

Info Alert 233

October 28, 2025

Solidarity “means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all are prior to the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means combating the structural causes of poverty [and] inequality.” Pope Francis, [Fratelli Tutti](#)

Solidarity

Our IHM Social Justice Committee chose the principle of Solidarity for our focus this year. Solidarity works to create equity and mutuality in human relationships when there is a power imbalance in the larger society. It is not just about offering help to others; it is a matter of justice; it requires a radical change in our thinking that looks to the good of the community, defends the right to life for all, and promotes a just sharing of the earth’s goods. It demands concrete actions to address any dysfunction in a social system that thrives on inequity. It flows from the Catholic Social Principles, which reverence the dignity of the human person, establish the primacy of the common good, and affirm our preferential option for the poor. Pope Francis would remind us we are members of a global community with an obligation to care for the needs of the oppressed, marginalized, and wounded. “I am because we are.” U.S. Catholic, “What Is Solidarity?” by Kevin P. Considine, September 1, 2025

Vote, Vote, Vote

“As Catholics and Americans, we are blessed to be able to participate in our nation’s political and public life. Our freedoms respect the dignity of individuals and their consciences and allow us to come together for the common good. Election seasons, therefore, should contain a sense of gratitude and hope. Our love for this country, our patriotism, properly impels us to vote.” (*Introductory Bulletin for Faithful Citizenship on the USCCB website*) It may not feel like this is an important election, but voting is a privilege and a right. If we do not use it consistently, we may lose this privilege and this right. Since we are focusing on Solidarity this year, you will find the Bulletin information on Solidarity and Subsidiarity here:

Solidarity: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/Solidarity.pdf>

Subsidiarity: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/Subsidiarity.pdf>

Voting Rights Act

November is the month we celebrate Black Catholic History. We continue to pray for the canonization of Venerable Mother Mary Lange, Venerable Henriette Delille, Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, Servant of God Julia Greeley, and Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, and beg their intercession for the needs of our Church, especially those most vulnerable. Since voting is uppermost in our minds, it is important to understand how the right to vote, a right for which African Americans bravely fought using non-violence in the Civil Rights era, and for which some paid the ultimate price, is now in danger of being stripped from the most vulnerable citizens in our states. In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits racial discrimination in voting. Congress has since amended the Act five times to expand its protections. Little by little, though, restrictions have been placed on voters in states and in districts where the most vulnerable populations live, most of whom are people of color. The U. S. Supreme Court is now discussing and ruling on Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act broadly prohibits discrimination in voting practices on the basis of race or creed. For decades, Section 2 has been understood to require some legislative districts where minority voters have a “meaningful” opportunity to elect their preferred candidates. In practice, this often means districts where racial minorities make up at least half the population. The argument to remove Article 2 is that it is no longer necessary. This Supreme Court ruling is important for the midterm and future elections. For more information: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/15/supreme-court-voting-rights-act-argument-00608340>

Climate Change

Pope Leo continues the teaching of Pope Francis, endorsing the message found in the encyclical, “Laudato Si” and calling for a “conversion of heart.” You can read Pope Leo’s address to the participants of Raising Hope for Climate Justice here: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-10/pope-leo-xiv-ecological-conversion-begins-in-the-heart.html>

Five Common Misconceptions about Immigration

Everyone may know the truth about these five issues, but this article, published by the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) in a Wyoming newspaper, explains each issue clearly and gives information that can inform and educate others. The issues are: 1. Green cards and visas; 2. Undocumented immigrants; 3. Marriage and legal status; 4. Race is not an issue, and 5. Immigrants are draining our resources. Use this link to read the entire article: <https://www.aclu-wy.org/news/five-common-misconceptions-about-immigration/>

Hope for Haiti

For as many, what we would call, bad or unfortunate things happening in Haiti, there are so many more stories of the strength and resilience of the Haitian people. There is hope in their hearts; in the hearts of Sister Denise Desil and the Little Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, in the hearts of the mothers participating in the Fonkoze program, *Chemen Lavi Miyò*, by which they can pull themselves and their families from ultra poverty into self-sufficiency, with hope and a vision for their futures.

Behind every door, however poorly constructed it is, there are children who think it is their best life. They feel loved by their parents, who endure many hardships and make untold sacrifices for their children so they can eat and go to school. Haitians remember better times, happier moments, and continue putting one foot in front of the other, walking in hope for a brighter tomorrow.

The link will take you to a YouTube video of Michael Jackson’s We Are the World. It is a remake done in 2010, We Are the World – Haiti. The pictures were taken in Haiti.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Glny4jSciVI>

Prayer for Refugees

God of Mercy and Consolation,
You call us to walk with our migrant sisters and brothers
As they journey from lands drenched with poverty and the blood of war,
To lands teeming with freedom, new opportunities, and renewed trust.

Move us to respond to the Gospel call
Of receiving and integrating in the best possible way,
The growing number of migrants and refugees arriving
On our shores and across our borders.

Grant us a creative wisdom to find the right balance
Between the moral responsibility to protect the rights of citizens
And to ensure assistance, acceptance, and the dignity of migrants.

Guide us in our work with others as we discover dignified solutions
To the migration crisis that will affect all societies and peoples.
Inspire us to invest our energies, time, and resources
In the pastoral and social needs of our migrant sisters and brothers.

Bring warmth to all migrants, replace their weariness with resilience
To resist the temptation of despair and the urge to be robbed of hope and joy.
Fuel in the hearts of world leaders, a desire to implement policies that allow for
Safe migration, just migrant working conditions, and an end to the detention of
Asylum seekers, while protecting national safety.

Finally, we ask that the Gospel of Mercy continue to trouble our consciences,
Preventing us from growing immune to the suffering of others. Amen

---- Diana Ortiz, OSU

Action

1. Vote
2. Complete survey on Info Alert
3. Joyce's Place – New safe haven for women experiencing homelessness; a ministry of Project Home/New Congregational Support on the list of Projects