

# Compassion

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

October 2019



## Provincials Call for Increased Advocacy to Protect Migrants

Father Provincial Ronald A. Mercier, SJ, sent a [letter](#) to all Jesuits of the USA Central and Southern Province and the directors of apostolates in this province, emphasizing the need for increased advocacy for migrants. His brother provincials in Canada and the United States sent similar letters to the Jesuits and colleagues in their provinces. The Jesuit Conference and the provincials issued a [joint statement](#) Sept. 16 calling on the entire Jesuit community to advocate on behalf of migrants over the next month. The statement came in advance of the Catholic Church's Sept. 29 observance of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The Jesuit Conference also introduced a new website for education and action around immigration issues at [jesuits.org/migration](http://jesuits.org/migration).

On Oct. 10, Fr. Mercier will join with the other provincials to meet with Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin K. McAleenan to urge just enforcement of existing asylum laws for migrants seeking safety in the United States. Father Mercier urges the Ignatian family of the UCS Province to make a similar commitment during this next month by contacting your political representatives with a letter, email, phone call or visit about the rights of migrants to seek asylum, and encouraging students, colleagues, parishioners, retreatants and other constituents to do the same. The [Jesuit Migrant Solidarity](#) website has resources to aid in these advocacy efforts. You can also contact Mary Baudouin ([mbaudouin@jesuits.org](mailto:mbaudouin@jesuits.org)),

provincial assistant for social ministries, for assistance in planning and executing advocacy events, including in-district meetings with your senators and representatives, who will be on recess during the first two weeks of October.

## Respect Life Month

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates *Respect Life Month* and the first Sunday of October as *Respect Life Sunday*. All Catholics are called to cherish, defend and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. This month, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. The [United State Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) has provided resources to help parishes, schools, families, ministries and individual Catholics share the Gospel of Life during Respect Life Month and throughout the year. These can be found at <https://www.respectlife.org/october> and include intercessory prayers, homily assistance, announcements, activities and more. You are encouraged to adapt these resources to meet the needs of your parish, school or ministry.

**ACTION ALERT:** [The International Climate Accountability Act \(S.1743\)](#) calls upon the United States to remain a leader in the global efforts to address climate change. It asks the presidential administration to develop and submit a plan that enables our nation to meet our commitments under the Paris Agreement. The agreement's central aim is to prevent global temperatures from rising above two degrees Celsius and pursue efforts to lower the threshold to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The agreement is a major step by the world's nations to address the climate crisis and ensure a livable future for all peoples and our common home. June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris Agreement. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [stated](#), "The President's decision not to honor the U.S. commitment to the Paris Agreement is deeply troubling."

**[Urge your Senators to support the International Climate Accountability Act \(S.1743\)](#)**  
by clicking here and following the instructions.



## Tweets Highlight the Work of the Faith That Does Justice in the UCS Province

Next month, the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus will commemorate 50 years of “the faith that does justice” with a Jubilee meeting in Rome. Nearly 200 representatives from the Jesuit social apostolate throughout the world will gather to reflect on the past and to plan for the future, with a specific focus on the implementation of the new Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society. [Watch the video](#) of Fr. General Arturo Sosa reflecting on the importance of this anniversary.

As a way of highlighting the work of the social apostolate in Canada and the United States, each province was asked to submit tweets with links to stories about how our province works and Jesuits are carrying out the faith that does justice. Here are the submissions from our province, with links to stories published by our province communications office. They provide a rich glimpse of many good things happening in our province. Look out for posts from all the provinces tweeted daily at [@JesuitJustice](#).

- Read how #Jesuit schools are responding to #LaudatoSi and actively working against a throwaway culture: <http://bit.ly/2LMZ2rt>.
  - Each spring, second-year novices in the [@JesuitsUCS](#) Province participate in an immersive teaching workshop aimed at introducing them to the theories and realities of Catholic social teaching: <http://bit.ly/2OiRKxm>.
  - “Love, hope and passion for change are contagious.” Ignatian education [@gdcrowder](#) shares the lasting fruits of a reconciliation conference held [@RegisUniversity](#): <http://bit.ly/32RDb7e>.
  - Turning Coffee into Hope – how a coffee collaborative & the #Jesuit network are working to create economic stability for families in southern Mexico: <http://bit.ly/2Gqa8Or>.
  - The #Jesuit Grants Collaborative provides researchers & grant writers to help social justice and #Jesuit nonprofits fulfill their missions: <http://bit.ly/2LN0gTB>.
  - Searching for #reconciliation, which cannot be done alone, the #Jesuits of the U.S. are researching their history of slave-holding, tracing genealogies and reaching out to descendants of the people held in slavery: [www.SHMR.Jesuits.org](http://www.SHMR.Jesuits.org)
  - The Encuentro Project in El Paso enables immersion participants to encounter “the other” on the U.S.-Mexico border: <http://bit.ly/2Ok6Kv3>.
  - Thanks to the work of [@JSRI\\_JustSouth](#), #Jesuits and their colleagues in 9 communities within the [@JesuitsUCS](#) Province can make better-informed decisions based on their areas’ socio-economic conditions: <http://bit.ly/2LFAUa4>.
-