



JP Alert

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Welcome to Advent!

In this time of preparation for the birth of Jesus, we recall the challenge the political powers felt with his arrival and their urgent attempt to destroy him and break up the Holy Family. As Jesus' family fled as refugees to Egypt, the political powers felt threatened and according to the Gospel of Matthew C.2, took the lives of all children under 2 years old in Bethlehem. Today the political powers likewise feel threatened and are planning to break up many more immigrant and refugee families. Thus, we must likewise prepare to be in concrete solidarity with these fellow children of God, even to the point of risking our comforts, privileges, status, access, and health.



Solidarity with Immigrants and Refugees

ACTION ALERT: <u>Contact</u> Federal, State, and Local officials to welcome refugees. We already have more than adequate safeguards in place for who we let in.

Providing Protection and Sanctuary: Now is the time to join the efforts to directly protect and provide sanctuary. See these resources for becoming a sanctuary parish with over 400 other parishes in the U.S. or for joining a protection network.

- 1. Interfaith Protection Initiatives Webinar.
- 2. Sanctuary Pledge and Tool-Kit for Parishes/Congregations
- 3. Emergency Response Network Model in Philadelphia.
- 4. School Protection Ideas

"Catholic Community must move to wide-scale opposition to massive deportation"
Bishop McElroy, San Diego

<u>"Unjust Immigration Laws Call for Humane, Family First Approach,"</u> by Rev. John Edmunds (past CMSM president).

Legislative Success: The Senate recently held a vote on S. 3100, the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act sponsored by Senator Toomey. The vote was 53-44, but it needed 60 votes to invoke cloture and advance. The bill would have denied Community Development Block Grant and Economic Development Administration funds to local jurisdictions that have opted not to cooperate with federal officials in enforcement actions against most undocumented immigrants. Thanks to those who signed letters opposing this legislation, and to the senators who opposed advancing the bill.

Pope Francis' World Day of Migrants and Refugees Message: "Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless" Jan. 15, 2017.

USCCB: "What can you do for immigrants and refugees?"



World Day of Peace

Around Dec. 8th, Pope Francis will release his annual message for the World Day of Peace, which is identified as Jan. 1st. The topic is "Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace." We have worked with the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative and created a great set of resources for you to use with your religious community, parish, school, etc. Please consider highlighting this day during Advent or soon after the new year, and perhaps building out some

programming from this message.



Solidarity with other Minorities

Working with a Catholic Coalition, we released this <u>racial justice</u> <u>statement</u> and resources on Nov. 15. <u>NCR's article</u> on it is here.

Sample letters to the editor and some guidance for people who want to express concerns about acts of targeted violence and vandalism in their communities: While it is framed for the Sisters of Mercy, we hope that the context and samples are useful for anyone wanting some assistance with speaking out against racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and sexism in their communities.

Solidarity with Muslims: Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign and previous Catholic Coalition statement.

Solidarity with Native Americans and Creation: Support the <u>Dakota</u> Access <u>Pipeline</u> nonviolent resistance.



Building Social Movements

Today we have a particular challenge and opportunity to improve our skills at building faithful and effective social movements. Here is an article with some great tips from one of the top researchers in the field.

<u>"People are in the streets protesting, but when does protest</u>
<u>actually work,"</u> by Dr. Erica Chenoweth in the Washington Post.

Practical Guides to Developing Strategy:

"Guide to Effective Nonviolent Struggle" and "Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns"

of Catholic men's religious institutes. CMSM promotes dialogue and collaboration on issues of religious life as well as peace and justice issues with major groups in church and society. There are about 17,000 religious priests and brothers in the United States.

Connect with Us





Eli S. McCarthy, PhD Director of Justice and Peace 8808 Cameron Street Silver Spring, MD 20910-4152 www.cmsm.org emccarthy@cmsm.org 301-588-4030

Twitter: @emccarthy3

Click here to unsubscribe