



February 22... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

While Pope Francis didn't step foot in El Paso on Wednesday, his presence was widely felt across the city, and the pontiff even paused during his Mass in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, to acknowledge the symbiotic relationship between the two border communities. Thousands of people from El Paso as well as other parts of the U.S. made the short trip over the bridges that link the cities to go to an outdoor Mass that was attended by more than 200,000 people. Before the start of his Mass, Francis walked up a specially built platform next to the Rio Grande, which separates the two countries. He made the sign of the cross and blessed a group of about 500 people, including immigrants and refugees, a few yards away on the U.S. side. Francis also offered a silent prayer for the thousands of immigrants who have died while trying to reach the U.S. Angelica Ortiz, one of the immigrants who was invited to be on the U.S. side and witness the pope's prayer, fled Juarez after drug traffickers threatened her son. She now lives in El Paso after being granted asylum with the help of a local migrant assistance group. People wildly applauded when Francis thanked "brothers and sisters from El Paso for making us feel like one family and the same Christian community. Thanks to the help of technology, we can pray, sing and celebrate together this merciful love which the Lord gives us, and which no frontier can prevent us from sharing," he said.

(Adapted from US News)

Action One: Prayer

Gracious God, there are many in your world today who have been forced from their homes by persecution and violence. Keep them in your constant care, and bring them to a place of safety. Be the Good Shepherd to refugees who are in flight. Be the Loving Father to refugees who have lost home and loved ones. Lead and protect them, be their healer and hiding place. Help us welcome all who seek protection and new hope among us.

(Adapted from Lutheran Refugee & Immigration Services, LIRS.org)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

Ask President Obama & Congress to Commit to Humane Policies that Respond to Realities of Migration:

https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50887//p/dia/action3/common/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=17128

Stop Private Prisons from Abusing Immigrants:

https://action.aclu.org/secure/stopCARprisons2?redirect=stopCARprisons2FB&ms=FB_160201_massincarceration_immigrantrights_CARprisons

Tell Congress to Oppose the Harmful TPP Trade Agreement: <https://act.openmedia.org/finalbattle?src=RA>

Sign-On Letter from Ignatian Solidarity Network asking Congress to commit to humane immigration

policies: <http://ignatiansolidarity.net/pope2border/#letter>

President Obama: Stop the Raids! http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/president-obama-stop-59?source=s.fb&r_by=326945

Call the White House at 1-866-961-4293 or the White House Comment Line directly at 1-888-907-2053:

Sample Script: *"I am from City, State, and as a Catholic/person of faith, I urge President Obama to immediately STOP plans to deport Central American children and families. These individuals are refugees fleeing violence and should have access to legal counsel so that they can apply for asylum and protection in the United States."*

Stop the Deportation Raids against Central American Refugees:

http://act.presente.org/sign/stopraids/?referring_akid=a4843200.106609.eryTc6&source=copy_thanks_email

Tell the Administration to Stop the Raids: <http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-the-obama-administration-stop-the-raids-on-central-american-refugees>

Tell Obama to Call off the Raids against Immigrant Families: https://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/tell-president-obama-to-call-off-raids-against-immigrant-families?sp_ref=167551883.4.136309.o.1.2&source=clickcopy_sp

Action Three: Education

At Border Mass, Pope Delivers Stinging Critique: <http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/17/world/pope-francis-border-mass/>

Suburban Chicago Church Grapples with Deportations: <http://www.wbez.org/news/amid-deportation-push-suburban-church-grapples-loss-114845>

Pope to Confront Violence, Immigration in Mexico: <http://www.rep-am.com/articles/2016/02/09/news/national/938097.txt>

The US Has Created Its Own Refugee Crisis – One We Created & Now Must Solve: <http://www.thenation.com/article/the-us-has-its-own-refugee-crisis-one-we-created-and-now-must-solve/>

Pope Francis: One More International Observer for Human Rights in Mexico: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/daniella-burgipalomino/pope-francis-one-more-int_b_9220812.html

What You Should Know About Religious Discrimination: http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/wysk/religion_national_origin_2016.cfm

Action Four: Events/Resources

Resources on Pope Francis' Trip to the Border this Month: <http://ignatiansolidarity.net/pope2border/>

Sign Up for NETWORK's Lenten Resources: <http://networklobby.org/lent>

See Presidential Candidates' Stance on Immigration: https://ballotpedia.org/2016_presidential_candidates_on_immigration

CLINIC Webinar – How to Help Central American Women & Children – Feb.25th at 1pm CST

Register here: <http://cliniclegal.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d1e29c8d7ab34d84237ecd8ee&id=d9b91794d1&e=87c044323d>

IIC Lenten Resources: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/2015/06/05/religious-holiday-resources/>

ICIRR Hotline – Call if you need information on your case or are facing deportation [1-855-435-7693]

Know Your Rights Resources: <https://afsc.org/category/topic/know-your-rights>

Action Five: Social Media

Twitter: Access your member of Congress' twitter handle at <http://stuffthought.com/blog/113th-congress-twitter-handles/>

Sample Tweet: .@WhiteHouse As a person of faith I am OPPOSED to your plans to deport Central American kids and families who need PROTECTION. #Not1More

@DHSgov @POTUS Children are fleeing violence, we must protect them not deport them

#ProtectionNotDeportation #RefugeNotRaids #WeAreOneFamily

Thank you for your efforts!