



Where Justice and Truth Meet

December 2013



On this mountain the God will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food and choice wines, juicy rich food and pure choice wines. On this mountain God will destroy the veil that veils all peoples...

Is. 25: 6

The promise of this Advent scripture longs to be fulfilled as so many in our world, in our country, and even in our own hometowns and cities continue to suffer from hunger.

On Tuesday, December 10, Pope Francis will launch a worldwide movement to respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our midst by praying and acting to end hunger. At noon local time, a global wave of prayer will begin in Tonga and will progress around the world until it reaches American Samoa some 24 hours and 164 countries later. Pledge to pray at 12 noon local time!

The prayer and action kicks off Caritas Internationalis' Campaign **One Human Family, Food for All** to raise awareness and encourage action that addresses U.S. and international hunger. Join Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, and Caritas Internationalis efforts to end hunger around the globe.

Suggested Prayer and Reflection Resources:

Explore the [NETWORK toolkit](#) designed to help you and your community further engage this beautiful opportunity for solidarity.

Resources from Bread for the World:
<http://www.bread.org/help/church/worship/prayers/>

Resources from Catholic Charities USA:
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/115625853/Reflection-On-Poverty-and-Hunger>

Pledge your prayerful participation for the campaign kickoff: <http://tinyurl.com/o9q57tw>

A Church for the Poor

Pope Francis has pointed to the scandal of poverty in a world of plenty as a piercing moral challenge for the church and the whole human community. Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy, auxiliary bishop of San Francisco, explores this in the context of the culture and politics of the U.S. He notes a needed transformation reflecting three themes: prioritizing the issue of poverty, focusing not only on intrinsic evils but also on structural sin, and acting with prudence when applying Catholic moral principles to specific legal enactments.

<http://americamagazine.org/church-poor>

Faiths Calling: for an end to gun violence

ONE YEAR LATER...

We call on lawmakers and say: Enough pain. Enough despair. Enough injustice. Enough inaction. In light of the one year anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy, and in memory of the thousands of Americans kill by gun violence in our country every year, we can and must transform or grief into action.

As the one-year anniversary of the Newtown tragedy approaches on December 14, we are invited to add our voices to the chorus of others from diverse backgrounds and faith traditions who have spoken out to end gun violence. [Faiths Calling](#) is an interfaith movement to call our Senators and tell them that we are committed to stopping the rampant gun violence problem plaguing our communities. We want them to hear that in memory of the children of Sandy Hook and the thousands of Americans killed every year by gun violence, we cannot afford inaction any longer.





As we prepare to recall the Christmas story, a narrative that includes forced migration from political violence, we remember the many families around the world and perhaps in our own neighborhoods who journey in search of a better life.

The love that binds us is stronger than borders that divide us.

“[Wake Me Up](#)” tells the story of one family whose dream to be together confronts the nightmare of US immigration policy. Inspired by 11 million true stories, this four-and-a-half-minute video is a testament to the simple fact: *the love that binds us is stronger than borders that divide us.*

Immigration Reform – hope on the horizon?

Having just celebrated the season of Thanksgiving and being grateful for the labors of all, it seems appropriate to provide an update on the immigration issue which affects so many workers.

Movement of Legislation

It’s very hard to tell if immigration reform is going to move forward in the House anytime soon. Speaker Boehner is very reluctant to bring anything to the floor this year. One [hopeful sign](#) came this week as Speaker Boehner hired a long-time immigration specialist, Becky Tallent to advise him. Tallent, director of immigration policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center, is a former aide to Republican Senator John McCain, a key sponsor of bipartisan legislation that passed the Senate in June and that included a pathway to citizenship for the approximately 11 million undocumented residents in the U.S.

Other Republicans have been hard at work trying to interest their colleagues in becoming sponsors of HR 15. To date the bill, HR 15 - Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, has 191 co-sponsors—188 Ds and 3Rs—just barely enough to enable the bill to be labeled bi-partisan.

House Resolution 15

While not perfect, this is a good bill. It is the only comprehensive piece of legislation being proposed and is very similar to S.744. However, the border security section is an improvement over the Corker-Hoeven amendment that made it into the Senate bill.

Below are the representatives from districts where our sisters live. If your representative is listed, please call and thank him/her for being a leader on immigration reform and for endorsing H.R. 15. If your representative is not listed, please call and urge her/him to do the right thing for America and our immigrant brothers and sisters—co-sponsor HR 15! You can call the House switchboard at **(202) 224-3121**.

Illinois

- Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5] *
- Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11] *
- Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2] *
- Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]
- Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]
- Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]



Maryland

- Rep. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD-8] *

* = Original co-sponsor

<http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/house-bill/15/cosponsors>

The message on immigration reform continues to be:

1. That it includes a path to citizenship;
2. The final product be comprehensive;
3. The U.S. public supports it;
4. No to the S.A.F.E. Act (further militarizes our borders and criminalizes those who help immigrants);
5. And most URGENT: *the suffering must end!*



Migrants and Refugees: Towards a Better World – January 19, 2014

Pope Francis has chosen the theme [Migrants and Refugees:](#)

[Towards a Better World](#) for World Day of Migrants and Refugees in response to the growing interdependence and interaction of countries on a global level trying to improve the living conditions for humanity. Pope Francis calls on us, in our efforts to make a better world, to aim to create “authentic and integral development, ... to provide dignified living conditions for everyone, ... to find just responses to the needs of individuals and families, and ... ensure that God’s gift of creation is respected, safeguarded and cultivated.” He also encourages migrants and refugees to “never lose hope...of a more secure future, ... encountering an outstretched hand, ... experiencing fraternal solidarity and the warmth of friendship!”