



# Shalom News North America

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

November 2017



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## Integrity of Creation

### Remembering Eco-Martyrs and All of Creation on All Saints and All Souls

Each year on November 1 and 2, Catholics around the world remember and pray for our loved ones and the community of saints who have died and returned home to God, Creator of Life. This year, the Global Catholic Climate Movement invites you to remember the countless number of martyrs who have been killed in their defense of the natural world and to pray for members of our Earth community that have gone extinct, and for places in the natural world that have been wounded by human choices. [Prayer resource.](#)

### One with the Universe – Thomas Berry

November 9 is the birthday of Thomas Berry, Catholic Passionist priest and ecotheologian. He is best known for proposing the idea that a deep understanding of the history and functioning of the evolving universe is a necessary inspiration and guide for our own effective functioning as individuals and as a species. “The divine communicates to us primarily through the language of the natural world. Not to hear



the natural world is not to hear the divine.” [Prayer resource.](#)

### Say No to Drilling in Arctic Refuge

Our friends with the Creation Justice Ministries and Interfaith Power and Light have issued an alert concerning the Trump Administration’s interest in promoting oil exploration and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Such drilling could exacerbate global warming, negatively impact this great wilderness and harm the native Gwich’in People who live in the area. [Learn more/take action.](#)

### CST and SDGs: Clean Water and Sanitation

“All people have a right to safe drinking water. This is a basic human right and a central issue in today’s world,” says Pope Francis. The UN Sustainable Development Goal #6, calls for policies and practices to support systems that can provide clean water and adequate sanitation for all people, in a cost efficient and environmentally sustainable manner. [Catholic social teaching \(CST\) reflection resource](#) on the rights to water and to sanitation.

## Human Dignity

### Brothers and Sisters to Us

On 11/1/79 the U.S. Catholic Bishops put forth [a pastoral letter on racism](#), reminding all Catholics that racism of any kind is a sin, that all of us – in some measure – are accomplices, and that there is a distinct relationship between racial and economic justice. Last August, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops established an [Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism](#) to focus on that issue and the urgent need to come together as a society to find solutions. How might we, as individuals and as community, find effective ways to address personal and community racism?



### Praying with DREAMers Week

SSND joins with LCWR and other immigration advocates in urging your participation in *Praying for DREAMers Week* (10/29-11/4). During this week, we are encouraged to make a daily commitment to [pray](#) and promote passage of the [Dream Act of 2017](#) - by [writing a letter to the editor](#) or [calling](#) / [writing](#) your members of Congress. Other [suggestions and resources.](#)

### St. Francis Xavier Cabrini – 11/13

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was an Italian-American religious sister who founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a religious institute that was a major support for Italian immigrants. She is the first U.S. citizen to be named a saint and is the patron saint of immigrants. [Prayer resource](#)

### Migrants and Hope – Pope Francis

“*Hope is the force that drives the hearts of those who depart, leaving home, their homeland, at times their relatives and families — I am thinking of the migrants — in search of a better life which is worthier of them and their loved ones. And it is also the impulse in the heart of those who welcome: the desire to encounter, to get to know each other, to dialogue. . . . Hope is the force that drives us “to share the journey,” because the journey is made jointly . . . . Christ himself asks us to welcome our brother and sister migrants and refugees with open arms, with arms wide open.*” - Pope Francis, [General Audience](#), September 27, 2017.

For those in the U.S., here are three items you can contact Congress about to promote hope and support for migrants and refugees: [admit more refugees](#) than what the Trump administration has proposed; [oppose the President's latest refugee ban](#) which would [block nearly half of all refugees](#) admitted last year; [extend Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\)](#) for the countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti.

### Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report

The 2017 GEM Report evaluates the role of accountability in global education systems regarding achievement of the vision of UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: ensuring inclusive, equitable and good-quality education and lifelong learning for all. Achieving SDG 4 is a shared responsibility between us all – governments, schools, teachers, parents, students, and the international community. The report cautions that accountability must be used to promote equity and quality, and not seen as an end in itself. [Learn more.](#)

### Operation Cross Country

U.S. authorities recently announced they have rescued 84 children, one just 3 months old, and arrested 120

people in a nationwide sweep of child sex trafficking that exposed the growing use of technology by traffickers. Many of those arrested were advertising and selling children online for sex. The four-day sting involved coordinated operations in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Thailand, the Philippines, and Cambodia. [Learn more.](#) Anti-human trafficking resources – [U.S.](#), [Canada](#).



### First World Day of the Poor – 11/19

In [announcing the church's establishment of a World Day of the Poor](#) (11/19), Pope Francis called on Christians around the world to serve the poor with concrete actions that address their daily needs. "If we truly wish to encounter

Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist," states Francis. "The Body of Christ, broken in the sacred liturgy, can be seen, through charity and sharing, in the faces and persons of the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters." [Prayer service](#), [pastoral aid](#), [artistic reflection](#).

## Peace and Non-Violence

### Catholic Nonviolence Initiative Webinar – 11/7

The [Catholic Nonviolence Initiative](#) was launched at the April 2016 Nonviolence and Just Peace conference in Rome. They are hosting a webinar on Tuesday, November 7 from 8 am – 9 am (Central) to provide an update on accomplishments from the past year and concrete steps we can take to build momentum going forward. Participation in the webinar is limited to 100 people – [register here](#).

### Remembrance/Veteran's Day - 11/11

"We must remember. If we do not, the sacrifice of those one hundred thousand Canadian lives will be meaningless. They died for us, for their homes, families, and friends, for a collection of traditions they cherished and a future they believed in; they died for Canada. The meaning of their sacrifice rests with our collective national consciousness; our future is their monument." [Read more.](#) [A Veteran's Day Reflection](#).

### International Day for Tolerance – 11/16

"In a world of diversity, tolerance is a prerequisite for peace," said Ms. Irina Bokova, the Director-General of

UNESCO in [remarks about the need for tolerance](#). "It is also a lever for sustainable development, as it encourages the construction of more inclusive and thus more resilient societies that are able to draw on the ideas, creative energy and talents of each of their members." Ms. Bokova reasons that restoring a culture of tolerance is key to countering a tendency toward isolationism, racism, and religious bigotry. [Read more/take action](#).



### International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women – 11/25

Violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human rights. Its impact ranges from immediate to long-term multiple physical, sexual and mental consequences for women and girls, including death. Violence not only has negative consequences for women but also their families, the community and the country at large. It has tremendous costs, from greater health care and legal expenses and losses in productivity, impacting national budgets and overall development. [Read more](#), [prayer/reflection resources](#).



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