



J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



November 2014

- [Immigration](#)
- [Syria/Iraq](#)
- [Care for Creation](#)
- [Elections](#)
- [Human Trafficking](#)
- [USCCB JP Chair and Nuclear Forces](#)
- [Pax Christi Award to Carmelites](#)
- [Interfaith Conference on Drones](#)
- [JP Ministry Tips](#)

Introduction

Moving into the holiday of gratitude, we sense the "gift" of our lives and of everyone's life. Below you'll find some good news on immigration policy, urgent need to act on Syria/Iraq, some election implications, human trafficking day of prayer, and a sample justice homily, etc. May we see, be, and offer blessing to those

in need.

Immigration

President Obama has announced his [executive action](#) to help additional immigrants. We appreciate his efforts on this issue. President Obama has the legal authority to take this action; in fact, every president since 1956 has used their authority to offer temporary immigration relief. Some members of Congress have threatened to stop administrative action through legislation or legal action, or by blocking funding for implementation.

TAKE ACTION: Call Congress to let them know that you support the President taking action (1-866-940-2439).

Sanctuary

Deportation Order Withdrawn for Immigrant in Chicago Sanctuary Church!



Beatriz Santiago-Ramirez, who has been in sanctuary at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Chicago's Little Village community since September 7 along with her two children, has received notice that her deportation order has been withdrawn.

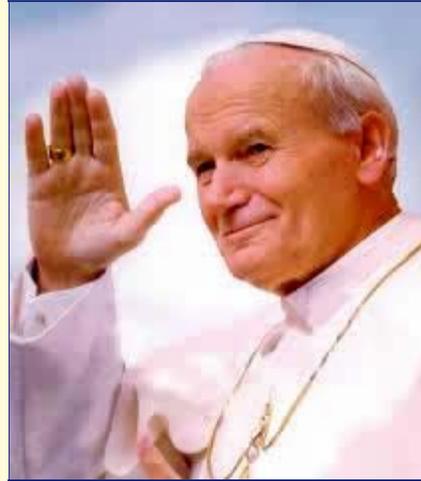
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission is one of dozens of congregations nationwide providing or supporting sanctuary for immigrants facing deportation. The website, < www.sanctuary2014.org >, is a resource to assist the growing number of congregations becoming part of this resurgence of the Sanctuary Movement of the 1980's, when over 500 congregations participated in providing refuge for Central Americans fleeing U.S.-funded wars in Central America.

Contact: Liz Castillo, Chicago New Sanctuary Coalition, A project of the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN); 312-770-0350, <lcastillo@crln.org>.

Catholic Webinar on Sanctuary: [PDF](#) and CLINIC's [Resource on legal issues of sanctuary](#).

Syria/Iraq

According to St. John Paul II, war "[destroys the dignity](#)" it claims to defend, so is war itself not a violation of human rights? The most recent supporting evidence is how the U.S. administration and military continue to urge congress to "[free them up](#)" to give military assistance and arms without abiding by present U.S. law that restricts such assistance from going to organizations with a pattern of human rights violations; i.e., the Iraqi government, Shia militias, Peshmerga Kurds, and Syrian rebels. Meanwhile, one of our other long-standing partners, Saudi Arabia, has [beheaded 61 people](#) in 2014.



As one activist recently put it: "Obama [gave himself](#) a waiver from his own rules ("near certainty provision") restricting the killing of civilians, and then he [asked](#) for a special waiver in order to arm lots of really 'good' people who happen to torture some folks and murder some folks and rape some folks and ethnically cleanse some folks. This after he asked the CIA if arming rebels has ever worked out, and the CIA said '[No](#), but we do it as a matter of principle.' Ordinary people who believe the Bomb-ISIS-Or-Do-Nothing (narrative) want to bomb ISIS because they think it's how



you oppose killing civilians."

Congressional Voice: Here is some [insight](#) from Congresswomen Barbara Lee about why she opposes military action.

