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**April 8, 2019**

***“It begins with the ashes, but eventually leads us to the fire of Easter night . . . If we, with our weaknesses, return to the Lord, if we take the path of love, then we will embrace the life that never ends. And surely we will be full of joy.”***

- Pope Francis, [Homily at Ash Wednesday Mass](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=222182d0c4&e=3a5fc3789d)

***April***

**April 7-13 National Crime Victim’s Rights Week**

**April 7 Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide**

**April 20-28 National Parks Week**

**April 21 Easter Sunday**

**April 22 Earth Day**

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**TAKING ACTION**

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***Born Alive Protection Act***

We are saddened and shocked by state legislatures proposing and even passing laws to expand abortion AND to **repeal laws providing specific protections** for babies who live through an attempted abortion. The Born-Alive Act would provide specific protections nationwide to help prevent newborns from being killed or left alone to die.

Defenders of abortion will not bring the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to a vote in the US House of Representatives. This is deeply unfair.

We need your help to [urge your Representative to sign a petition](https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/es6P3kJAab53hwVFaksN2g), beginning on April 2nd, that would allow this vote to occur.

***Clean Water***

Clean water is both a fundamental spiritual and physical need. Water, with its connective and restorative properties, helps us connect with God's creation and helps sustain us. Join the faithful around the country as they proclaim the wonders of God's waters by submitting prayers (LINK: <http://www.nrpe.org/water.html>) to the Environmental Protection Agency as it considers rolling back the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

In December 2018, the Environmental Protection Agency released its proposal to cut back federal clean water safeguards. These changes would impact drinking water, wetlands and millions of miles of streams.

Join senior religious leaders, clergy and lay leaders as we submit prayers to EPA (LINK: <http://www.nrpe.org/water.html>) urging the agency to uphold its mission to protect human health and clean water. The proposed "Definition of the Waters of the United States" rule from EPA would:

* Put the drinking water sources of millions of Americans at risk
* Pollute God's rivers, lakes and streams where we swim, boat, recreate and fish
* Destroy wetlands that protect our communities from flooding.

Click here (<http://www.nrpe.org/water.html>) to submit your prayer by April 15.

***No Ban Act***

The administration has repeatedly attacked refugees, asylum seekers, and our Muslim neighbors. Through a series of refugee, asylum, and Muslim bans, the administration has prolonged family separation, undermined our moral and legal obligations to the most vulnerable, and discriminated against people based of their faith or nationality.

**Call Today: Tell Your Members of Congress to Cosponsor the NO BAN Act.**Call the Capitol switchboard (202) 224-3121. Call three times to be connected to your 2 Senators and 1 Representative.

**Sample Script:** “I’m your constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and, as a person of faith, I urge you to stand against hate and cosponsor the NO BAN Act. This bill would ensure that no one is banned from our country based on religious or nationality-based discrimination. In the last two years, the administration has repeatedly tried to ban refugees, asylum seekers, our Muslim neighbors, and other vulnerable populations. My community is still feeling the negative impact these immoral and wrongful bans that continue to tear apart families. No one should be blocked from entering the country just because of their faith tradition or where they come from. I call on you to protect our Muslim, refugee, and asylum seeking neighbors and support the NO BAN Act today.”

1. **Faith Leaders:** [Click here](https://cwsglobal.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b322893ff2e4d67c3be90abe&id=f6cd27c069&e=5a3f1a5b02) to sign on by Tuesday, April 9th to an important faith letter urging Member of Congress to cosponsor the NO BAN Act.
2. **Sign the Petition:** [Click here](https://cwsglobal.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b322893ff2e4d67c3be90abe&id=074984bf12&e=5a3f1a5b02) to join people of faith, urging their Members of Congress to support the NO BAN Act, protect religious freedom, and stand against discrimination.

**For more information about the NO BAN Act, please visit:** [**repealtheban.org**](https://cwsglobal.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5b322893ff2e4d67c3be90abe&id=67ce81d5a3&e=5a3f1a5b02)**.**

***Automakers keep making things worse for the environment, for the economy, and for US workers.*** First they asked President Trump to weaken the clean car standards, which have cut global warming emissions, saved consumers money at the gas pump, and created thousands of jobs here in the United States. Now automakers are closing plants and getting rid of previously existing US jobs, too.

This is unacceptable. [**Add your voice in solidarity with US auto workers—demand good jobs and cleaner cars.**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/5822122/51554470/-1314553408?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9VQ1MvVUNTLzEvNTgwOTciLA0KICAiRGlzdHJpYnV0aW9uVW5pcXVlSWQiOiAiMzg4OWFkMWQtNDY1Ni1lOTExLWI0OWUtMjgxODc4NGRiNjBlIiwNCiAgIkVtYWlsQWRkcmVzcyI6ICJkc21pdGhAY3NqbGEub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=8irLPgGI9ou0o77H-4TfKE2AGn1eKS37L7iFaP_Udn8=&emci=dd261546-4b55-e911-b49e-2818784db60e&emdi=3889ad1d-4656-e911-b49e-2818784db60e&ceid=536451&contactdata=53BTq3bJtD167s6RUGavD3ujAIP9vkOqNgpu%2FmFqtrM0vFUaZiVpqM0paUVi799RBllkvTWL2QqsSxOZ5Yt%2FM0%2FK%2FEfBJZ6H5xotxFAzvc1N3b%2FisBvgIh77TZ5qMNcx57cBvXQ%2Flr1s2MUuLktVlu3FPPk%2FmUX0HyT1LGX86dRG1LiYt0wl%2FjF0CtyZAhn%2F)

