

Info Alert 218

July 9, 2024

The human heart is the first home of democracy. It is where we embrace our questions. Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinions? And do we have enough resolve in our hearts to act courageously, relentlessly, without giving up -ever – trusting our fellow citizens to join with us in our determined pursuit of a living democracy? *Terry Tempest Williams*

Voting is an Act of Love

Sign and/or share the Voting is an Act of Love Pledge. In an election as unprecedented as this will be, it may be tempting to just “sit this one out” because it is so confusing or disheartening. More than ever before, we all must keep focused on what is at stake in this election. Every single vote matters.

https://ignatiansolidarity.wufoo.com/forms/z3xjst70bh03oy/?utm_source=ISN+Updates+List&utm_campaign=5e9e28e417-INSTITUTIONAL_UPDATE_072220_COPY_01&utm_medium

Human Trafficking and Forced Migration

At a June 6 briefing at the Capitol, representatives from the Alliance to End Human Trafficking and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd advocated for three bills that would aid efforts to combat human trafficking among those forced to migrate: HR 5856, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023; HR 1325, the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act of 2023; and HR 6145, Immigration Court Efficiency and Children's Court Act of 2023. Often people are forced to flee due to circumstances beyond their control such as floods, famine, gang violence, domestic violence, poverty, persecution, and political corruption. Send a message to your members of Congress asking them to support these bills.

<https://www.congressweb.com/GSNAC/345/>

Season of Creation

The Season of Creation begins on September 1 with a “Day of Prayer for Creation” initiated by the Eastern Orthodox Church in 1989. This Season was embraced by other major European Churches in 2001 and by the Catholic Church through Pope Francis in 2015. The Season of Creation ends with the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis Assisi on October 4. The theme for the 2024 Season of Creation is **“to hope and act with Creation.”** Below you can find a link to a Celebration Guide.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12M3weSD4D2mvjCiI3Mxen3JQZ5Rrazz3/view>

Take a look at the Guide, you may find something you can use in school, in the convent, in the parish, or for your own personal growth.

The next link is a free booklet created by Anne E. Neuberger called *“God’s Creation Waits.”* This booklet is designed for children in Grades 2- 5. This may help us to incorporate the Season of Creation into the beginning of the school year.

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/stories/gods-creation-waits-new-resource-designed-to-help-children-understand-faith-environment/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=94248865-cb2c-4bd4-85d6-4d60bbb248e8>

Gun Violence Abroad

Everytown for Gun Safety reports that in 2020 the Commerce Department allowed U.S. gun manufacturers to sell guns overseas. As a result, U.S. gun exports soared as did the profits these sales generated. In April of 2024, the Commerce Department announced a new rule that significantly restricts the exporting of firearms. This new rule includes major protections against gun trafficking and gun violence abroad. To make sure this rule is finalized submit a comment today. Delete my information and insert your own.

<https://secure.everyaction.com/2HT-GrBPUOOTN4RASGARQ2>

Prayer for Independence Day (and after)

God, source of all freedom,
this day is bright with the memory of those
who declared life and liberty are your gift to every human being.
Help us to continue a good work begun long ago.
Make our vision clear and our will strong:
that only in human solidarity will we find liberty,
and justice only in the honor that belongs to every life on earth.
Turn our hearts toward the family of nations:
to understand the ways of others, to offer friendship,
and to find safety only in the common good of all.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Action

1. Complete any Actions you can.
2. Explore the materials for the Season of Creation
3. Rest and renew enjoying the gift of summer.