



This month includes the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, a day to honor laborers and to work for their just treatment, as well as a consecration to the Blessed Mother who intercedes for the suffering, the vulnerable, and the marginalized.

May we find renewed strength through individual and collective prayer of the Rosary with the [addition of these prayers](#) recommended by the Holy Father.

## Linking the Lectionary to Justice and Peace

### Homily Resources

- [Fifth Sunday of Easter](#) (May 10, 2020)
- [Sixth Sunday of Easter](#) (May 17, 2020)

## IN THE NEWS

### **USCCB Committees call Attention to Unique Challenges of Migrant Farmworkers**

On April 28, the chairmen of four committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called for action to protect vulnerable migrant farmworkers who are being impacted by the pandemic. The full statement ([here](#)) outlines the context for this call to action and makes recommendations for local governments and employers. The bishops specifically call for all involved to:

- Recognize that all workers need access to free testing and care related to the COVID-19 virus
- Ensure that all housing and transportation for farmworkers complies with current CDC guidelines
- Provide information on proper health and hygiene that is easily accessible in multiple languages and infographics for illiterate workers
- Ensure access to proper hygiene and safety protections at work sites, including hand washing facilities/stations, and masks and/or other PPE
- Have an emergency health plan in place to ensure care and protocols when a worker contracts the COVID-19 virus.

They also called for a dismantling of the current structures that create precarious conditions for farmworkers and recommend that all, "Honor the dignity of the work of farmworkers and make sure that they are paid a livable wage as well as be eligible for other benefits to help protect their health and the health and safety of their families at this time."

### **Housing and Public Health During a Global Pandemic**

The Vincentian Family issued a global housing statement last week to call attention to the intersection between public health and housing the vulnerable. The statement made three simple recommendations: Protect those experiencing homelessness, implement a proactive testing plan to reach them, and assist individuals to help them stay in their housing. Read the full statement [here](#).

### **Responding to COVID-19 Racial Disparities at the Street Level**

Ongoing data collection suggests that the impact of COVID-19 is experienced differently depending on one's economic and societal circumstances. An [article](#) in the National Catholic Reporter last week describes unique challenges faced by Black Catholics and outlined ways that local parishes are working to reach their communities. Vickie Figueroa, manager of the Office of Cultural Ministries and Black Catholic Ministries in Detroit, MI, shared an encouraging word that the current reality might present "new possibilities of being church."

The article went on to say, "Despite the limitations of sheltering in place, leaders in African American churches are creatively connecting with parishioners and neighbors to keep that sense of community throughout this crisis."

Parishes are passing out masks and food, donating blood, and more. For those who do not have the technology capacity for livestreaming Mass and other liturgies, the parish communities have set up call-in options, including prayer lines.

## LAUDATO SI' WEEK AND SURVEY



### Laudato Si' Week

As we move toward the Laudato Si' Week (May 16-24), [Pope Francis has shared a video invitation](#) to renew our commitment to care for creation and our common home. A global prayer card can be downloaded [here](#) to be prayed collectively on May 24.

Suggestions for how to plan a physically distanced prayer service are provided [here](#). This includes recommendations for Scripture readings and a closing call to prepare for the "[Season of Creation](#)" campaign that will start Sept. 1. Use the hashtag [#LaudatoSi5](#) for social media outreach.

### CMSM Survey on Care for Our Common Home

The CMSM is marking the Laudato Si' anniversary by focusing on the work that our religious institutes, monasteries, and societies of apostolic life have been doing to embody and implement the message of Laudato Si'.

Those who have responded to our survey so far have implemented a wide range of action, including:

- Participating in the [Ignatian Carbon Challenge](#)
- Coordinating a Lenten plastic challenge
- Designing and facilitating retreats on themes emanating from Laudato Si'.

One community described how that they have collaborated with interfaith efforts in their area that "takes themes from Laudato Si' and engages a wider audience."

**If you haven't completed our [survey](#) yet, please take some time to share your experience with Laudato Si'.** Your feedback will be used to create profiles of action from across the network, share ideas on practical implementation, and shape future CMSM program offerings.

[Laudato Si' Survey](#)

## ISSUE TO WATCH



### DACA Ruling Imminent from the Supreme Court

This is a tenuous time for approximately 700,000 young adults who were granted a stay of deportation and work authorization through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The [future of the program is pending](#) at the Supreme Court, the young adults did **not** [receive federal stimulus payments](#), and [many are “front line” workers in the coronavirus crisis](#).

DACA was initiated by the Obama Administration in 2012 through executive order (in the absence of comprehensive immigration reform by Congress) to acknowledge the unique situation of young people who were brought to the United States by their parents. The order was then contested by the Trump Administration, which sought to overturn it. [Several court cases later](#), the fate of the program now sits with the U.S. Supreme Court, which should rule any day now, and no later than June.

To learn more about DACA (past and present), you can review the [comprehensive materials](#) provided by Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC).

To explore a range of Catholic perspectives on migration, we recommend:

- A [comprehensive, yet accessible primer](#) from [Our Sunday Visitor](#) on the history and complexities of migration, Biblical references to displaced people, and competing policy perspectives.
- A point/counterpoint style treatment of the Catholic Church and immigration in this [book chapter](#) made available by the [Center for Migration Studies of New York](#) via Sage Publishing.
- Michael Talbot's [article](#) in the *Notre Dame Journal of International & Comparative Law* that examines the linkages between climate change and migration.

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