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***INFORMATION/RESOURCES***

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***April 11 Webinar Looks at ‘Sowing Seeds of Hope: Listening to the Cry of the Earth, Poor’***

The UISG (International Union of Superiors General) will sponsor a webinar, “Sowing Seeds of Hope for the Planet,” on Thursday, April 11 at 12 noon Pacific time. The webinar will provide engaging experiences which have integrated responses to the Earth and the poor and bring to light common responses *from Laudato Si*. It will also develop connections among women religious worldwide. To register, contact: <https://www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org/>

[***UN warns health sites' lack of water could drive superbug increase***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lrsDCCjbkDDhhdgfCieHdeCicNOcDM?format=multipart)

Approximately two billion people around the world rely on health care facilities that lack access to clean water and sanitation, a situation that increases the chances of deadly superbugs developing, according to UNICEF and the World Health Organization. "A health care facility without water is not really a health care facility," says UNICEF statistician Tom Slaymaker.

***Report Examines Effect of Medicaid Work Requirements on Hospitals***
A [new report](http://send.chausa.org/link.cfm?r=DfL_bcLz5SuMk6oodLGSQw~~&pe=zH4DDFfy-mqhbl3D8YHAD6fSeKEJJp751Ayai6VAls6KstLGYlCANp4Kl5VMhUGZWDoI8tJ8whe17VUJeBrhVg~~&t=ZQ3L_2gty5VX841Mfhx1nQ~~) from the Commonwealth Fund assesses the potential financial impact on hospitals in states that have approved or pending Section 1115 demonstration waiver applications for implementing work requirements in their Medicaid programs. The results show that Medicaid work requirements could weaken hospitals' financial positions in states that implement these requirements as a condition of coverage. The report also finds that the design of states' Medicaid work requirement programs will play a key role in how many beneficiaries lose coverage and the resulting financial impact on hospitals.

***Los Angeles Phasing out Natural Gas Power Plants*** (New York Times) How Californians get power has been in the news a lot lately, between Pacific Gas & Electric’s [woes](http://p.nytimes.com/email/re?location=pMJKdIFVI6pghfX2HXfSzxRpdoyDWYNW3cpdRopBUvcAdAHad6xgMogYVpkp/TAyjAXgd6wWq2/vJ8YuAhFv3vm/EH5ZaLba+gKmMm+vfZ3vAxcsHbNPT1BFHI/9sDV9GnAxx8wG7goGmQifxQ5PAro/rJLW/8vRQdEpqK0ZAg68bpPmMdU44g3GArMNyy/z&campaign_id=49&instance_id=8538&segment_id=11953&user_id=28250e4f78194891272a9f782a30f976&regi_id=78421447_ca_20190405) and Mayor Eric Garcetti’s recent announcement that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power [would phase out three natural gas power plants](http://p.nytimes.com/email/re?location=pMJKdIFVI6oF8gkMLoAax7H5ghAuJRpk27fCYbulrsUT9XjkcLrigVEwd53cYSpEvyCPDlQyIzAWlNrRhIZJE15fgnJmC5lRFHLM9Fv3lhWFg4TurUFU9MyIP0rdz2PhqqS4P1RDz+o=&campaign_id=49&instance_id=8538&segment_id=11953&user_id=28250e4f78194891272a9f782a30f976&regi_id=78421447) on its way toward 100 percent renewable energy sources.

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| [***Protecting Elections from Cyberattacks***](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=85ce6cd936fc5ab2c319951adfc0e42aca09a1a9d81c81467ae72163147d3b9c71aac886281743bc57148db815d332938013b564c77955dc)With elections increasingly dependent on modern technology, cybersecurity has become a vital shield against election violence and manipulation. The international community has recognized how cyberattacks threaten elections and democratic legitimacy. What do we do about it? |

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| [Read the blog](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=85ce6cd936fc5ab2f611586ac8adc3f09a84cc6aa8dfb9dbd0c5dfceda00964707dc9564b1a2a8728f8a31149f7dc44458810efb67ce9345) |

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***From the UN***

* [**ILO praises Uzbekistan for cutting forced, child labor by 48%**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lsaHCCjbkDDhhHlfCieHdeCicNbcJY?format=multipart)
* [**WFP head says food aid for N. Korea should prevail over politics**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lsaHCCjbkDDhhHlgCieHdeCicNdhrZ?format=multipart)
* **[FAO warns desertification in Arab states is reaching emergency levels](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lsaHCCjbkDDhhHlhCieHdeCicNgGyM?format=multipart" \t "_blank)**
* [**UNICEF report links Bangladesh disasters to climate change**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lsaHCCjbkDDhhHlqCieHdeCicNbcJY?format=multipart)

* **[UNEP official presses Indonesia to honor Paris climate deal](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lsaHCCjbkDDhhHlrCieHdeCicNbMVr?format=multipart" \t "_blank)**