

Info Alert 220

October 8, 2024

*If something is done for the common good, it is done to help everyone: We have to use our freedoms for the common good rather than our own selfish interests. Most people are willing to work together for the common good. Pope Francis Sept. 18, 2024*

### Common Good

Considering the challenges facing everyone in our country with the presidential election on the horizon and immigration at the forefront, it seems as if the values contained within the *common good* would be a worthwhile endeavor for this year. The Catechism tells us the *common good* is the “sum total of social conditions that allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.”(CCC#1906) In other words, the common good requires us to provide all that is necessary for people to thrive. The Catechism further says the *common good* is comprised of three essential elements: respect for the individual, the social well-being and development of the group and peace which results from the stability of a just society. This year let us look for the best ways to promote the *common good* in our society and in our world.

### Voting

Last month we encouraged everyone to pray the “Prayer Before An Election” which was provided by the USCCB. This month we are encouraging everyone to use the intercessions provided by the USCCB as we prepare to vote in the November election. They can be found in the attachments. Our Monroe Sisters are inviting us to a presentation centered around building resilience and practicing healthy self-care during this election season. It will be offered October 26<sup>th</sup> via zoom at 6:30 pm. Registration is required. The registration form can be found at this link: <https://fs22.formsite.com/ihmforms/ate9yzhrhb/index>

### Immigration

The last week in September marked the National Week of Migration. The theme of this week was: *God walks with His People*. This gives us pause for reflection as we are living in a time when migrants are being vilified in order to score political points. There are many risks that migrants face when crossing the border today: dangerous river and desert crossings, unsafe forms of transport, whether it is being jammed into trucks or riding atop trains. No one knows for sure the exact number of those who do not survive the crossing but the number we do know is in the thousands. Why? They are seeking a better, safer way of life for themselves and their families. It must be unbearable in their native countries if they are willing to make this journey, uncertain as to whether they will be accepted here or returned penniless to another country. Please come and join us on November 9<sup>th</sup> to learn more about their situation from our Sisters who have been serving at the Texas border. The link to register is included in this Constant Contact.

If you are interested in learning more about the difficulty facing those seeking asylum or refuge in our country, I am sharing the link to a webinar called: What’s at Stake: Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and the 2024 Election. <https://vimeo.com/1013201462>

### Immigrant Detention Centers

Many worked hard for years to close the Berks Detention Center in PA. They were successful but Detention Centers are again on the rise. You can check out the information here: **Snapshot of ICE Detention Center: Inhumane Conditions and Alarming Expansion.** <https://immigrantjustice.org/research-items/snapshot-ice-detention-inhumane-conditions-and-alarming-expansion?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=737d2235-d9f6-4e83-a8e1-7bfb153de877>

### Weapons to Israel

Are you concerned about the continuous funding and weapons we are sending to Israel while thousands of civilian lives are lost in Gaza and now in Lebanon? Consider signing the Petition asking Congress to stop a \$20 billion sale of weapons to Israel. <https://act.demandprogress.org/sign/sanders-weapons-resolution-24/?t=4&akid=32686%2E8244755%2EhTF8mo>

## Human Trafficking

Last year our congregation joined an organization called Sisters Against Human Trafficking. This organization was created by religious congregations in an effort to address the plague of human trafficking that is spreading across the United States. Last year we join this organization in support of their work. Today this organization has changed its name to **Alliance to End Human Trafficking** because it has partnered with a global organization which is sponsored by the Vatican called Talitha Kum. This link tells its story. <https://youtu.be/lIb5SgX6gvM>

## Haiti Update

On September 30th the United Nations Security Council unanimously renewed a multinational security support mission (MSS) in Haiti to combat armed gangs until October 2025. The MSS, led by Kenya, now has some 400 police officers supporting the Haitian National Police. It has achieved some progress in wresting back control from armed gangs in the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince, but the effort remains underfunded and has yet to push out the gangs controlling most of the city. Kenyan President William Ruto expects to deploy the entire police force of 2,500 officers by January 2025.

The Little Sisters of St. Therese emailed recently that they are okay, but always worry about the gangs for fear they will become more powerful in their dear Haiti.

## A Pope's Prayer for Immigrants

Merciful God, we pray to you for all the men, women and children who have died after leaving their homelands in search of a better life.

Though many of their graves bear no name, to you each one is known, loved and cherished.

May we never forget them, but honor their sacrifice with deeds more than words.

We entrust to you all those who have made this journey, enduring fear, uncertainty and humiliation, in order to reach a place of safety and hope.

Just as you never abandoned your Son as he was brought to a safe place by Mary and Joseph, so now be close to these, your sons and daughters, through our tenderness and protection.

In caring for them may we seek a world where none are forced to leave their home and where all can live in freedom, dignity and peace.

Merciful God and Father of all, wake us from the slumber of indifference, open our eyes to their suffering, and free us from the insensitivity born of worldly comfort and self-centeredness.

Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals, to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters.

May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand, and recognize that together, as one human family, we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our true home, where every tear will be wiped away, where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace. - *by Pope Francis*

## Actions

1. Pray the intercessions for the election.
2. Vote in the election.
3. Donate to victims of hurricane Helene. <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/what-we-do/disaster-relief/hurricane-helene-response/>
4. Speak respectfully about migrants and refugees with some understanding of their situation.