



## Info Alert 226

April 8, 2025

... “search for the common good and justice are central and essential aspects in any defense of every human life, especially the most fragile and defenseless, with respect for the entire ecosystem that we inhabit.” *Pope Francis November 2024*

## SNAP

As budget reconciliation negotiations continue, there are lawmakers who want to shift the cost of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) from the Federal government to the states. This is how they plan to decrease funds in the Farm Bill this year. Not every state has the finances for this program without Federal assistance and SNAP is a lifeline to many American families. Learn more by looking at this PA SNAP Fact Sheet. [https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/SNAP\\_FactSheets\\_022525\\_PA39.pdf](https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/SNAP_FactSheets_022525_PA39.pdf)  
You can take action now using this link: <https://secure.everyaction.com/2BBCUmfA5EejjKF-I4lp-g2?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=c3171d53-5928-44ea-85ad-f2c045a5d36a>

## DEI/Racism

Since President Trump’s Executive Order banning the use of any policy that promotes diversity, equity or inclusion, it can feel as if we are moving backward as a society. It seems as if our nation is negating all the advances we have made since the Civil Rights Movement in the ‘60’s which led to the possibility of America becoming a more just and equitable society. This clip produced by 60 Minutes demonstrates how Americans, in these times, can still find ways to celebrate and affirm who we say we are. Watch “America’s Own:” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhwS06U1SnA>

## Immigration

In March, at a Conference organized by the Jesuit Refugee Service/USA and the Center for Migration Studies, Cardinal McElroy, the newly appointed Archbishop of Washington D.C. said it is time for the Catholic Church to send a clear moral message about the dignity of migrants. In this article Cardinal McElroy responds to the loss of Federal dollars which until recently provided aid to outreach programs conducted by Catholic Agencies. He also responds to the policy of mass deportations and how it conflicts with Catholic teaching on many levels. The article is worthwhile reading. It is called: “Cardinal McElroy, immigration advocates warn US at a moral crossroads with migrants.” You can find it here:

[https://www.ncronline.org/news/cardinal-mcelroy-immigration-advocates-warn-us-moral-crossroad-migrants?site\\_redirect=1](https://www.ncronline.org/news/cardinal-mcelroy-immigration-advocates-warn-us-moral-crossroad-migrants?site_redirect=1)

These are two actions we can take to help our immigrant sisters and brothers:

Support refugee resettlement. You can learn more about it and give support here:

<https://www.votervoice.net/JFI/Campaigns/121779/Respond>

Support Dreamers and Mixed Status Families. You can learn more about it and give support here:

<https://www.votervoice.net/JFI/Campaigns/122719/Respond>

## Human Trafficking

Among the cuts to immigration services the Trump administration cut the funding of legal services for more than 26,000 unaccompanied children leaving them at risk for human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Tell Congress to restore funding for legal service that protects unaccompanied children.

<https://secure.everyaction.com/at6hPV8MaUC2mI082XUFNg2?emci=8fb3b28b-740a-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&emdi=ed8c72e6-770a-f011-90cd-0022482a9fb7&ceid=5475994>

Please read the statement from the Alliance To End Human Trafficking on unaccompanied children.

<https://alliancetoendhumantrafficking.org/2025/02/statement-from-the-alliance-to-end-human-trafficking-on-the-decision-to-halt-legal-aid-for-unaccompanied-migrant-children/>

### **Update on Haiti**

Two Little Sisters of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Sister Evanette Onezaire and Sister Jeanne Voltaire, sought refuge in a nearby house as the school in which they were working was attacked by the Viv Ansanm coalition of criminal gangs. Gang members found the Sisters' hiding place and shot them dead. A young girl sheltering with them received gun wounds to her chest. The gang also attacked the prison and other public buildings in Mirebalais, which is 30 miles northeast of Port-au-Prince. All the prisoners have escaped, and the city is controlled by bandits. More than 500 inmates were freed by gang members who stormed the city's jail. Here are two articles related to this horrific incident and the ongoing struggles in Haiti:

[https://acnuk.org/news/haiti-two-religious-sisters-](https://acnuk.org/news/haiti-two-religious-sisters-murdered/?srsltid=AfmBOoqHWxLB7108gKqK_wuVi2agzAnBYMkBjhg_StyLI60D_Dy2iKNW)

[murdered/?srsltid=AfmBOoqHWxLB7108gKqK\\_wuVi2agzAnBYMkBjhg\\_StyLI60D\\_Dy2iKNW](https://acnuk.org/news/haiti-two-religious-sisters-murdered/?srsltid=AfmBOoqHWxLB7108gKqK_wuVi2agzAnBYMkBjhg_StyLI60D_Dy2iKNW)

[https://www.fides.org/en/news/76210-AMERICA\\_HAITI\\_Mirebalais\\_Two\\_nuns\\_killed\\_by\\_armed\\_gangs](https://www.fides.org/en/news/76210-AMERICA_HAITI_Mirebalais_Two_nuns_killed_by_armed_gangs)

### **Prayer for the Earth**

*As we celebrate "Earth Day" on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, let us pray this beautiful prayer from Pope Francis in Laudate Si':*

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

### **Action**

- 1 Continue to "walk gently upon the Earth" as you practice integral ecology.  
Enjoy listening to "Our Planet" by an S.O.S. from the Kids  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGKt82T3e8Q>
- 2 Reach out to our legislators and support the "poor among us."
- 3 Pray for peace in our cities, in our country and in our world.
- 4 Advocate for our sisters and brothers who are intellectually and developmentally disabled.  
Medicaid funding is essential to their care. Use this link: [Preserve I/DD Services—Tell Congress Protect Medicaid! | ANCOR](#)