

**Info Alert 217**

**June 11, 2024**

*Every experience God gives us, and every person He puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for the future that only He can see.* Corrie ten Boom

**Gun Violence Awareness Month**

June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month. The first Friday of every June is designated as National Gun Violence Awareness Day, but supporters of gun violence prevention can wear orange for the entire month of June. The tradition of wearing orange began with the death of Hadiya Pendleton. Hadiya was 15 when a stray bullet in Chicago, IL tragically took her life. Two days before, she had performed in President Obama's second inaugural parade. Hadiya's friends asked everyone to wear orange to honor their friend and "Wear Orange Day" was born. They chose orange because it is the color worn by hunters to protect themselves, meaning, "Don't Shoot."

Recently, Sandy Hook families won a 73-million-dollar lawsuit against Remington Arms. Remington is the manufacturer of the Bushmaster 15, the automatic weapon used in the Sandy Hook School shootings.

The Sandy Hook families have also won a case calling for the liquidation of Alex Jones' assets to provide payment for a billion-dollar lawsuit. This includes his Infowars website. It was on Infowars, that Alex Jones claimed that the Sandy Hook School shooting was a hoax. The liquidation has been placed on hold by a compassionate judge. It will be determined by the end of June.

**Juneteenth**

Juneteenth commemorates General Order No. 3 which was issued by Major General Gordon Granger, who arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865. The issuing of this order and the arrival of Federal troops in Galveston effectively ended the Civil War and emancipated those confined to a life of slavery. President Biden signed Juneteenth into law as a Federal holiday on June 17, 2021, following the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Here are 10 Facts to help us better understand this time in history:

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/10-facts-juneteenth?ms=googlegrant>

**Respect and Dignity Campaign**

In a time when so many Americans are deeply divided over issues and politics, there is a movement on university campuses that may help all of us move into a more sacred space when engaging in dialogue with each other. It is called the Respect and Dignity Campaign. Here is a sampling of how it represents itself:

1. Start with yourself. 2. Listen. 3. Be open. 4. Demonstrate mutual respect. 5. Practice patience. 6. Find common ground. 7. Build cultural awareness.

The format is a calendar, so there are 30 Tips to help us. Take a look:

[https://dignityandrespect.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/30Tips\\_36x24\\_Poster\\_060324.pdf](https://dignityandrespect.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/30Tips_36x24_Poster_060324.pdf)

**World Day of Migrants and Refugees**

On June 3, 2024, Pope Francis announced the theme for the 2024 World Day of Migrants and Refugees: God walks with His people. Our holy Father sees the migrant and refugee as an icon for the Church on the move. It reminded me of our Sisters serving at the border and the role in which they see themselves, accompanying those who are seeking a safe place to call home. Recently, President Biden signed an Executive Order limiting the number of migrants who can enter the United States. While I understand the reasoning behind this decision, I have serious concerns for those who will be turned away. Mexico is a dangerous place for people

who are already traumatized by their experiences and are vulnerable to predators who would profit from their misfortune. These are women and children, families who have risked everything to reach our southern border. How can we in good faith turn them away? The answer is a comprehensive immigration reform which most likely will not happen before the November election. I am sharing this video with you. These are the people I met when I recently traveled to the border.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85U1B3zECU4>

### **Prayer**

O God, Mother and Father to us all,  
look upon your planet Earth divided.

Help us to know that we are all your children,  
that all nations belong to one great family.

United in love, sustain our vision of a peaceful future,  
and give us strength to work unceasingly to make that vision real. Amen.

### **Action**

1. If you haven't sent a letter to Senator Baker and Senator Pittman do so this month. The letters are attached.
2. Educate yourself on the facts about Juneteenth.
3. Make the Respect and Dignity Campaign a part of each day of each month.
4. Watch the video from the border and pray for all migrants.