



# Shalom News North America

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



November 2018



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## Integrity of Creation

### Climate Change – We've Reached a "Can't Fail" Moment

A new report from the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) foresees an ecosystem-altering climate crisis mere decades away that will impact the lives of hundreds of millions of people unless "unprecedented" transitions across society occur. Current rates of greenhouse gas emissions are projected to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming above preindustrial levels around 2040.

According to the IPCC report, capping global warming at 1.5 C would require a dramatic drop in carbon emissions in the next decade — a decline of 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 — and then reach net-zero by 2050. Catholics who work on the climate change issue say the world has "a moral and ethical imperative to act," with urgency and decisiveness. The global community finds itself at a "can't-fail moment," United Nations officials said. [Learn more](#).

### Canada's Top Plastic Polluters

Much of the plastic trash found on Canadian shorelines can be traced back to five companies: Nestlé, Tim



Hortons, PepsiCo, the Coca-Cola Company and McDonald's, an audit led by Greenpeace Canada has found. Sarah King, head of Greenpeace Canada's oceans and plastics campaign firmly believes that the companies need to take more responsibility for their product packaging. She thinks consumers can have the biggest impact by pushing companies for reusable and refillable alternatives to single-use plastic packaging.

[Learn more](#).

### Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (11/6)

Though humankind has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage. The UN Environment Programme has found that over the last 60 years, at least 40 percent of all internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources. [Learn more](#).

## Human Dignity

### Native American Heritage Month

In the U.S., November is [Native American Heritage Month](#). The month is meant to call attention to contributions made by the first Americans to the development of North America, and to raise awareness about the struggles and triumphs of Native Americans throughout history and today. One such struggle is the vulnerability to human trafficking experienced by Indigenous peoples. One study involving the U.S. and Canada found that on average, [40 percent of female sex trafficking victims](#) identified as American Indian, Alaska Native, or First Nations, although Native women represent only 10 percent or less of the general population in the studied communities. [Learn more](#), [take action](#) to help address the issue of human trafficking.



[Settlement Agreement](#), the 1997 legal settlement that governs the conditions of children held in immigration detention. The proposed regulations would remove [key safeguards](#) and lead to the long-term detention of children, as well as long-term family detention. The proposed rule would also end existing Flores requirements that facilities holding immigrant children, including family detention facilities, be state-licensed. [Learn more/let your voice be heard](#). *Deadline for comments is November 6.*

### Proposed Public Charge Regulation

The Trump administration has proposed a rule making it much more difficult for immigrants to apply for legal immigration status in the U.S. by expanding what it means to be a "public charge." As a result of this proposal, many millions of lawful immigrants could be penalized for accessing essential housing, health care, and anti-hunger programs. The proposed regulation would dramatically increase the barriers to lawful status for low-income immigrants and

### Proposed Flores Regulation

The Trump administration has published proposed regulations to implement the terms of the [Flores](#)

their families. It could also discourage parents from obtaining benefits for which their children qualify, out of fear that they may not be able to regularize their immigration status in the future. [Learn more, let your voice be heard.](#)

### Keep Doors Open for Asylum Seekers

The Trump administration is considering an executive order to turn away families fleeing violence in Central America and block access to asylum, as the "caravan" of people seeking protection continues on their long journey to the United States. This "caravan" of asylum seekers represents a humanitarian crisis, not a threat to our national security. These families are fleeing violence, desperation, and persecution and are traveling together for safety on their dangerous journey. [Learn more/take action](#). Consider this St. Martin de Porres inspired [reflection/prayer](#) about tolerance and acceptance.

### Election Day

That long-awaited day will soon be here! And there will be many shouts of joy and sighs of relief that the campaign season is over and we can be done with all the political noise and fervor. But, according to the words of that old song - "We've only just begun," voting is a right, but it is also a responsibility both before and after the election. Check out [this article](#) for a reflection on voting as a right, a responsibility or a privilege. LCWR Resolutions to Action – [A Crucial](#)



[Midterm Pivot](#). In the voting booth, [weigh climate change as a pro-life issue](#).

### World Day of the Poor (11/18)

The theme for the second annual [World Day of the Poor](#) is a Psalm verse: "This poor man called out, and the Lord heard him." Pope Francis is urging all

Christians to combat indifference to the suffering and marginalization of the most needy. "God's answer to the poor is always an intervention of salvation in order to heal the wounds of body and soul, restore justice and assist in beginning anew to live life with dignity...The World Day of the Poor wishes to be a small answer which the whole Church, spread throughout the world, gives to the poor of every type and in every land lest they think that their cry has gone unheard." [Read full message here](#).

### Universal Children's Day (11/20)

[Universal Children's Day](#) is a day that celebrates the unique potential of each and every child, and that reminds us all to continue to work for children's rights, as outlined in the [UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child](#). The theme this year is: Children are taking over and turning the world blue – building a world "where every child is in school, safe from harm, and can fulfill their potential!" Make sure to wear blue in support on 11/20 and [click here](#) for other ways to participate! Consider [this resource](#) on child labor, illiteracy and poverty.

## Peace and Non-Violence

### Veterans/Remembrance Day (11/11)

The other common name for this day is Armistice Day which marks the date and time when armies stopped fighting World War I on November 11, 1918 – 100 years ago. We remember, with great sadness, all those who served and gave their lives or their health and well-being in the Armed Forces. We pray for the dead, that their souls rest in peace, and we pray for healing for all those wounded in some way during conflict. May we also come to believe that war is not the answer and resolve to work for peace in their memory.

Check out [Veterans for Peace](#) to find out more.



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

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today. This violence impacts on,

and impedes, progress in many areas, including poverty eradication, combating HIV/AIDS, and peace and security. However, violence against women and girls [is not inevitable](#). Prevention is possible and essential. [Prayer resource, prayer service](#).

### Oscar Romero, Persecuted for My Sake

Oscar Romero (1917–1980) was named a saint by the Catholic Church on October 14, 2018. As Archbishop of San Salvador for the last four years of his life, Romero was a strong, public voice for the many voiceless and anonymous poor of El Salvador and Latin America. When he preached in the cathedral on Sunday mornings, it has been said the streets were empty and all the radios were on full volume, to hear truth and sanity in an insane and corrupt world. [Read the full reflection](#) by Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM.

