



# THE WEEKLY REVIEW

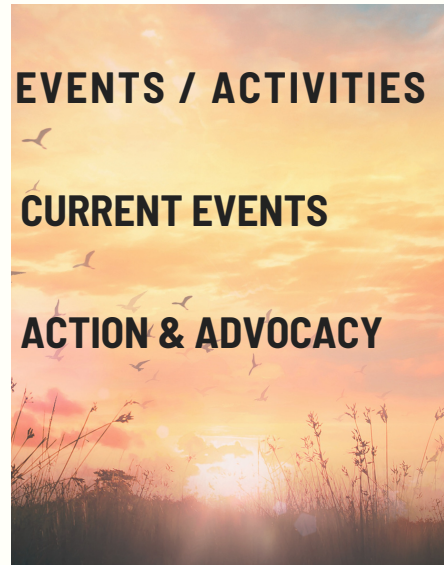


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*"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."*

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

*This weekly news aggregate is created by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation for SCL Sisters & Associates along with any other interested audiences.  
Questions/Comments/Concerns?  
Email: JPIC@scls.org*



# KS Legislative Session 2024



## Kansas bill blocks hungry kids from getting \$40 for food.

### How did we get here? | Opinion

*(The Wichita Eagle, 2/21/2024)*

"As someone who has "hung out" in the Kansas Legislature with lawmakers since 1987, I have seen the highs and lows of policymaking. My heart shakes at what I am witnessing in the 2024 legislative session. How did we get here? The Chair of the House Welfare Reform Committee, state Rep. Francis Averkamp, has introduced H.B. 2674. This bill would block Gov. Laura Kelly from offering a program that helps families living on low wages buy food during the summer. Under the plan, these families would receive an Electronic Benefits Transfer card with \$40 a month for the child that could be spent only on food. This benefit would last for the three months of summer. H.B. 2674 would not allow Kansas to participate in this federal program designed to help families with rising food costs and hungry children."

## New estimate predicts Medicaid expansion would serve 152K at no cost to state

*(KS Reflector, 2/22/2024)*

"Kari Bruffett, president and CEO of KHI, said rather than focus on the reasons why some people support or oppose Medicaid expansion, the organization was working "to help build understanding" and allow people "to use the same set of facts and numbers for the discussion."

"We acknowledge that definitely the discussion and debate around Medicaid expansion has evolved over the last decade," Bruffett said. "And so there's different questions that are being raised and we try to help address those."

Kansas is one of 10 states that haven't expanded Medicaid since President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act in 2010."

# Care of Creation

## How a Northwest tribe is escaping a rising ocean

*(NPR, 2/19/2024)*

"Oceanographers say king tides in Taholah and elsewhere give a sneak peek of the future as an ever-hotter climate swells the world's oceans. Global sea levels have risen about 7 inches over the past century due to heat-trapping pollution, with a similar rise forecast in just the next 30 years.

The Quinalts' approach, sometimes called "managed retreat," is a response to human-driven climate change that coastal communities are facing from Boston to Bangladesh. Such an approach can cost many millions of dollars, and the emotional toll can be high. People in the U.S. who relocate because of climate change usually move within 20 minutes of their original home, according to recent research."



## We can answer Pope Francis' call to curb climate pollution by protecting old trees

*(Earthbeat, 2/15/2024)*

"Pope Francis reminds those of us who are Catholic to recall how "responsibility for God's earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world." As a Catholic himself, President Joe Biden understands the moral and existential imperative that calls us to protect and care for these essential ecosystems and creations of God."

## Supreme Court hears challenge to rule reducing pollution drifting between states

*(PBS News, 2/21/2024)*

"The Obama rule said that power plants had to control their pollution that goes over state lines and pollutes in other states. The law actually says that governments have to go back and strengthen this rule every number of years. The Trump administration did not do that. The Biden administration went back, they expanded the rule and said, we're also going to apply this to a lot of other industrial pollution, steel mills, factories, cement plants, so a really significant expansion of these controls."

# Events

- Feb. 29, 5:30 pm (CST)-  
Catholic Climate  
Covenant Webinar:  
Catholic Youth Are  
Mobilizing for Climate  
Action
- Mar. 6, 12:30 - 1:30 pm  
(CST)-KS State Capitol-  
The Alliance for a  
Healthy Kansas: 2024  
Rally for Medicaid  
Expansion



# Human Trafficking

## Stop Trafficking Newsletter

### February Issue: Grooming and Trafficking of Children on Social Media

*(Alliance to end Human Trafficking, 02/2024)*

"Focus: This issue further explores the use of social media to groom, exploit, and traffic children and focuses on the role of legislation and social media platforms."

