. This year celebrates the 9th anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si*. The theme for this week is “Seeds of Hope.” A celebration guide is available to you. Each day covers a different topic that may be of interest to you personally, or for use in school or within a parish. Here is the link for the download: [https://laudatosiweek.org/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=2024-05-08&utm_campaign=May%20Laudato%20Si%20Week%20new%20Board%20members%](https://laudatosiweek.org/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=2024-05-08&utm_campaign=May%20Laudato%20Si%20Week%20new%20Board%20members%20)

Support the EPAs New Emission Standards

Catholic Climate Covenant is one of many religious groups [praising the Environmental Protection Agency's updated power plant emission standards](#), which will reduce power plant pollutants and improve the health and well-being of the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. You can read the Covenant's full statement [here](#). Now the EPA needs to hear from you! [Let the EPA know that their leadership on this issue is appreciated](#) and that, as people of faith who care about God's creation, we support their action to tackle the climate crisis.

FYI Clothing Waste

Have you ever entered a big-box clothing store, been overwhelmed by the amount of clothing on the racks, and wondered who will buy all of this? Here are the facts: 30% of those clothes will never be sold. Worldwide, every second the equivalent of one dump truck filled with clothing is sent to a landfill or an incinerator so new clothing can take its place. In the United States clothing and textile waste is the fastest-growing waste stream. This information may give us pause as we switch over to summer clothing. Can we reuse or repurpose what we already have?

Update on the Border

Catholic Social Teaching calls us to treat all persons with dignity and respect. Bishop Seitz from the diocese of El Paso, TX, tells us migration is a reality. His community has lived with it for a millennium. “El Paso” means a place of passage. Migration has become a fundamental gospel issue of our time. Bishop Seitz tells us: “The border doesn't have to be a place of confrontation. It can be a place of encounter.”

Joshua Mc Elwee and Christopher White, two reporters from NCR, interview Bishop Seitz as a part of NCR's [The Vatican Briefing Podcast](#). You can listen to it here. Scroll down to **The Vatican Briefing Episode 15** – midway down the page. Begin at **11:28**.

https://www.ncronline.org/vatican-news/bishop-seitz-expresses-grave-concern-over-scapegoating-migrants-2024-election?utm_source=NCR+List&utm_campaign=9313cc7f71-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_05_02_02_35&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6981ecb02e-9313cc7f71-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

Update on Gun Control

May 7, was Advocacy Day in Harrisburg for the members of CeaseFire PA. CeaseFire PA welcomed over 500 of its members from across the state. The bills we promoted, (H.B. 1018 Extreme Risk Protection Orders and H.B. 714 Universal Background Checks), by sending letters to Senator Baker have not yet been brought to the Senate Floor for a vote. The hold up is not so much Senator Baker who is the Chair of the Judiciary Committee as it is Senator Joe Pittman who is the Majority Leader. I have attached two sample letters which can be printed and sent as is with your information in them. Please consider sending a letter again as an individual to each of these Senators.

Haiti: A Message from Sister Denise Desil, psst

Gang violence and heightened security measures are likely to continue in Haiti, especially in Port-au-Prince, through at least late May. Sister Denise Desil, psst recently emailed that the gangs are around their Motherhouse and in the neighboring town. She said that although the gangs did not get inside the Motherhouse, their presence around them made them worry. Overall, the Sisters are okay, but they have difficulty moving about outside of their Motherhouse. The Little Sisters of St. Therese are always grateful for our prayerful support and often ask for it to continue.

<https://crisis24.garda.com/alerts/2024/05/haiti-gang-violence-heightened-security-measures-likely-to-continue-through-at-least-late-may-update-17>

Prayer for Creation

Creator God, thank You for all the blessings of creation. Help us show our gratitude by showing reverence to every creature. Make us aware of our connectedness and of our responsibility. Move our hearts to beat with compassion for the most vulnerable populations on our Common Home, and for the earth itself. With St. Francis, may we see Your face in all of creation.

Lead us to make unselfish decisions with resources. Make recycling, re-using, repurposing and reducing consumption a part of our daily living. Help us shrink our wastefulness of Your gifts. We know You love us. Light our way. Amen. *Sr. Nancy Miller, OSF*

Action

1. Investigate Laudato Si Week and complete action on emissions standards.
2. Write to Senators Baker and Pittman
3. Listen to the Bishop Seitz Interview. Pray for our migrants at the border.