****

**December 11, 2017**

**CALENDAR**

**Save the date**

December 18 International Migrants Day

December 20 International Human solidarity Day

2018

January 1 World Day of Peace

January 8-17 National Migration Week

January 13 Walk for Freedom

**TAKING ACTION**

**Climate Change and Fire**

We returned yesterday after being evacuated four days because of the fire danger in our area. Our Center and University were spared but thousands of people who were also under mandatory evacuation orders were not as fortunate as ourselves to have a community who could take us in to their homes. Hundreds have lost everything. The tragedy of fire also killed many horses, domestic and farm animals as well as wild life.

The winds fanning the fires were the largest ever recorded here in Southern California and this was the longest fire season on record, one that is predicted to continue through winter. We are getting no rain.

Meanwhile the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) is syntactically cutting those laws that were put in place to protect the climate. Please write to President Trump to voice your concern that his administration is systematically cutting laws put into place to protect the environment. Please copy the attached letter, make it your own and send it to the President.

**INFORMATION/REFLECTION**

Joseph faithfully did whatever he was given to do.

Sometimes we wonder, Why this? Why me?

But it has got to be done, and I am the one to do it, so I do it.

*From Little Blue Book*

**Phoenix Open golf tournament thrives in sustainability efforts**

The 2017 Waste Management Phoenix Open in Arizona has become the first golf tournament in the world to be recognized by the Scottish Golf Environmental Organization for its impressive sustainability performance.

**United States Institute of Peace**

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) is an American [non-partisan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nonpartisan_(American_organizations)), independent, [federal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States) institution that provides analysis of and is involved in conflicts around the world. The Institute was established by an act of [U.S. Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Congress) that was signed into law by President [Ronald Reagan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Reagan) in 1984.

Since 2008, USIP’s Academy has trained more than 5,000 peacekeepers in core conflict management skills.

*“Peacekeepers use conflict management skills—****communication, analysis, negotiation, and mediation****—in a range of settings. Utilizing these skills allows them to accomplish mission-related tasks and to protect civilians.”*

Click on the red box below for more information

****

**RESOURCES**

**The following stories highlight Church leaders’ words and work around recent current events.**

* [**U.S. Bishops’ Chairmen Express Disappointment with U.S. Government Withdrawal from UN’s Process to Develop a Global Compact on Migration**](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=c39ced5837&e=00839b1b92)
* [**Congress Must Change Fundamentally Flawed Tax Policies in Final Bill, Says U.S. Bishops Chairman**](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=ca5dd56e1a&e=00839b1b92)
* [**U.S. Catholic Bishops’ Chairman of International Justice and Peace and President of Catholic Relief Services Urge Continued Funding of U.S and Global HIV/AIDS Programs**](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=bbef9c6bce&e=00839b1b92)
* [**Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking Advocate for Slave-Free Seafood Label**](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=97505672e8&e=00839b1b92)