



THE WEEKLY REVIEW



"We should all know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color."

—Maya Angelou

IN THIS ISSUE:

EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

CURRENT EVENTS

ACTION & ADVOCACY

*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*



Election 2024



**Here's how to register
and vote in Kansas**
(The Beacon)

Cultivate kindness this pre-election season
(Global Sisters Report, 6/18/2024)

"Words that are associated with kind are generous, helpful, thinking about other people's feelings, not causing harm or damage, thoughtful, compassionate, diplomatic, tender, charitable, unselfish, gracious and neighborly. All are ways that one might behave if we truly loved one another as oneself as Jesus taught. Doing acts of kindness generates positive energy and is contagious. We need something like that to dissipate the toxic atmosphere we are currently in."



NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice:
White Supremacy and American Christianity, Part 4
(Just Politics Series)

"NETWORK partner, the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC), released a joint project with the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) detailing Christian nationalism's prominence in the January 6 insurrection. In it, Amanda Taylor of BJC shares, "Christian nationalism is a political ideology and cultural framework that seeks to merge American and Christian identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. Christian nationalism relies on the mythological founding of the United States as a 'Christian nation,' singled out for God's providence in order to fulfill God's purposes on earth. Christian nationalism demands a privileged place for Christianity in public life, buttressed by the active support of government at all levels. Christian nationalism is not Christianity, though it is not accurate to say that Christian nationalism has nothing to do with Christianity. Christian nationalism relies on Christian imagery and language.""

Care of Creation

Northwest dams have devastated the region’s Native tribes, U.S. government acknowledges
(PBS News, 6/18/2024)



Asian American farm collective targets food insecurity: ‘It’s been really healing’
(The Guardian, 6/19/2024)

"Asian Americans in particular are in need of this new kind of food chain. The poverty rate among Asian Americans in the New York metro region has been climbing in recent years; now more than 10% of those living in poverty in the area are Asian American. Many of them are food insecure and rely on nonprofits and mutual aid groups for their meals, but culturally appropriate food – especially fresh produce – is often hard to come by at food banks and pantries in the city. Founded in 2021 at the height of the pandemic, Choy Commons is trying to fill those gaps. Through its wholesale program, Choy Commons sells much of its produce to on-the-ground community groups, who then in turn distribute the foods to needy individuals."

Why Americans of faith need to care about reducing harm to the environment abroad
(Earthbeat, 6/11/2024)

"Those on the front lines of the climate crisis in the Global South have done the least to contribute to the crisis but are bearing the worst of its impacts, leaving them more vulnerable to economic instability, natural disaster, forced migration and conflict. An estimated 26 million people worldwide are falling into poverty every year due to floods, droughts and other extreme weather events."

Human Trafficking

Events

- June 26, 6:00 pm (CST)- Sisters of St. Joseph U.S. Federation: (Virtual) Pride Month Prayer Service



Future of anti-human trafficking bills sought by Catholics unclear amid wider immigration debate

(Global Sisters Report, 6/13/2024)

"The House in February approved the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act with a broad, bipartisan majority. The office of Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., said it includes age-appropriate prevention and education initiatives for elementary and middle schools and funds for survivors' employment, housing and education, among other initiatives. The bill was sent to the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, which has not yet moved to advance it. That legislation also is supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act and its Senate companion, S 255, would shorten the waiting period for asylees to be granted work permits, allowing them to seek employment and reducing their vulnerability to traffickers, supporters said. The USCCB also supports that legislation. The House and Senate versions of that legislation have yet to be taken up by their relevant committees.

The bipartisan Immigration Court Efficiency and Children's Court Act, which supporters say would reduce the immigration court backlog and strengthen due process rights for children in that process, also has yet to be taken up by the House Judiciary Committee."



**When rural communities
welcome immigrants,
everyone wins (Opinion)**

(The Hill, 6/15/2024)

"It is up to rural communities and their leaders to welcome and to help include newcomers. They must account for cultural differences and the vast administrative needs of recent immigrants. They must foster mutual understanding and, critically, must find leaders among the newcomers and listen to them. If they do, they will foster what few thought possible: the reversal of decades of decline."

