

Info Alert 190

February 8, 2022

In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, . . . the principle of the common good immediately becomes a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. LS 158

Black History Month

Did you know that Black History Month began as Negro History Week in February 1926 in Washington, D.C.? It was created by Carter G. Woodson who saw it as an attempt to “prove the worth” of the Black American with the hope that equality would soon follow. Woodson chose the 2nd week in February to celebrate the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Woodson believed Negro History Week—which became Black History Month in 1976—would be a vehicle for racial transformation forever. Some would like to suggest that there is no need for Black History Month given the strides African Americans have made in our country. Do you agree? Check out the full story in this article from **yes! Magazine**:https://www.yesmagazine.org/opinion/2021/02/05/black-history-month-origin?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=YESDaily%2020220202&utm_content=YESD

Here's another way we educate ourselves and celebrate our black sisters and brothers:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1re-FwkiL9KrZ0dtpLZQ1mOTd4cXOcdC8C2U-KhCKRI/edit>

Human Trafficking

Today is the 8th International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Trafficking in Persons. The theme of this day is: “The Power of Care -Women, Economics, Human Trafficking”. According to the United Nations, the pandemic has exacerbated ways in which persons, especially women and girls, have been caught in the web of trafficking. Here are some facts:

1. Women do three times more unpaid domestic and care work than men.
2. Women between the ages of 25-34 have a greater risk of poverty than men.
3. Thirty percent (30%) of young women do not study, work or train for a skill.
4. Two-thirds of the world's illiterate people are women.
5. 245 million women and girls over 15 have suffered physical and sexual violence by their partner.

We already know the human cost of trafficking in the United States during Superbowl weekend! Let us pray for an end to this violence throughout the month of February.

Being Agents of Change Is Part of the Call of the Little Sisters of St. Therese

In Sister Joyce Meyer's article, about the Little Sisters of St. Therese, she mentions “the Sisters are convinced that to have the greatest impact and learning potential it is imperative to work together. It makes them more than ever agents of change.” In spite of their many challenges as a local congregation, the Little Sisters have developed many friends in Haiti and beyond. Our OSPIHM congregations have a long-standing relationship with them. During this Haiti Awareness Week, through our prayers and our donations, we have the opportunity once again to stand in solidarity with the Little Sisters of St. Therese. If you are interested in reading Sister Joyce Meyer's article, here is the link: <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/blog/gsr-today/miracles-accomplished-within-confines-scarcity-haiti-32111>

Prayer

The prayer in the link was composed by Pope Francis for the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita and the International Day of Prayer against Human Trafficking. An excerpt is below:

“May God free all those who have been threatened, wounded or mistreated by the trade and trafficking of human beings. . .” <https://preghieracontotratta.org/files/prayers/English.pdf>

Actions

1. Educate yourself about the accomplishments of great Americans who happen to be black.
2. Donate to Covenant House: 31 E. Armat St. Phila. PA 19144/ Donate to Haiti through S. Patricia Mc Dermott
3. Pray for victims of human trafficking throughout February. Refrain from Valentine's Day chocolate.