

## Info Alert 219

August 13, 2024

“If we understand, as Thomas Berry taught, that there’s no such thing as the human community, only the life community of which the human is part, we’ll begin making decisions differently.” Sr. Jeanne Clark, O.P.

### Elderberries and Earth’s Healing?

For days I shook my head quizzically when I saw the lead article in the Global Sisters Report, “Long Island’s ‘Elderberries’ Embrace a New Cosmology as Key to Earth’s Healing.” How could berries right the environmental wrong that is plaguing our planet? When I took the time to read the article, I realized “elderberries” was a pun referring to the elderly community who followed the creation theology of the late Passionist priest, Rev. Thomas Berry. Hence, elderberries! They aim to live according to a New Story of Creation, one in which creation is ever evolving and we are a part of the process. This process calls us to reverence every element which forms our human bodies such as carbon and oxygen and to use our God-given gifts to value and protect these elements. This thinking would create a seismic shift in our behavior, moving us from competition to cooperation and from individualism to community. Imagine a world vision that always operates with the well-being of the entire life community in mind! If you would like to read this wonderful article in its entirety, you can follow this link:

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/faith/news/long-islands-elderberries-embrace-new-cosmology-key-earths-healing>

### Voting Rights Act

Fifty-nine years ago on August 6, 1965, the Voting Rights Act was signed into law. In March of 1965, hundreds of marchers put their bodies on the line in the daring act of crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge into Selma, Alabama to secure the right to vote. News of this event reached across America and caused President Lyndon Johnson to sign into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 2013, the Supreme Court gutted this landmark law, opening the floodgates to state-level anti-voter laws, especially in the Deep South. In 2024, in precincts of predominately black and brown voters, there will be long lines of people waiting to vote. Voting rolls will have been purged of names that had been registered in previous elections. There will be fewer polling places and drop boxes for mail-in ballots will no longer be found. All of these are tactics to intimidate voters to prevent them from voting. The right to vote is a right that should be accessible to all. Ten years ago, voters enjoyed more privileges than they do today. We need to support the John R Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. It is a bipartisan bill that was introduced into the House of Representatives in 2023. It addresses the discriminatory practices that have surfaced in the last ten years. It passed in the House but fell short in the Senate. One can only wonder why. Sign this petition today: <https://www.mobilize.us/climateactioncampaign/event/614599/>

### Immigration

We haven’t heard much about “Dreamers” lately. The Catholic Bishops are highlighting the challenge facing a group called “Documented Dreamers.” They are children of parents who legitimately entered our country. The legal status of the children is dependent on the parents. Once a child has reached 21 years of age, that child must acquire a green card independently of his/her parents. Read the article below to see the insurmountable obstacles that threaten the legal status of these young people. This just shows how much our broken system needs to be reformed. Innocent lives hang in the balance. The article is called: “Documented Dreamers: A Catholic Perspective” <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/documented-dreamers/>

Here are some updated facts on immigration from HIAS: [https://hias.org/news/deep-dive-immigration-asylum-and-2024-u-s-election?en\\_txn6=MR-EM-FY24-08-global\\_update-news-full\\_file-8&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=EngagingNetworks&utm\\_campaign=240808\\_Global-Update&utm\\_content=240808+Global-Update](https://hias.org/news/deep-dive-immigration-asylum-and-2024-u-s-election?en_txn6=MR-EM-FY24-08-global_update-news-full_file-8&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EngagingNetworks&utm_campaign=240808_Global-Update&utm_content=240808+Global-Update)

## CRS

I am thrilled with the CRS Campaign called Help Kids Thrive This School Year. I invite you to visit their website: <https://mail.yahoo.com/d/search/keyword=Catholic%2520Relief%2520Services%2520Back%2520to%2520School/messages/ACDbRd51P2HMZqvbAwpSAIM3GO>

On this website, there is a place to advocate for funding to fight global hunger. It is called "Lift Your Voice." Please fill in the information if you feel inspired to do so.

### Haiti Update: Believe in the Human Spirit

Haiti's interim prime minister Garry Conille was appointed to lift Haiti out of chaos. He left his job as UNICEF regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean and has returned to Haiti. The accompaniment that Haiti is expecting from the Kenyan forces is support for the Haitian National Police to establish order. The hope is that the support from the Kenyan forces will limit and eventually bring an end to the gangs and the violence.

The Little Sisters of St. Therese (psst) have sent an update on their situation in Haiti. Sister Denise Desil shared that their situation is about the same. Their eldest sister passed away at 104 and 11 months. It has been more than three years since the Sisters from one of their missions have been able to go to the motherhouse. In all their missions they have had great difficulties during the school year, but they finished the year. They hope that next year will be better. The Sisters try to be prudent because the gangs are all around them. Some gang members knock at their gates to ask for money to buy food.

<https://www.npr.org/2024/07/03/nx-s1-5025247/the-challenges-ahead-for-interim-haitian-prime-minister-garry-conille-are-enormous>

### Prayer Before an Election

*This beautiful prayer is from the USCCB.*

*Lord God, as the election approaches,  
we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country,  
and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.*

*We ask for eyes that are free from blindness  
so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters,  
one and equal in dignity,  
especially those who are victims of abuse, violence, deceit, and poverty.  
We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned,  
Men and women are oppressed because of race or creed, religion, or gender.  
We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voices of leaders who will bring us closer to your  
Kingdom.*

*We pray for discernment  
so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word,  
live your love,  
and keep in the ways of your truth  
as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles  
and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.  
We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.*

### Action

1. Pray daily for the candidates and the November election.
2. Advocate for funding to relieve global hunger.
3. Sign the petition for the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.