



Compassion

Faith doing justice in the Central and Southern Province...and beyond

May 2019

Action Alert: Climate Action

The Office of Justice and Ecology at the Jesuit Conference reports that after two years of delays, the *Climate Action Now Act*, H.R. 9, is a sign of hope that meaningful climate action is possible. This climate bill represents a much-needed step toward reaffirming U.S. leadership to address climate change.

If passed, H.R. 9 would acknowledge the United States' commitment under the international Paris Climate Agreement to reduce carbon pollution by 26 to 28% (from 2005 levels) by 2025. The Act would require the president to develop and submit to Congress a plan on how to achieve this goal.

At a time when the nation and the world, especially vulnerable populations, are feeling the effects of increasing floods, wildfires and other extreme weather events, the world needs global climate action that will protect humanity and our common home.

[Click here to contact your representative](#) and urge him/her to care for our common home and future generations by supporting H.R. 9 and reaffirming U.S. leadership and commitment to address climate change.

Bishop Seitz of El Paso Testifies

Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso on April 30, 2019, testified before the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation and Operations. In his testimony, Bishop Seitz described the El Paso community's assistance to asylum-seeking families who have been released by the Department of Homeland Security.

Fathers Rafael Garcia and Michael Gallagher of the UCS Province, parishioners from Sacred Heart Parish, and UCS novices and other Jesuits in formation have been involved in many of these response efforts.

Bishop Seitz also offered recommendations in three areas:

- 1) addressing the root causes of migration;
- 2) helping to ensure the protection of immigrant children and families;
- 3) maintaining existing legal and legislative protections such as the Flores Settlement

Agreement and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) as children and families fulfill the requirements of their immigration proceedings.

[Click here to read Bishop Seitz's testimony.](#)

College Church Racism and Reconciliation Materials

During Lent, St. Francis Xavier (College) Church in St. Louis invited parishioners to a Lenten Racial Justice Journey. A different resource – readings, podcasts, videos – was suggested for each day of Lent to help participants engage in racial justice in new ways. There are 48 different resources, all of which can be accessed [online](#).

While Lent has passed and we are in the Easter season (Alleluia!), the resources are excellent and varied, and can be used in a variety of ways. Prayers and a racial justice examen are also included in the set of materials. Here's a sample of some of the resources:

- [The Magis and Racial Justice](#) - Fr. Bryan Massingale, a 54 minute, 25 second video
- ["White Catholics have to talk about race and admit their racism,"](#) an online article from America Magazine
- [Talking About Race with Young Children](#), a 20 minute, 44 second podcast with additional resources embedded.

Action Alert: Take Action for the Dreamers

The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and the Ignatian Solidarity Network are calling on the Ignatian family to contact their representatives to support [H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act of 2019](#). This bill, if made law, would allow immigrants, including those who are part of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, as well as individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) status, to contribute fully in the country they love and know to be their home by providing a pathway to citizenship. The House Judiciary Committee is planning to mark up H.R. 6 in early May, with the bill moving to the House floor for action soon afterward.

This is a critical time to ensure that members of the U.S. House of Representatives hear your voice and understand the importance of moving this legislation toward enactment. You can send an e-letter to your Representative by [clicking here](#). Important: *You will note that there are four different tabs for different constituencies: students, faculty/staff, alumni and "other."* Unless you are member of a Jesuit high school or university community, it is recommended that you sign the "other" letter.