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**October 16, 2017**

**CALENDAR**

**2017**

**Month of October** Respect Life Month

**October 16** World Food Day

**October 17** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

**December 2** Anniversary of the El Salvadorian Martyrs

**2018**

**January 23** Walk for Life

**TAKING ACTION**

**Fires in Northern California**

It seems that Mother Nature is on a rampage. The devastation is unimaginable. Could it be another sign of Climate Change? Our brothers and sisters in Northern California, in Orange County and in other places on the West Coast are suffering the loss of everything they ever saved for or cherished. Unfortunately some have lost their lives. Please help by donating to the Red Cross or to Santa Rosa Catholic Charities.

For the Red Cross:

See attached form

or

For Santa Rosa Catholic Charities:

[DONATE here](https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/CatholicCharitiesSantaRosa/donate) at [www.srcharities.org](http://www.srcharities.org/) or mail a check to PO Box 4900 Santa Rosa, 95402. You can also make financial donations over the phone by calling Pamela Swan at 707-479-7140. Please specify Community Recovery when you make your gift.

**INFORMATION/REFLECTION**

At any moment the vast and horrible thing may break in through the crack: fire, pestilence, storms, earthquakes, or the unleashing of dark moral forces—these callously sweep away in one moment what we had laboriously built up and beautified with all our intelligence and all our love.

Since my human dignity, O God, forbids me to close my eyes to this . . . **teach me to adore it by** **seeing you concealed within it.** Teihard De Chardin

**California’s Religious Freedom Act SB 31**

In Governor Brown’s 2017 State of the State Address, he affirmed that, “It is that spirit of perseverance and courage which built our state from the beginning. And it is that spirit which will get us through the great uncertainty and the difficulties ahead.”

Governor Brown signed SB 31 that will prevent a state or local agency, or a public employee from participating in a federal program to create a database based on a person’s religious beliefs, practices or affiliations, national origin, or ethnicity, for law enforcement or immigration purposes. It will also prevent state and local law enforcement agencies from collecting information on the religious beliefs, practices, or affiliations of an individual.

**More than 23 major brands and retailers pledge for 100 percent sustainable cotton by 2025**

During the annual Textile Exchange Sustainability Conference, 23 of the world’s most renowned clothing and textile companies, including Burberry, Adidas, Timberland, ASOS and Levi’s pledged to use 100 percent sustainable cotton by 2025.

**RESOURCES**

* **Watch the 4 min. video on the** [Consistent Ethic of Life](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=id1eqtw79o4)**by Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange**
* **Learn:  The U.S. –** [highest numbers of executions](http://www.criminaljusticedegreesguide.com/features/10-countries-that-still-embrace-capital-punishment.html) **every year -** [19 states](https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/states-and-without-death-penalty) **without death penalty**
* **Take action:** [Pledge to end death penalty](https://catholicsmobilizing.org/action/pledge)

There are 20 women in Chowchilla on Death Row -  [write to an inmate and offer her prayers](%E2%80%A2%09https%3A/deathpenaltyinfo.org/case-summaries-current-female-death-row-inmates) and support to end the death penalty:  Chowchilla Death Row –  P.O. Box 1508, Chowchilla, CA 93610

**Write** a [letter to your governor](https://catholicsmobilizing.org/action/2017-04/tell-governor-no-death-penalty)