Federal judge temporarily blocks Iowa's 'illegal reentry' immigration law

(Iowa Public Radio, 6/17/2024)

"The law, approved earlier this year by Republicans in the Iowa Legislature, was scheduled to take effect July 1. It would allow state and local law enforcement to arrest immigrants who were previously deported or denied entry to the U.S. State courts would order them to leave the country.

The U.S. Department of Justice and migrant rights groups filed two separate lawsuits in May seeking to block the law from being enforced,"

Some immigrants celebrate Biden's extension of legal status while others left out

(The Guardian, 6/19/2024)

"Biden announced on Tuesday that his administration will, in the coming months, allow US citizens' spouses without legal status to apply for permanent residency and eventually citizenship without having to first depart the country for up to 10 years. About 500,000 immigrants may benefit, according to senior administration officials.

To qualify, an immigrant must have lived in the United States for 10 years and be married to a US citizen, both as of Monday."

Seeking Racial Justice



Appreciating our enslaved ancestors despite the relics of the Confederacy

(NPR, 6/19/2024)

“So, this week marks the celebration of Juneteenth, which is still a fairly new holiday for me and my family. And all the Juneteenth parties and remembrances reminded me of an article my uncle sent me recently. It’s about a group of Black citizens who filed a federal lawsuit in an attempt to get rid of a Confederate monument in Columbia, N.C., the hometown of my grandfather and his entire family. The 23-foot-high statue sits at the front of the local courthouse with a plaque on the bottom that reads: “IN APPRECIATION OF OUR FAITHFUL SLAVES.””

Rail firm must pay Native American tribe \$400m for illegal crude oil trains

(The Guardian, 6/18/2024)

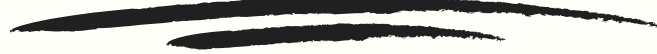
“One of the largest freight railroad networks in North America must pay nearly \$400m to the Swinomish Tribe, a federally recognized tribe located in Washington state, a federal judge ordered on Monday. Last year, US district judge Robert Lasnik ruled that BNSF Railway intentionally trespassed when it repeatedly ran 100-car trains carrying crude oil across the tribe’s reservation. Lasnik held a trial earlier this month to determine how much in profits BNSF had made from trespassing from 2012 to 2021, and how much of the company should be required to repay to the Indigenous group. Lasnik put that figure at \$362m and added \$32m in post-tax profits such as investment income for a total of more than \$394m.”

Investigation reveals how universities profit off land taken from Indigenous people

(PBS News, 6/18/2024)

“The report laid out that expropriated indigenous land is the foundation of the land grant university system and that 10.7 million acres were taken from nearly 250 tribes. The land grant university system was established under the Morrill Act and signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln. The act enabled states to establish public colleges through the development or sale of lands granted to them by the federal government; 14 universities continue to generate revenue from lands retained under the Morrill Act. Most of them offer funding for Native American undergraduates, including free tuition, but it may not be enough.”

Advocacy & Action



Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns:

Tell Pres. Biden to Reverse Asylum Executive Order

"President Biden announced a new executive order today, June 4, that would close the U.S.-Mexico border under certain circumstances and prevent people from seeking asylum, turning away adults and families with children, after an arbitrary daily encounters limit has been met.

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns Director Susan Gunn had this to say:

Today, President Biden caused more damage to our already broken immigration system by announcing a plan to temporarily shut off access to the U.S.-Mexico border and restrict asylum for immigrants. Maryknoll missionaries are on the U.S. southern border welcoming and assisting asylum-seekers in their pursuit for safety and lives with dignity. We firmly believe that President Biden's executive order does not live up to the United States' values and legal obligations to people seeking asylum. The return of those seeking asylum to a place where their lives or freedom are threatened is not only inhumane, but also violates U.S. legal obligations under the Refugee Convention. We strongly urge the president to reverse the executive order and adopt solutions that uphold human life and dignity and benefit the common good, in particular by expanding access to legal immigration pathways and parole."