

Info Alert 189

January 10, 2022

"Freedom and justice cannot be parceled out in pieces to suit political convenience. I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others." Coretta Scott King

Voting Rights

The freedom to vote is foundational to our democracy. Generations of Americans have fought and died for the right to choose our leaders. Today those rights are under attack. In 2013, the Supreme Court claimed protections against discriminatory voting laws were no longer necessary and allowed the removal of significant parts of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Since then, at least 20 states have passed stricter voting laws which infringe on the freedom of a person's right to vote. The Voting Rights Advancement Act would restore the Voting Rights Act's critical protections and modernize them for the challenges voters face today. Read the following and sign if you can:

<https://www.commoncause.org/our-work/voting-and-elections/john-r-lewis-voting-rights-act/>

The Freedom to Vote Act works in tandem with the Voting Rights Advancement Act. Please read the following and sign if you can: <https://www.rockthevote.org/freedomtovote/> Click: Take Action

We can reverse these discriminatory laws if we pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act!

Single Use Plastics

January's Laudato Si Sharing went into detail about the danger of plastic bottles to our environment but also to our personal health. (In case you haven't read it, cf <https://www.ecofriendlyhabits.com/why-are-plastic-water-bottles-bad/>). The link below will take you to more information about the use of plastics and the legislation that is being put forward to end single use plastics. Please read and sign where you can.

https://www.earthday.org/campaign/end-plastic-pollution/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAt8WOBhDbARISANQLp97NyDGg5_yyYY1K1b0C52fUB67ThYT8TkV2pJaTTiirHBKyVnfJqIM

Remain in Mexico

Last month we were asked to join our voices to those demanding an end to Title 42 protocols at our southern border. Title 42 sends immigrants who are seeking asylum back to Mexico because of health concerns. We are still asking for an end to Title 42, but MPP (Migrant Protection Protocols) commonly known as the Remain in Mexico Policy, which was slated to be terminated by the Biden administration, has been reinstated by the department of Homeland Security. This policy sends immigrants seeking protection back to Mexico to wait with thousands of others until their date for a hearing is determined. Individuals and families are living under horrible conditions.

Sign this letter to President Biden if you can. <https://sistersofmercy.org/mercy-for-justice/action-alerts/> Click on: "Call on Biden Administration . . ." and sign.

Hope in Haiti

Sister Denise Desil, psst, the General Superior of the Little Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus can rattle off the challenges their Congregation faces with concern but also with a sense of enduring hope. "We face the challenges because this is our country; we were born and raised in it, and we have great faith and hope in God. We enjoy our life here. It's hard, but we enjoy it." She paused, contemplating the gift of a quiet moment and a gentle breeze on a Fall afternoon. "God shows us a way to survive," she said. "We are Haitian."

Prayer January is Human Trafficking Awareness month.

February 8 is the World Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking. It is also the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, Patroness of victims of human trafficking. Watch this video and pray the prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita contained within it for all victims of this modern-day slavery. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpaCpvf3WE8>

Actions

1. Read all you can about both Voting Rights Acts and continue to support Voting Rights for all.
2. Donate to Covenant House: 31 E. Armat St. Phila. PA 19144
3. Continue to follow immigration updates especially at the southern border.