

Info Alert 247

June 9, 2026

"If arming more people meant that we would be safer, we would be the safest country on earth."

Shannon Watts

Advocacy Against Gun Violence

June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month. On June 2, hundreds of gun safety advocates from across the state entered the halls of Harrisburg as a part of Ceasefire PA Advocacy Day. They were lobbying for increased funding for Community Violence Intervention Programs, which have proven successful in de-escalating violence in local communities, especially in large cities like Philadelphia. These advocates were also seeking the passage of safe storage legislation, which prevents guns from being left unattended in a home, especially where there are teens and curious young children. In addition, they were seeking a ban on machine gun conversion devices, which are inexpensive purchases that turn any ordinary gun into a killing machine. While this event occurred in Pennsylvania, groups across the country are advocating for the same legislation. If you would like to join in this advocacy and contact Congress, you can do it [here](https://act.everytown.org/sign/awb-2023/?source=etno_AWB_web_20231026&refcode=etno_AWB_web_20231026&utm_source=etno_AWB_web_20231026&utm_medium=o&utm_campaign=AWB_web_2023102) with Everytown for Gun Safety.

[https://act.everytown.org/sign/awb-](https://act.everytown.org/sign/awb-2023/?source=etno_AWB_web_20231026&refcode=etno_AWB_web_20231026&utm_source=etno_AWB_web_20231026&utm_medium=o&utm_campaign=AWB_web_2023102)

[2023/?source=etno_AWB_web_20231026&refcode=etno_AWB_web_20231026&utm_source=etno_AWB_web_20231026&utm_medium=o&utm_campaign=AWB_web_2023102](https://act.everytown.org/sign/awb-2023/?source=etno_AWB_web_20231026&refcode=etno_AWB_web_20231026&utm_source=etno_AWB_web_20231026&utm_medium=o&utm_campaign=AWB_web_2023102)

Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a federal holiday that honors June 19, 1865, when enslaved people in Texas were set free. The order for the state came about two and a half years after the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation. It is a day annually that African Americans celebrate freedom in family gatherings. Block parties with potluck cookouts, flag-raising ceremonies, baseball games, and visits to public libraries to learn more about their history are among the activities planned for the day. Traditionally, they hold artwork or essay competitions for young people and present service awards within the community.

Georgetown University's Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life is holding an Online Dialogue on Monday, June 15, at 12:30 p.m. It is entitled: 250 Years Toward Racial Justice: Progress, Promise and Challenges. You can register for it [here](https://catholicsocialthought.georgetown.edu/events/250-years-towards-racial-justice):

<https://catholicsocialthought.georgetown.edu/events/250-years-towards-racial-justice>

Sister Joyce will send a link to the recording in the next Info Alert if you are unable to attend. It addresses the current climate toward racial justice in our country today.

Alliance to End Human Trafficking

Our Congregation is a member of the Alliance to End Human Trafficking. At the end of April, Villanova University hosted a panel discussion on human trafficking. The Alliance provided the speakers, and Villanova provided the space. On June 15, the Alliance staff is coming to Philadelphia to provide events that will raise awareness around human trafficking in conjunction with the sporting events being held here.

On **June 17**, there will be a witness at City Hall from **11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** At **2:00 p.m.**, the Alliance will meet with our **Camilla Sisters** to create **Bags of Love** for residents in Kensington. These bags will be delivered to Sunshine House on June 18. At **6:30 p.m. on June 17**, the Alliance will speak at **St. Cecilia Church** in Northeast Philadelphia. This event will include Eucharistic Adoration and Intercessory Prayer for victims of human trafficking. All are invited to attend. See the attached flyer

Prayer for Juneteenth

On June 19, 1865, enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were told they were free, almost two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. This date has become symbolic of the end of 400 years of slavery, and people across the U.S. have celebrated this day for a century and a half, but it was established as a federal holiday in 2021.

Creator God, we acknowledge
The 400 years of slavery and pain
Your children, stolen from Africa, endured.
We acknowledge the sin of racism
That continues to sully our nation,
That continues to stir violence.
Hear our prayers for healing.

Creator God, we celebrate
The strength of our communities,
Who keep the faith,
Who keep the hope alive
That healing is always possible,
That we can become the nation
We aspire to be, with respect for all,
Where every person can live
Secure in dignity and with peace.

Creator God, we give thanks
For the end of the enslavement
Of your beloved children.
Hear our prayers for the end of racism:
Prayers that move us to prophetic action,
So, all the promises of freedom
Will be fully realized in our nation. Amen. *Jane Deren, Ph.D.*

Action

1. Attend the Georgetown Webinar
2. Take action against gun violence.
3. Pray the OSP IHM Novena prayer for peace.

Laudato Si Summer Focus Reflection is attached.

Living Social Justice.....Laudato Si

Summer Focus: *Call to Action on Behalf of Future Generations*

"*Laudato Si*" is addressed to "every person on the planet" and is a call for a new way of looking at things, a "bold cultural revolution". (3,114) We face an urgent crisis and now is the time to act since because of our actions, "the earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth". (21) A change of heart is needed now on behalf of future generations. Still the document is hopeful, reminding us that because God is with us, we can strive both individually and corporately to change course. We can awaken our hearts and move towards an "ecological conversion" in which we see the intimate connection between God and all beings, and more readily listen to the "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor". (49) Pope Francis notes that the final aim of an encyclical on ecology is not just sustainable economies and immediate international action on climate change but also the praise and worship of the Creator. (87)

Ponder:

- Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations (67).
- Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded (13).
- Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who follow us (159).

- We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters (2).
- Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption in order to combat global warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it (23).

Pray:

Reflect on the following excerpt from "A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation":

Triune God, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

"Laudato Si" (246)

Practice:

Have a conversation with a younger person about their environmental concerns.

Explore the following websites:

www.catholicclimatecovenant.org

www.interfaithpowerandlight.org

www.arcworld.org