### Young people gather in Rome to reaffirm commitment on human trafficking

*(Vatican News, 2/5/2024)*

"8 February marks the tenth International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking which was established in 2015 by Pope Francis on the feast day of Saint Bakhita, the Sudanese nun who as a girl was a victim of trafficking and became a universal symbol of the Church's commitment against this scourge.

On that day thousands of people in many parishes, communities, and associations across the world will gather to reflect, pray, and share their experiences of engagement on this global issue under the theme: "Journeying in Dignity. Listen. Dream. Act."

Among them, 50 youths from partner organizations of the Day in the five continents, including students, volunteers, researchers, communicators, activists, who are attending training and awareness sessions on trafficking from 2-8 February."



## **Shelters for migrants on Mexico's border tighten security**

*(Global Sisters Report, 2/19/2024)*

"In 2010, the proportion of female migrants was 2 out of 10; since 2018, 4 out of 10 migrants, in certain regions, are women traveling alone or with their children, said Oscar Misael, an anthropologist who has focused his doctorate research on gender migration and organized crime.

In an interview with GSR, Misael explained that migrants are usually escaping organized crime or a precarious economic situation; he added that the phenomenon of caravans and intercontinental migrations represents "the exodus of misery," a reference to a term coined by sociologist José Manuel Valenzuela."



## **WATCH: Biden tells governors he's eyeing executive action on immigration**

*(PBS News, 2/23/2024)*

"Among the actions under consideration by Biden is invoking authorities outlined in Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which gives a president broad leeway to block entry of certain immigrants into the United States if it would be "detrimental" to the national interest."

## **Catholic immigrant shelter battles Texas AG, who wants to shut it down**

*(NBC News, 2/21/2024)*

"Texas' attorney general wants to shut down a faith-based group that has sheltered migrants for decades, escalating conservatives' targeting of Catholic organizations and amping up the state's own immigration enforcement operation. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, has sued to revoke the license to operate of Annunciation House in the border city of El Paso, after a judge sided with the nonprofit and allowed it 14 days to respond to a demand for records by Paxton. Paxton's office requested among other things logs identifying people to whom the organization has provided services."

# Seeking Racial Justice

## **Schools say dress codes promote discipline, but many Black students see traces of racism**

*(PBS News, 2/21/2024)*

“In stringent public school dress codes, some see vestiges of racist efforts to control the appearance of Black people dating back to slavery. In the 1700s, South Carolina’s “Negro Act” made it illegal for Black people to dress “above their condition.” Long after slavery was abolished, Black Americans were still stigmatized for not adopting grooming habits that fit white, European beauty standards and norms.”



## **It's time for the Catholic Church to return Indigenous land (Viewpoints)**

*(National Catholic Reporter, 2/22/2024)*

“As a growing land return movement, Landback is a diverse and global process. From the return of national parks to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji in Australia, to the reclaiming of Tuluwat Island, a Wiyot sacred site near Eureka, California, Landback is gaining in global strength. Although each land return initiative is distinct and specific to its place and relationality, as a movement gaining ground across the globe, Landback is a proper noun.”

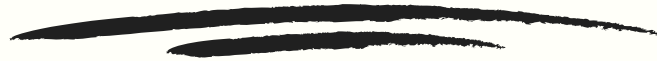
## **From birth to death, Black Americans fare worse in measures of health compared to their white counterparts**

*(AP News)*

“From birth to death, Black Americans fare worse in measures of health compared to their white counterparts. They have higher rates of infant and maternal mortality, higher incidence of asthma during childhood, more difficulty treating mental health as teens, and greater rates of high blood pressure, Alzheimer's disease and other illnesses.

The Associated Press spent the past year exploring how the legacy of racism in America has laid the foundation for the health inequities that Black people face.”

# Advocacy & Action



Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns:  
**Join Us in Solidarity with Annunciation House**

*“Maryknoll missionaries have served as volunteers at some of the shelters operated by Annunciation House, where, in coordination with the U.S. Border Patrol and ICE, along with community partners, migrants can find food, clothing and shelter as they prepare to leave El Paso on the next leg of their journey. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable among us, and specifically, to welcome the stranger, we believe that the mission of Annunciation House, as expressed by its founder Ruben Garcia, exemplifies our Christian commitment to love one another, and makes our society stronger.” [Read the full Maryknoll statement here.](#)*

## **Take Action:**

Send a message to the Office of the Attorney General Of Texas, expressing your support of the vital and Gospel-centered humanitarian work of Annunciation House and your hope that the attorney general’s office will stop this attack on life-saving ministry.

Send a message to Annunciation House, letting them know of your support and prayers for their continuing service of welcoming the stranger.