For your reflection, here is a challenging and [provocative article](#) on the regional issues, uses of "genocide" claims, and reality about the Mt. Sinjar moment in August. Recall, that our initial bombing was near Erbil, 100 miles from Mt. Sinjar, primarily in order "to protect" U.S. officials and citizens in the area.

Gospel Alternatives: What could "nonviolent resistance, unarmed civilian protection, and peacebuilding/social reconciliation" look like in this conflict? [Click here](#) to discover. Here, too, is a broad list of [other alternatives](#) to violence.

TAKE ACTION: Contact Congress [here](#) to call for a "No" vote on authorization of war.

Care for Creation

Keystone Pipeline

The Keystone Pipeline project was recently voted down in

the Senate, but in early January it's likely to come up again and pass on to the President. The struggle to switch the world to clean energy is one of the biggest challenges of our time. This is no overstatement -- climate scientists all over the world can't emphasize enough that **if we don't kick our addiction to fossil fuels, in the words of former NASA head James Hansen, it's "game over for the climate."**

Believe it or not, the time is particularly ripe to stop this thing. The U.S. just signed a historic climate change deal with China. President Obama doesn't want to tarnish his legacy of climate action, and with no more elections ahead of him, he has nothing to lose. **As of right now he's already considering a veto** -- we need to tell him, when the time comes, to follow through. **Let's make sure he knows to stand up for creation.**

Take Action: [Tell President Obama to stand up for the climate: pledge to veto the Keystone XL pipeline.](#)

Religious Examples

The CMSM Justice and Peace Committee would like to collect examples of care for creation initiatives from religious communities to share and put on the CMSM website. Please send to Brian at <bmclauch62@aol.com>.

Educational Resources

Columbans' [video](#) on Climate and Conflict
Comboni JPIC [PDF](#) from a PowerPoint presentation.

Elections

Although the two dominant parties again shifted their seats in Congress, below are some examples of state votes worth noting:

Living Wage and Worker Rights

In Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois, Nebraska, and South Dakota, voters called for a raise in the minimum wage. In California, residents of Oakland and San Francisco all voted to raise the wage for workers in their cities. And in Wisconsin, voters in nine counties and four cities all indicated it was time to raise the minimum wage.



And can we talk about Paid Sick Days?! Soon, parents in Massachusetts, Oakland, and both Montclair and Trenton in New Jersey won't have to choose between a day's pay or a sick child. Struggling families won't have to lose pay when illness strikes.

Results from the polls were great for millions of workers, but the victory lap cannot end there. Here's a new goal: Better workplace standards for ALL workers.

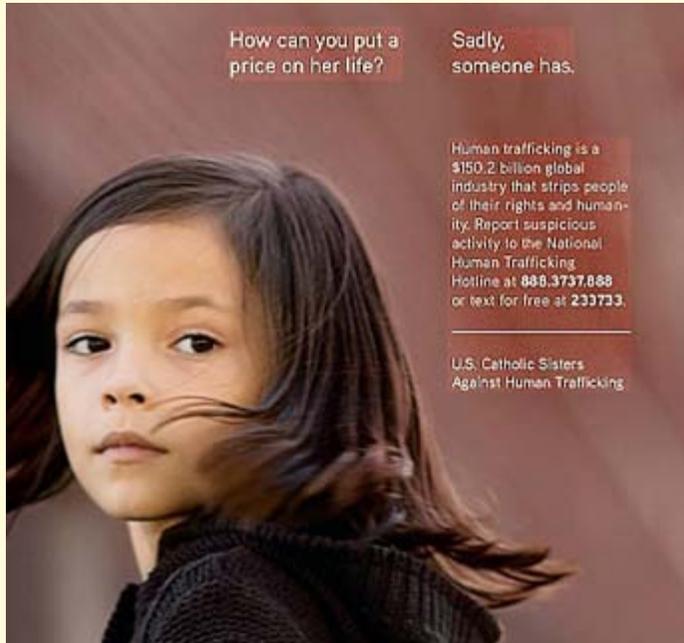
Take Action: [Click here](#) and pledge to keep pushing lawmakers to raise the minimum wage to a living wage and enact better workplace standards for all!

