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**March 11, 2019**

**Fasting*, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts.*Prayer*, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy.*Almsgiving*, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us****. (From Catholic Climate Covenant)*

**CALENDAR**

***March***

***Women’s History Month***

**March 19 St. Joseph’s Day**

**March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

***April***

**April 22 Earth Day**

**TAKING ACTION**

***Please Watch Making Bricks out of Ashes***

Majd Mashharawi was walking through her war-torn neighborhood in Gaza when an idea flashed in her mind: What if she could take the rubble and transform it into building materials? See how she designed a brick made out of ashes that's helping people rebuild their homes -- and learn about her new project: bringing solar-powered energy to families living in darkness.

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| [Watch now »](https://ted.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=07487d1456302a286cf9c4ccc&id=bb0be3c398&e=21df47c728) |
|  |

***What you can do in response:***

The Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act (ATCA) signed into law in October 2018 effectively stops US humanitarian assistance to Palestinians. It imposes new conditions on foreign governments receiving U.S. economic assistance. Until those conditions are removed, USAID programs in the Palestinian Territories have closed and NGOs will no longer be able to receive vital funding for education, healthcare, job training, and other social programs.   
[**Contact your member of congress today and tell them to amend the ATCA to remove these restrictive conditions.**](http://www.capwiz.com/pcusa/issues/alert/?alertid=80611821&type=CO)

***Unconstitutional National Emergency***

Last month, the President declared a national emergency to circumvent Congress and the U.S. Constitution to expand a **harmful and immoral border wall.** The only crisis at our southern border is the **humanitarian and moral crisis** manufactured by this administration. The administration has separated children from their families, undermined child and asylum protections, and fueled the militarization of border communities. Instead of focusing on real immediate threats to our communities, this administration **wrongfully threatens our democracy, expands family separation, and** **militarizes our neighborhoods**. The House already voted to terminate the national emergency, and now we need the Senate to do the same.

[**Click Here**](https://cwsglobal.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b322893ff2e4d67c3be90abe&id=b90cf02504&e=5a3f1a5b02) **to Tell Congress to Oppose the Immoral, Unconstitutional National Emergency**  
\*You will receive a phone call that connects you to your 2 Senators.

 On February 1, the Trump Administration proposed a rule that would restrict states’ flexibility to provide nutrition assistance to people who struggle to put food on the table. ***In effect, this rule will eliminate Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for 755,000 unemployed and underemployed adults and amount to $15 billion in SNAP cuts over 10 years.*** The proposed rule would have a devastating impact on women and families who rely on SNAP for basic food assistance while they are working or between jobs. Regardless of negative stereotypes, taking away food assistance will not help people find and maintain work.

***SNAP***

In December, Congress passed the 2018 Farm Bill, rejecting these same changes to SNAP. Members of Congress rightly saw that these changes to the SNAP program were punitive and contrary to the aims of the program. ***This new rule is an attempt to circumvent the will of Congress on food policy.***

The proposed rule is currently ***open for public comment until April 2, 2019***. You have the right to submit a comment to the USDA letting them know that this rule is bad for workers and a bad way to make public policy.

Make sure to prepare your comment and then visit the [federal register comments page](http://capwiz.com/pcusa/utr/1/GRJWBBWCJJU/MPJUBBWCMIN/11821008551).

**INFORMATION**

***-General*** [***Omar N. Bradley***](https://default.salsalabs.org/T44e11447-71cf-4163-ad6a-b2adc36d7b24/9e4dca38-c7e4-4a43-9dba-f75e0c3b115a)***'s Armistice Day speech, 1948***

"With the monstrous weapons man already has, humanity is in danger of being trapped in this world by its moral adolescents. Our knowledge of science has clearly outstripped our capacity to control it. We have many men of science; too few men of God. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. Man is stumbling blindly through a spiritual darkness while toying with the precarious secrets of life and death. The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living."

[***UN calls for safe haven for Rohingya refugees fleeing conflict***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/llzdCCjbkDDhadjWCieHdeCicNLYOl?format=multipart)

The United Nations last week highlighted the importance of offering safe haven to refugees who are fleeing conflict or persecution in their home countries, noting the generosity the people of Bangladesh have shown to Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque told the UN Security Council that none of the Rohingya refugees have indicated a willingness to return to Myanmar, asserting the situation has moved from "bad to worse."

**RESOURCES**

***Migration***

Great Resource and teaching on migration  by The Ignatian Solidarity Network which includes Ignatian Examen on Migration.  [**virtual IFTJ recording and accompanying resources**](https://clicktime.symantec.com/3SiPBtqeLevv5eGon1GKjcj7Vc?u=https%3A%2F%2Fignatiansolidarity.us3.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D8e141d38e4bb12b990251e274%26id%3Db8a37467ba%26e%3Dfbd8c87140)

***UN***

* [**UN chief calls for restraint as India-Pakistan tensions escalate**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/llzdCCjbkDDhadlKCieHdeCicNefvf?format=multipart)    The Express Tribune (Pakistan)

* **[UN officials urge halt to violence in Venezuela](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/llzdCCjbkDDhadlLCieHdeCicNpXHI?format=multipart" \t "_blank)**    ABC News

* **[President Trump nominates US ambassador to Canada for UN post](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/llzdCCjbkDDhadlOCieHdeCicNoYNI?format=multipart" \t "_blank)**    The Chronicle-Herald (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

* **[UN chief lauds Pakistan's release of Indian pilot, urges de-escalation](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/llzdCCjbkDDhadlPCieHdeCicNpIZb?format=multipart" \t "_blank)**    Evening Standard (London)

* **[France, Germany to reveal plans for "twinned" UNSC presidency](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/llzdCCjbkDDhadlQCieHdeCicNrNHc?format=multipart" \t "_blank)**    Xinhua News Agency (China)