

Info Alert 230

August 12, 2025

Racism is a virus that quickly mutates and, instead of disappearing, goes into hiding and lurks in waiting. Instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think. Pope Francis, [tweet on X](#), 21 March 2021

Racism

If we reflect on the words of Pope Francis and apply them to current conditions in our country, we may recognize racism as the core component in our government's treatment of immigrants. We can also find racism in the policies directly affecting the poor, many of whom are people of color, but not all. Rollbacks in environmental regulations also uncover racist tendencies, for they largely affect environmental justice communities, most of which are Black and Latino. The challenge for people who are white is to recognize and acknowledge that these racist threads are woven into the fabric of our country. We, who live by gospel values and Church teaching, must work to eradicate unjust policies and promote policies that improve the lives of every American.

Jubilee 2025

When Pope Francis called for a Jubilee Year in 2025, he created a commission to study the financial debt and ecological debt of countries around the world. The results are sobering but not unexpected. The countries with the largest debt are those most unlikely to be able to pay it. They are small third-world countries that owe millions to first-world countries. Pope Francis would like first-world countries to consider the resources they have extracted as payment for food, medicines, and other financial services. In this Jubilee year, Pope Francis is calling on first-world countries, like the United States, to cancel the debt of these third-world countries. Please read the report from the Dicastery for Human Development entitled: "Jubilee 2025: Remission of Ecological Debt" for a more comprehensive understanding of this goal.

https://www.humandevlopment.va/content/dam/sviluppoumano/news/2025-news/06-giugno/debito-ecologico/EN_-Nota-tematica-_debito-ecologico.pdf

Pope Leo XIV is continuing the Jubilee call of Pope Francis. We are encouraged to sign the petition called: Turn Debt Into Hope created by Caritas Internationalis.

turndebtintohope.caritas.org

Gaza

How many children must die before the world rises up and cries: "ENOUGH?" Our Catholic faith soundly rejects the atrocities taking place in Gaza. Children are dying from forced starvation, and parents are being shot as they try to retrieve food for their starving families. Listen to this report given by one aid worker from [Save the Children](#).

https://www.savethechildren.org/us/where-we-work/west-bank-gaza?cid=Email:SFMC:Gaza_Update:Non_Donors:073025&s_subsrc=|||236964||#watch

Here is a way that you can help. Read the latest from Win Without War:

<https://act.winwithoutwar.org/sign/defund-GHF/>

Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns also has a request of our Congress.

<https://maryknollogc.org/action/tell-congress-no-new-weapons-to-israel/>

Immigration

In a July 23rd pastoral letter, Archbishop Nelson Pérez expressed deep sorrow and prayerful solidarity, calling on Catholics to unite in support of the migrant community and advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. Archbishop Perez said, “*We recognize that our country is rightly safeguarded by law enforcement officials. They uphold the common good by protecting all of us from human trafficking, the exploitation of children, and any other criminal offense against human dignity. At the same time, we strongly advocate for immigration policies that guarantee the protection of life, liberty, and property of all those who call the United States of America home, natural-born citizens and those working toward citizenship alike. While there is no instant solution to the challenges pervading immigration policy, I urge everyone in parish communities to unite through prayer and social unity with the immigrant faithful under the leadership of parish pastors.*”

We can help by speaking positively about the hard-working immigrant population who have come into our country seeking a better way of life. September 22-28 celebrates National Migration Week, and October 4-5 celebrates the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. This link will provide you with a toolkit to help you engage in this celebration in your parish and/or school. It comes from the USCCB.

<https://justiceforimmigrants.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/NMW-Toolkit-2025.pdf>

Human Trafficking

Recently, a group of advocates representing the Alliance to End Human Trafficking and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd met in Washington, D.C., to highlight the importance of passing anti-human trafficking legislation.

Advocates came to the nation’s capital from across the country to call attention to three bills pending before this Congress:

- **Reauthorization of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.** [H.R. 2961](#) would reauthorize the TVPA’s domestic provisions, reauthorize International Megan’s Law that protects children from sex offenders traveling internationally, support education and prevention programs for children, and support survivors of trafficking with wrap-around social services and the expungement of non-violent criminal records.
- **Criminal Record Relief for Survivors.** [H.R. 1379](#) would provide for criminal record relief as it would allow for the vacating of certain convictions and the expungement of particular arrests for those who are victims of human trafficking.
- **Online Safety for Children.** [S. 1748](#), the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA), would take the foundational step of requiring technology companies to take action to keep kids safe online. This bill would establish a “duty of care” (i.e., a legal concept that sets a standard for a person or an entity to act with reasonable care), provide parents and kids with tools for safeguards, and sets out requirements for notices and algorithms - “behind the scenes” programming methods that help a platform or application decide what content to display and direct to a user and in what order.

We can still contact our members of Congress and urge them to support these bills. Use this link:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/EPCcNSjaEESBzIWv23LSBw2?emci=59097fe6-d160-f011-8dc9-6045bdfe8e9c&emdi=8704ba72-3c62-f011-8dc9-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=5475994>

Transformative Change in Haiti

Fonkoze is a family of organizations in Haiti dedicated to empowering Haitians, particularly women, to lift themselves out of poverty through financial and non-financial services. It is a microfinance institution. With a broader development focus, it aims to create sustainable livelihoods for its clients. Our Congregation has been a supporter of Fonkoze from its beginning years.

Fast forward to 2025, and meet Erlantz Hyppolite, a Haitian by birth, who is the Executive Director of Fonkoze USA. He claims that the Haiti of his childhood is very different from what we read in today's headlines. There is hope, as he speaks of the thousands of Haitian women fighting their own revolution against poverty. Through Fonkoze's programs, these brave women are writing their own story of financial independence and the strength to dream of a better future for their children. It is a revolution not fought with guns, but with education, microfinance, and community empowerment.

In the words of a Closing Ritual from the OPS IHM 10-Year Gathering: "With open hands, let us pay attention to what the Spirit is calling us to embrace and live within our congregations and the world, and we add, especially with the people of Haiti."

<https://fonkoze.org/>

Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life, especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.

Action

1. Pray for all life issues.
2. Advocate for all issues that affect the dignity of life.
3. Continue to support efforts to address Climate Change. Here's an action sponsored by Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns

<https://maryknollogc.org/action/tell-the-epa-not-to-roll-back-climate-protections/>

PS The Info Alert for October will be sent on the fourth Tuesday in September.