

**Info Alert 229**

**July 9, 2025**

*“Through our poverty and our weakness in the face of massive human needs, the strength and power of the Cross are communicated. Through our inadequacy to address the tremendous social problems of hunger, disease, poverty, and oppression, the abundant life of Jesus can shine through to our world. The strength necessary for the Church to serve the needs of humanity comes from the Cross of Jesus.”* Cardinal Hickey Lenten Retreat to Papal Household 1988

### **Pilgrims of Hope**

We are living through a critical time in our country. There are sweeping changes our government is poised to deliver that will affect every aspect of American life except for the wealthiest among us. This is not a time to despair or be despondent. It is a time to stand on our faith and support the least among us, whose lives will be impacted the most.

Many have just participated in 3 days of virtual prayer hosted by LCWR (July 3-5) as a way of gathering, nationwide, to pray for our global community and the decisions being made by the United States.

On August 1, the feast of St. Alphonsus, we are invited to Pray, Fast, and Advocate as a part of LCWR’s **100 Days of Prayer, Fasting, and Advocacy** to pray for our government officials and our nation. It is an opportunity for each of us to participate and, as a congregation, to unite in an action larger than ourselves.

On August 1, we are invited to:

- Pray in the way that resonates most deeply with our spirit.
- Fast from whatever keeps us from being Spirit-led and mission-focused.
- Advocate—both locally and at the state level — for the systemic changes that align with God’s dream for justice and compassion. ( [LCWR Transformation Justice Resources](#) can assist with this.) Opportunities for advocacy will continue throughout the summer.

In solidarity with other congregations of religious men and women, we recognize that prayer, advocacy, and daily acts of compassion, while they may seem invisible and not immediately impactful, are extremely important.

In the same spirit, you may want to read the entire homily of Archbishop Lori, of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, delivered on June 11, 2025, at a Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice.

You can find it here:

<https://www.archbalt.org/archbishop-loris-homily-mass-for-the-preservation-of-peace-justice/>

### **Justice Narratives**

Sometimes stories are more powerful than facts. Below you will find a narrative submitted by Basil Merenda, Esq., about his relationship with the Catholic Church, Pope Leo XIV, and Catholic Social Teaching. Mr. Merenda volunteers at our Literacy Center.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KA-XPSukUzu8FsL03PSIcZSxAX5VRWv/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109065925658394630992&rtpof=true&sd=true>

### **World Refugee Day**

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated World Refugee Day. Its theme was “A Call to Compassion, Welcome and Witness.” Follow this link to read the remarks of Bishop Mark Seitz and his directive to the Catholic Church in our country.

<https://www.usccb.org/news/2025/world-refugee-day-2025-call-compassion-welcome-and-witness>

### **July is Plastic Free Month**

July is “plastic free month.” Watch this video short produced by [The Story of Stuff Project](#) and challenge yourself to refrain from single-use plastic this month, but at the same time learn how a handful of mega-corporations are purposely pumping out billions of tons of throwaway plastic.

Watch **The Story of Plastic** to see how the fossil fuel industry and Big Plastic manufactured a crisis and what the real solutions are.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO3SA4YyEYU>

### **Prayer**

It seems fitting that we use the **Prayer for the Intercession of St. Alphonsus**:

<https://ihmimmaculata.org/wp-content/uploads/Prayer-Intercession-of-St.-Alphonsus.pdf>

### **Actions**

1. Free yourself from single-use plastics as much as possible.
2. Take part in the 100 Days of Prayer, Fasting, and Advocacy.
3. Look for ways to defend or accompany someone in difficulty.