



Shalom News North America

An instrument of hope, formation, and action concerning priority matters of social justice.

November 2014



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Human Life, Dignity, and Economic Justice

Central Americans Returned to Danger

The new Human Rights Watch (HRW) report *You Don't Have Rights Here* finds that the US is sending Central Americans back to the risk of serious harm. Based on interviews with deported migrants and asylum seekers as well as analysis of CBP data, HRW reports there are serious gaps in US protections for asylum seekers. They call for the Obama administration to stop fast-tracking Central American migrants for deportation and reverse its decision to expand the detention of migrant families. [Learn more](#), [take action](#).

CIW Launches Fair Food Label

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) has officially released a Fair Food label to help shoppers identify which tomatoes come from ethical farms. The label is available to all grocery stores and restaurants that participate in the [Fair Food Program](#). Participants in the Program pay a small premium when they buy Florida tomatoes, with the premium going to increase wages for farmworkers. They also commit to a worker-created Code of Conduct to ensure safe working conditions and prevent forced labor, sexual harassment, and child labor in the fields. The *Washington Post* calls the Fair Food Program “one of the great human rights success stories of our day.” [Learn more](#).

For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food

Issued on November 12, 2003 by the USCCB, [this document](#) reminds us that “the presence of so much hunger and poverty in our communities, nation, and around the world is a grave moral scandal. The primary goals of agricultural policies should be providing food for all people and reducing poverty among farmers and farmworkers in this country and abroad.” Read more about poverty in the [US](#) and [Canada](#). Consider reflecting on this [women in poverty infographic](#) and [this UNICEF report](#) on child poverty.

Child Labor Around the World

The latest edition of the *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* report assesses efforts by more

than 140 countries to reduce the worst forms of child labor and suggests actions they can take to eliminate child labor. “This report shines a light on the estimated 168 million children around the world who toil in the shadows – crawling underground in mine shafts, sewing in textile factories or serving in households as domestic workers,” said US Secretary of Labor Perez. [Learn more](#). Relatedly, the labor ministers and representatives of 25 Latin American and Caribbean countries recently signed a declaration launching an initiative to rid the region of child labor. [Learn more](#).

November 20 is Universal Children's Day

Universal Children's Day marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the [Declaration](#) (in 1959) and the [Convention](#) on children's rights (in 1989). This year's Nobel Prize for Peace recognizes two individuals for their work in promoting children's rights. Learn more about [Kailash Satyarti](#) of India and [Malala Yousafzai](#) of Pakistan.

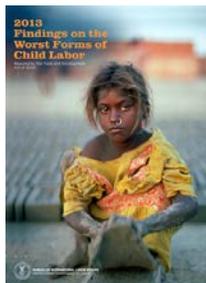


Buy Nothing Day – November 29

The day after Thanksgiving (US) is one of the biggest shopping days of the year. Many stores vie to see who can open the earliest and offer the most attractive deals on what you absolutely need to have this year. Buy Nothing Day is an opportunity to challenge our entrenched consumer culture, one person at a time. [Learn more/take action](#).

World AIDS Day – December 1

As of 2013, AIDS has killed more than 36 million people worldwide. An estimated 35.3 million people are living with HIV, making it one of the most important global [public health](#) issues in [recorded history](#). Despite recent improved access to [antiretroviral treatment](#) in many regions of the world, the AIDS epidemic claims an estimated 2 million lives each year, of which about 270,000 are children. Called to respond to the crises of our time, we invite you to [learn more/take action](#).



Integrity of Creation

Earth Has Lost Half Its Wildlife in Past 40 Years

A [new report](#) from Britain's World Wildlife Fund says the planet has lost *half* its wild animals since 1970,

according to a deeply troubling analysis of 10,000 different populations of mammals, fishes, and birds. The causes of the decline are the usual ones -- mainly

44 percent habitat loss and destruction, 37 percent "exploitation," and 7 percent climate change. The fastest declines were found in freshwater ecosystems, where numbers have plummeted by 75 percent since 1970. While the losses are staggering, the US Endangered Species Act provides some hope: more than 90 percent of all species protected by the Act have staved off extinction, and hundreds are on the path toward recovery. [Learn more.](#)



117 million Americans and safe habitat for other living beings. [Learn more](#), [send a message](#) of support.

Patron of Those Who Promote Ecology

On November 29, 1979 Pope John Paul II named Saint Francis of Assisi the "heavenly patron of those who promote ecology."

Francis possessed a passionate and sensory love of all creation as God's handiwork. On this 35th anniversary of this significant event,

let us consider [deepening our understanding](#) of what it means to call St. Francis the patron of ecology, and to explore our responsibility to care for creation as its stewards. Resources for [individual](#), [group](#) reflection.

Small Farmers – the World's Main Food Producers

A [new study](#) by the non-profit organization GRAIN reports that small farmers are the world's main food producers and they do it on a quarter of the land of large farms. Catholic Rural Life supports efforts to put land back in the hands of proprietary farmers and make the struggle for agrarian reform central to the push for better food systems. It's timely to do so during this [International Year of the Family Farmer](#).

Protect America's Water

Forty years ago two-thirds of America's lakes, rivers, and coastal waters were unsafe for fishing and swimming. Because of the Clean Water Act, that number has since been cut in half. However, one-third of our nation's waters are still in trouble. The Obama administration has proposed a new protection to clarify which wetlands and streams in the U.S. are covered under the Clean Water Act. This proposal will finally restore protections, as originally intended, to almost all of the nation's fresh waters -- ensuring safe drinking water for



Advent in the New Universe Story - Resource

S. Terri MacKenzie (SHCJ) invites you to consider a four week Advent reflection to deepen your understanding of the Christmas/ Incarnation reality in the context of the New Universe Story. The reflection combines a focus on Christianity within the new scientific understanding of the world with a practical concern for Earth. [Download Advent reflection.](#)

OurVoices Campaign

In follow-up to the [People's Climate March](#), you are invited to consider joining the *OurVoices Campaign*, a multi-faith international campaign calling for a strong climate treaty at the [Paris 2015 Climate Summit](#). As people of faith, we believe that climate change is a moral issue that requires our immediate and sustained attention. [Learn more/take action.](#)

Peace and Non-Violence

Reflecting on Veterans Day/Remembrance Day

On November 11 we take time to honor veterans and thank them for their sacrifices. While the parades and speeches are memorable in many ways, honoring veterans should also include advocacy for sufficient care and ongoing support for veterans coming home with injured bodies and traumatized spirits. Honoring veterans also compels us to question the reasons for and purpose of military interventions in other countries. [Reflection resource.](#)



Is Tolerance Enough?

November 16 is the [International Day of Tolerance](#), an invitation extended to member states since 1996 by the UN General Assembly. To tolerate means to accept or endure with patience or resignation. Can we move beyond that limited definition toward greater willingness to understand differences of opinion or

lifestyle, greater acceptance of those differences as opportunities rather than obstacles, greater collaboration on common ground issues on which we might agree? How can we move beyond tolerance?

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

From November 25, the [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#), to December 10, [Human Rights Day](#), the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. This year, the UN Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women invites you to "Orange Your Neighbourhood." Take the UNiTE campaign to local streets, shops, and businesses, and organize "Orange Events" in your own neighborhoods. [Learn more/take action.](#)

