

Info Alert 223

January 14, 2025

We must fan the flame of hope given to us and help everyone gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and a far-sighted vision.

Pope Francis Opening Jubilee Year 2025

Jubilee 2025

The Holy Father has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year. The theme for Jubilee 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope." It will be a year of hope for a world suffering from the impact of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19, and the climate crisis. As a result of these conditions, developing countries have suffered, losing decades of progress, and incurring large financial debts. Pope Francis has declared the focus of this Jubilee Year to be debt forgiveness for impoverished nations. "A true 'ecological debt' exists," Pope Francis says since much of the environmental destruction in the world's poorest countries was caused by the world's wealthiest countries exploiting their natural resources and paying extraordinarily little for them.

Learn more about this and sign the Petition from the Caritas Internationalis Campaign: Turn Debt Into Hope.

<https://turndebtintohope.caritas.org>

Update on Haiti: There is Some Good News from Haiti

Aid Delivery

The UN World Food Program (WFP) has delivered aid to Haiti.

-15 tons of medical supplies to the Port-au-Prince airport

-Rations to 93,000 people in the Cité-Soleil neighborhood.

Airport operations

Though flights remain limited, the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince has resumed operations.

Daily Life

Haitian towns are hives of informal activity, with small workshops, street markets, and food stalls providing thousands of day-to-day jobs.

United States and Haiti Trade

The United States facilitates bilateral trade with and investment in Haiti to combat poverty and tackle chronic unemployment. The large Haitian diaspora in the United States is a potentially powerful ally in the effort to expand business opportunities and build on the many links that unite Haitians and Americans.

Human Trafficking

January is dedicated to raising awareness about Human Trafficking. January 11th is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and February 8th on the feast of Josephine Bakhita the Church recognizes the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. This article from Global Sisters Report is lengthy, but it contains a wealth of information about trafficking in the United States.

https://www.globalsistersreport.org/trafficking/awareness-fosters-hope-often-invisible-sex-trafficking-victims-midwest?utm_source=Global+Sisters+Report&utm_campaign=840f979595-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_20

Immigration

This is a very uncertain time for the future of immigration policy. All eyes and ears will be on January 20th and the days following to learn what the next administration will do. No doubt, misinformation will abound. Follow this link from Franciscan Action Network (FAN) to learn pertinent information about immigration.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r7FwKfxVjSB0S8NI5FyWg8OTZ4ho70T_0DwrzVuo_rl/edit?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=b42653bb-aedd-409f-9023-f75006997e0e&tab=t.0#heading=h.ddd6nb7mh29t

Laudato Si'

January 25th marks the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si'. The Laudato Si' Movement, the global arm of Laudato Si', has invited everyone to share in its Laudato Si' Contemplative Vigil. Meet creation with love in a 10-hour vigil to mark the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si'. Follow this link to learn more.

<https://laudatosimovement.org/vigil-2025/>

Prayer

A Prayer for Our Earth - *Pope Francis*

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
Help us rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this Earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the Earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize
that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love, and peace. Amen.

Pope Francis published this prayer in Laudato Si', and it is meant to be shared with all who believe in our Creator God.

Action

1. Inform yourself about immigration before changes occur using the information from Franciscan Action Network.
2. Sign up for the 9 Days for Life Novena: January 16-24
<https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>