



THE WEEKLY REVIEW



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"[Solidarity] then is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all."

— St. John Paul II

*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?
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KS Legislative Session 2024



Kansas House derails governor-backed tax legislation overwhelmingly approved by Senate

(KS Reflector, 4/4/2024)

"The Kansas House on a voice vote decided Thursday to send a three-year, \$1.4 billion tax cut package back to House and Senate negotiators, overriding a call from House Speaker Dan Hawkins to pass the bill and defying guidance of Gov. Laura Kelly. Hours earlier the Kansas Senate seized upon the compromise bill in an attempt to resolve the most vexing issue of the 2024 legislative session by voting to pass a tax reduction package Kelly promised to sign into law."

Kansas Rural Center Legislative Policy Watch: Issue No. 13, March 29, 2024

"Legislative Policy Watch is a weekly online publication of the Kansas Rural Center (KRC) during the State of Kansas legislative session. KRC is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the long term health of the land and its people, through education, research and advocacy that advance an ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially just agriculture."

Kansas mothers of color have worse outcomes. Advocates talk in-state maternity, legislative goals

(KS Reflector, 4/1/2024)

"Years of research illuminates these health disparities – the rate at which Kansas women of color die from pregnancy increased sharply over 20 years, documented by a state-by-state analysis of maternal deaths. Black mothers in the state had higher death rates than the surrounding states in many of the years studied. Black women were more than twice as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes in Kansas than in the neighboring states of Missouri, Nebraska and Colorado."

Care of Creation

Eclipse seen as a way to pray, 'engage with the work of God's hands'

(Earthbeat, 4/4/2024)

"Amid all the hoopla surrounding April 8, Francl-Donnay — who said she's never witnessed a total solar eclipse — plans "not only to enjoy the eclipse just as a scientific phenomenon, but also to sort of enjoy the beauty of the kind of celestial mechanics that lead to this, and to kind of appreciate God's role in setting the universe in play."

Francl-Donnay, a Catholic who resides in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, also is a chemistry professor at Bryn Mawr College. Although many people currently think faith is incompatible with science, she said she believes that "they're linked together in very strong ways," with the April 8 eclipse serving as a vivid reminder."



This ancient tradition could be a key climate action for US Catholics

(Earthbeat, 3/15/2024)

"After the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales reinstated Friday abstinence from meat in September 2011, researchers at Cambridge University wondered what was the potential environmental impact of such a practice. Their 2022 study suggested that giving up meat once a week could cut thousands of tons of carbon emissions annually, even in a country where meat doesn't make up the majority portion of dinner plates."

Just 57 companies linked to 80% of greenhouse gas emissions since 2016

(The Guardian, 4/3/2024)

"This powerful cohort of state-controlled corporations and shareholder-owned multinationals are the leading drivers of the climate crisis, according to the Carbon Majors Database, which is compiled by world-renowned researchers.

Although governments pledged in Paris to cut greenhouse gases, the analysis reveals that most mega-producers increased their output of fossil fuels and related emissions in the seven years after that climate agreement, compared with the seven years before."

Events

- Apr. 6, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm (CST) - NETWORK- White Supremacy and American Christianity: Moving Towards Beloved Community
- Beginning April 9- NETWORK: 2024 Election Training Series for faith-filled voters
- Apr. 9, 6:00 - 7:00 pm (CST)- Georgetown University: How Will Young People Shape the 2024 Election and the Election Shape Our Future?
- Apr. 13 - Aug. 10- Center for Benedictine Life- Diffusions - Monastic Land Stewardship Series: Caring for the Earth in Troubled Times
- Apr. 23, 1:00 pm (CST)- CWR Academy: How Narrative Drives Change

Human Trafficking

Stop Trafficking Newsletter

March Issue: Fish Products

(Alliance to end Human Trafficking, 03/2024)

"Focus: Fish is a significant source of protein enjoyed by many people globally. This issue looks at how child labor and human trafficking taints fish and fish products."

