

Info Alert 245

May 12, 2026

“God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and strength to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, God is always present. He does not abandon us. He does not leave us alone. . . and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward.” LS 245

Voting Rights Act

In 1965, after the bloody event on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act. This law was meant to safeguard the 15th Amendment’s guarantee that the right to vote would not be denied because of race. It was meant to undo the political hold of Jim Crow policies in the South and any discriminatory actions nationwide. It provided an opportunity for people of color to seek and hold office, which would allow for a more equal representation in Congress.

The Voting Rights Act has been a frequent target of conservatives on the Supreme Court. Little by little, the Court has chipped away at the Act, and on April 29th, the Roberts’ Court voted to remove the remaining guardrail that was protecting equal representation for people of color: Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

How can we respond to this act of blatant racial discrimination? Every person is urged to vote in our state primaries. Voting is a privilege, and it is a right. If we, who are privileged, do not exercise this right, we may rue the day we chose not to act. Please learn more from the Brennan Justice Center. Watch the video short on the 60th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act contained within the article.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-rights-act-explained>

Laudato Si’ Week

Laudato Si’ Week is an annual celebration commemorating Pope Francis’ landmark encyclical on the care of creation. This year, it occurs during the week of May 17 through May 24. Its theme, “From Hope to Action,” reminds us that our hopes for a future earth are realized in our daily choices, in our community life, in prayer, and in concrete acts of care. Ecological conversion grows step by step—through relationships restored, creation protected, and communities strengthened. This year, 2026, completes our IHM six-year commitment to learning the lessons in *Laudato Si’*.

Now is the time for living the lessons we have learned. The next chapter of *Laudato Si’* begins with us, wherever we are. In the Resources provided for Laudato Si’ Week, there is a toolkit that offers suggestions for 10 Concrete Actions that can be taken individually or as a group. These actions need not be submitted to any platform. They allow us to join with our sisters and brothers throughout the world in calling attention to the “cry of the poor and the cry of Mother Earth.”

10 Concrete Actions: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O2C3KDzBvhifSdGAwpdEzNH1mq4d-vqw/view>

The final project of our Laudato Si' Committee was the creation of a Laudato Si' Self-Guided Retreat. You may view it here: <https://ihmimmaculata.org/wp-content/uploads/LS-Retreat-Booklet.pdf>

Prayer Before an Election - USCCB

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-election>

Scranton IHM Contemplative Prayer - Venezuela

Action

1. Pray for our elections.
2. Vote
3. Do some act during Laudato Si' Week