Gun Laws

Washington State has become the first state *ever* to close the background check loophole by popular vote. [Watch the short video](#) made about the growing power of the gun law reform movement -- and then share it with your friends and family.

Human Trafficking

World Day of Prayer for Anti-trafficking. Plans are underway to hold a World Day of Prayer for Anti-trafficking on February 8, 2015. This UISG/USG initiative is being undertaken through the [Talitha Kum Network](#), in collaboration with Caritas Internationalis, Global Freedom Network, the Italian Association of Religious Office for Anti-trafficking of Women and Children and "[Slaves no More](#)," Association NGO. This day of prayer coincides with the liturgical feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese slave who, after her liberation, became a Canossian nun and canonized in the year 2000. **Consider hosting a liturgy or prayer on or near this date.**



Day of Prayer [flyer](#) and Special Noon Mass [flyer](#).

The [Bakhita Initiative Website](#) offers resources: education, advocacy, research, webinars, prayers, workshops, map, etc.

USCCB JP Chair on Nuclear Forces

Bishop Pates To Energy Secretary: Plan To Upgrade Nuclear Forces Undermines Quest For Disarmament

October 30, 2014

WASHINGTON -- The United States should pursue non-proliferation and diplomacy to promote U.S. and global security, **not allocate funds to modernize**



its nuclear forces, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace in an October 30 letter to Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz. In the letter, Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, noted that the Congressional Budget Office estimates \$355 billion in spending on nuclear forces over the next decade, much of that

toward modernizing those forces. [More details](#) from USCCB.

Pax Christi Award to Carmelite JP's

Pax Christi NY presented the Fr. Richard McSorley award to the Carmelite Commission for Peace, Justice, and the Integrity of Creation (PJIC) is dedicated not only to serving those living in conflict situations, those being exploited by discriminatory policies, and those negatively affected by environmental crises, but it is also devoted to helping to bring about the necessary changes in society that make such services obsolete. Among their many ministries, PJIC has addressed issues of immigration reform, human trafficking, prison life, hunger, and climate control. It performs these good works at the local levels of parishes, schools, and programs, and it participates with the Carmelite NGO at the U.N. For more details [click here](#).



Interfaith Conference on Drones

An interfaith group of organizations and persons have got funding to set up a weekend conference on how the faith community might respond to lethal drones. The conference will be held on **Friday January 23rd at dinner through lunch on Sunday, Jan. 25th, at Princeton University in New Jersey**. Many of

the organizations helped to set up the National Religious Campaign against Torture. The Catholic groups include CMSM, USCCB, and Maryknoll. Download [a PDF flyer](#). For more details [click here](#), and further details will be forthcoming.

JP Ministry Tips

1. Bishop Gumbleton's recent [homily on poverty](#).
2. Maryknoll's scripture reflections serve as homily helps: [click here](#). Also in their "search box" above right on the site, you can put in a theme like "climate change

homily." *Please send Eli any other sample justice and peace homilies we can put on our website for others.

3. CMSM is hosting quarterly JPIC conference calls to share updates/resources, mobilize, and explore other ways of collaboration. If you don't have a JPIC in your religious institute, and you or another representative would like to join these calls, let Eli know at < emccarthy@csm.org >. The next conference call is **December 8, 2014**.

CMSM



- *assists major superiors in their role as leaders;*
- *promotes dialogue and collaboration with the conference of bishops and other major groups in church and society;*
- *provides a corporate influence in church and society.*

8808 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4152
Tel: 301-588-4030 • Fax: 301-587-4575 • www.csm.org

This newsletter is sent to members and associate members of CMSM.
It is also sent to justice and peace directors of CMSM member organizations,
and to others who have expressed an interest.
If you fall into the last category and no longer wish to receive this newsletter,
send an e-mail to postmaster@csm.org and you will be removed from the list.