



# Shalom News North America

*An instrument of hope, formation, and action concerning priority matters of social justice.*

Oct 2017



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## Integrity of Creation



### Season of Creation & the Feast of St. Francis

The feast of St. Francis of Assisi (10/4) is a fitting day to mark the end of the Season of Creation. In your ministries and communities, choose some way to once again pray for the protection of and care for our common home. The website [www.seasonofcreation.org](http://www.seasonofcreation.org) has many resources. For those in the U.S., consider joining us in urging Congress to address climate change in a bipartisan way. [Learn more/take action.](#)

### The Big Shift

The Global Catholic Climate Movement supports [The Big Shift](#) away from fossil fuels and to support for renewables. Although World Bank President Jim Yong Kim has stated that inaction on climate change “would spell disaster for us, for our children, and for the planet”, the World Bank still invests hundreds of millions each year in fossil fuel projects. We need this to change. The Big Shift asks the World Bank to commit to ending their funding for fossil fuel projects and to instead reinvest in renewable energy. [Learn more, take action.](#)

## Human Dignity

### “Share the Journey” Campaign

Pope Francis kicked off “Share the Journey” at the Vatican on 9/27 with a symbolic gesture of reaching out to those displaced from their homes, who now number some 65 million around the world, the biggest such crisis since World War II. [Share the Journey](#) is a two-year initiative by Caritas Internationalis to highlight Catholic teaching on migration and affirm the Church’s commitment to assist our migrant sisters and brothers. As part of this campaign, the U.S. Catholic bishops have selected October 7-13 as a week of action for migrants and refugees. [Learn more.](#) Urge President Trump and Congress to [welcome more refugees.](#)



### Take Action to Support DREAMers

We support the call of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious to urge Congress to immediately take up and pass the bipartisan Dream Act of 2017 to protect the nearly 800,000 immigrants who came to the U.S. as children (DREAMers). [Make the call, send an email.](#)

### Over 40 Million People Trapped in Slavery

Some 40.3 million people were trapped as slaves last year according to the first joint effort by key anti-slavery groups to count the victims of the often hidden crime worldwide. They estimate that 24.9 million people were forced to work in factories, on construction sites, farms and fishing boats, and as domestic or sex workers, while 15.4 million people were in forced marriages.



Almost three out of every four people enslaved were women and girls and one in four was a child. Read more [here](#) and [here](#). Also check out the latest [Global Child Labor and Forced Labor](#) report and consider downloading the related mobile app for [Apple](#) and [Android](#) phones/tablets.

### Human Trafficking Legislation (U.S.)

We encourage you to let your voice be heard about three pieces of human trafficking legislation currently before Congress. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is the foundational human trafficking legislation in the U.S. and it needs to be renewed. The SOAR Act would provide much needed funds for the training of healthcare workers. The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act would allow victims of sex trafficking to sue internet companies that facilitated the crimes committed against them. [Learn more/take action.](#)

### Indigenous Peoples’ Day (10/9)

This day began as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day, promoting Native American culture and the history of Native American peoples. It has slowly grown in many cities and states, promoting the fact that Columbus’ “discovery” of an inhabited land and subsequent European colonization resulted in diseases, warfare, massacres and forced assimilation imposed on Native American peoples. Consider how you might support indigenous peoples and celebrate this day.

### **World Homelessness Day (10/10)**

The purpose of this day is to draw attention to homeless people's needs locally and provides opportunities for the community to get involved. [Learn more](#), consider sharing this [bulletin insert](#).

### **Day of the Girl Child (10/11)**

There are 1.1 billion girls today brimming with talent and creativity. But all too often their dreams and potential are thwarted by discrimination, violence and a lack of opportunity. There are major gaps in our knowledge about the specific needs and challenges that girls face. What gets counted, gets done. That's why this year's International Day of the Girl Child features a call for action for increased investment in collecting and analyzing girl-focused, girl-relevant data. [Learn more](#), [take action](#).



### **Hunger and Poverty**

795 million people – one in nine – go to bed on an empty stomach each night. One in three suffer from some form of malnutrition. Goal 2 of the UN

Sustainability Goals pledges to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, and is [the priority of the World Food Program](#). Consider taking some time to reflect on the role [rural women](#) and [farmers](#) play in feeding the world. Learn more about poverty in the [U.S.](#) and [Canada](#). Consider these World Food Day (10/16) [reflection resources](#), and this [reflection on poverty](#).

### **Join Sisters in Urging a Faithful Budget**

As Congress enters into discussions concerning the Fiscal Year 2018 budget, LCWR invites you to join NETWORK and sisters across the country in efforts to help ensure that the federal budget reflects the principles we hold dear – prioritize human needs programs, ensure funding to care for vulnerable members of our society, restore economic opportunity, promote care for creation and invest in the common good. Will you join us in this effort and write a letter to Speaker Paul Ryan? [Learn more/take action](#).

## **Peace and Non-Violence**

### **International Day of Nonviolence/Gandhi's Birthday (10/2)**

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." This statement summarizes Gandhi's life. Employing nonviolent civil disobedience, Gandhi helped free India from British rule and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. The title "Mahatma", Sanskrit for "great soul" or "venerable", applied to him first in 1914 in South Africa, is now used worldwide. One of Gandhi's sons noted that, "it's easy to say we cannot emulate someone like him when we put him on a pedestal. What we should do is see him as a normal, frail human being who strove to achieve something. We should emulate people like him, but not worship them."

### **Eleanor Roosevelt's Birthday (10/11)**

She was an international leader who set a standard for the leadership of women and for advocacy for those most marginalized in our world. We invite you to go to the [Spirituality and Practice Website](#) and take spend some time reflecting on Eleanor's quotes and determine their meaning in your life today.



### **UN and SSND Foundation Days (10/24)**

October 24 marks the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the day the United Nations' Charter entered into force in 1945.

Beyond promoting world peace, its role has grown to include protecting human rights, promoting social and economic development, and providing aid around the world in cases of famine, natural disaster and armed conflict. This day also marks the 184<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day when Caroline Gerhardinger and two young women in Neunburg vorm Wald, Germany began their religious life and ultimately the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Consider what our commitment as SSND to world peace, protecting human rights and promoting personal development through education has achieved as we look to future commitments.

### **Disarmament Week (10/24 – 10/30)**

This week is an opportunity to raise awareness in ourselves, in the broader public and among governments about the crucial need to recognize disarmament as a key element in creating a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. You are encouraged to [urge your U.N. Ambassador](#) (Canada - Marc-André Blanchard, U.S. - Nikki Haley) to sign the nuclear weapons ban, support [organizations working to stop the proliferation of weapons](#) and to explore [ways that you might disarm yourself](#). It will not happen without our committed efforts.