Stop Trafficking Newsletter

April Issue: The LGBTQ+ Community

(Alliance to end Human Trafficking, 04/2024)

"Focus: This month's newsletters explores human trafficking among the LGBTQ+ community."





A look inside the journey asylum seekers make through Mexico to reach U.S. border

(PBS News, 4/3/2024)

"Apprehensions of migrants at the U.S. southern border reached a record high at the end of last year. But before crossing into the U.S., many in this increasingly global group travel more than 1,500 miles through Mexico.

With producers Sam Weber and Christine Romo, we recently went to Mexico's southern border with Guatemala to report on this desperate journey.

When we met them on this Chiapas, Mexico, roadside, these families, originally from Venezuela, had already been walking for 15 days."



What asylum-seekers face at the U.S. border after a grueling journey through Mexico

(PBS News, 4/4/2024)

"Within minutes of reaching the border wall, Pastor Randy is out of the truck and handing out granola bars and water to a group of men from Bangladesh.

They have been traveling for three months and just arrived at this makeshift border camp. Before long, more arrivals. They're from Guatemala, finding the Samaritans after walking for five hours. The group, including a 5-year-old, had been traveling for a month."

What are the US-Mexico border camps and why are children held there?

(The Guardian 4/4/2024)

"Because processing centres have been overwhelmed, agents have been sending people – including unaccompanied children – to wait at makeshift camps consisting of tents and improvised lean-tos made of tarp, rocks and scavenged wood. Several such camps have arisen along the border between California and Mexico, including one in between two border fences in San Diego and another in a remote mountainous region east of San Diego."

Seeking Racial Justice

Baltimore bridge's collapse is the target of anti-DEI rhetoric

(NPR, 4/4/2024)

"But as the clip of the young, Black mayor's speech circulated online, many critics on the right shifted the focus from the content of Scott's words or the economic and infrastructure implications of a bridge crumbling in a major metropolitan area, to attacks on Scott's race.

Rather than discussing how such a catastrophic collapse could happen, these accounts decried the bridge's failure as a result of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies and zeroed in on Scott's mayorship to blame."



Realities of US racism demand deeper commitment from bishops, say Black Catholics

(NCR, 4/3/2024)

"We live in a country where there are laws banning the discussion of African American history or racism, where in certain school districts Martin Luther King's 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' can't be taught, where voting rights for minorities and poor people are under direct attack," said Fr. Bryan Massingale, a noted theologian at Fordham University."

Personal transformation essential to building liberated society

(Global Sisters Report, 3/1/2024)

"Since we are interconnected and belong to the same community of life, everything we do affects the whole web of life. If I do not attend to my inner work, my ego can slow down the collective's work. When I mess up and miss the mark, doing the inner work allows me to remain connected to and motivated by love instead of getting caught up in an egotistical desire to appear a certain way. My lack of self-care can hurt the collective, especially if I burn out. Alternatively, as I sustain my well-being and heal, I increase my capacity to contribute to the well-being of the whole and continue my efforts to build a more just and equitable society."

Advocacy & Action



Advocates for Immigrant Rights & Reconciliation (AIRR):
Stop SB 172- Protect the American Dream!

*"SB 172 bans land ownership based on citizenship status.
It is about to be voted on in the Kansas Legislature.*

About SB 172: Effectively bans people from owning or leasing land based ONLY on their country of origin: A person from a country deemed as a "foreign adversary" including Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Venezuela would be prohibited from owning or leasing land in Kansas within 100 miles of a military base- which is effectively the entire state.

What can you do? Contact your state legislators and ask them to oppose SB 172 and other anti-immigrant bills. This form will automatically match you to your Legislators to tell them to vote no. Personalize your email to your legislators by using the form below! Adding in a personal story is especially important to show legislators that these are real people messaging them and it isn't just a computerized bulk email."