** June 3, 2019**

Loving God, we thank you for all who graduate from grade school, high school and college this time of the year. You have blessed them during their years in school with wisdom, friendships, and skills. You continue to challenge them to make this world a better place because of their education. (Catholic Charities USA)

**JUNE**

**June 5 World Environment Day**

**June 7 National Gun Awareness Day**

**June 8 World Ocean Day**

**June 12 World Day against Child Labor**

**June 14 Flag Day**

**June 17 World Day to combat Desertification and Drought**

**June 19 Juneteenth**

**June 20 World Refugee Day**

**June 22-29 Religious Freedom Week**

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**TAKING ACTION**

**Be a voice for the voiceless
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***The U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Supports the Dream and Promise Act 2019***

The Dream and Promise Act 2019 [**H.R. 6**](http://capwiz.com/justiceforimmigrants/utr/1/MFZEBBWNTXX/ELAUBBWNTYL/11861275751) is about to make its way to the House of Representatives for debate and vote. It is anticipated that the vote will come as early as tomorrow. The Sisters of St. Joseph join with LCWR, the USCCB Justice for Immigrants Committee, and numerous other organizations in urging our legislators to support this bill. The bill provides legal residency status for millions of young immigrants and residents of countries with temporary protected status (TPS). Call your representative today at **202 224-3121** to be connected and ask that that she or her vote yes on [**H.R. 6**](http://capwiz.com/justiceforimmigrants/utr/1/MFZEBBWNTXX/ELAUBBWNTYL/11861275751). For a script of what to say see the attachment.

***Stop Gun Violence***

The House Appropriations Committee has allocated $50 million in a 2020 federal spending bill to study both the causes of gun violence and the solutions to help prevent it. Gun violence kills 100 people, and injures hundreds more, every day in our country. More than 20 years ago the NRA fought aggressively to persuade Congress to block funding for gun violence research, resulting in the so-called Dickey Amendment. As a result, funding for gun injury prevention fell by over 90 percent over the last two decades.

Now, this spending bill is moving to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives for a vote — and we need their support for this funding. [**Urge Congress to support federal funding for gun violence research >>**](https://act.everytown.org/go/167525?t=13&akid=237648%2E5264714%2EIDJi-G)

***Stop attack on immigrant families***

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently published a proposed rule that would prohibit "mixed-status" families (referring to immigration status) from living in public housing. Government assistance is currently pro-rated to exclude undocumented household members. **This rule would force families to choose between living apart from undocumented family members or becoming homeless, and could ultimately lead to the eviction of over 100,000 people, including 55,000 children.**

We must work to stop the Trump administration's attack on immigrant families. Every family deserves access to one of the most basic of human rights -- a safe place to call home. Together, we can stop the Trump administration's newest attempt to tear apart immigrant communities. [**Take Action NOW by submitting a comment saying NO to Trump's proposed "Mixed-Status" rule.**](http://cqrcengage.com/networklobby/app/thru?ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAxEN46jfY8ld3qwCwKk0CqpiTMyvEBOB2tVdbJch_4GwjYjEentVA8PDVk7V3-Zk_jZQa4zrKDPw07sEM00BmAJxHkMmhmMEL3xSjzeEe5VZiqw2uVlrgqcJ98xMbHobdy1i4oEuzcjIrnEhEJob8rKA&lp=0)

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**INFORMATION/RESOURCES**

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***Pro-refugee legislative highlights in California:***

* A.J.R.19, which declares welcome refugees and support for the resettlement of refugees in California, no matter their religion, race, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or country of origin; calls upon other local governments and communities to join in supporting a stronger national effort to resettle the world’s most vulnerable refugees; and calls on the federal government to resettle all 30,000 refugees that the United States has committed to resettle in the fiscal year 2019 and raise the Presidential Determination to at least 75,000 refugees for fiscal year 2020, was introduced on May 22nd.
* H.R.33, which commemorates World Refugee Day, was introduced on May 2nd.
* A.C.R.50, which calls upon the state’s workforce system to improve access to workforce development for immigrants and workers of color and removes barriers for individuals reentering the workforce, passed the Assembly on May 13th and was referred to the Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement on May 22nd.
* A.B.1113, which establishes an Office and Director Immigrant and Refugee Affairs for the state, passed the Committee on Judiciary on April 9th and referred to Committee on Appropriations. It was heard in a committee hearing on April 24th and referred to the Appropriations suspense file for further consideration of the fiscal impact. On May 16th, it was held under submission.

***Costa Rica is positioning itself to be the first country in the world to be totally free of single-use plastics and fossil fuels by 2021.***

At his inauguration earlier this year, President Carlos Alvarado Quesada announced his initiative to ban fossil fuels and become the world’s first decarbonized society: “Decarbonization is the great task of our generation and Costa Rica must be one of the first countries in the world to accomplish it, if not the first.”

Almost [99% of Costa Rica’s energy already comes renewable sources,](http://www.ticotimes.net/2018/07/12/almost-all-of-costa-ricas-energy-has-come-from-renewable-sources-since-2014)such as rivers, volcanoes, geothermal, wind and solar power. In 2017, the country ran on 100% renewable energy for 300 days straight.

Now, the government is focused on switching to all electric cars using incentives to make them as cheap as cars that run in gas. Along with coal and petroleum, the country aims to make single-use plastics a thing of the past.

***Surge in support for the Greens, receiving 69 seats in the 2019 European elections.***

The Greens have made major progress in the European elections, claiming the 2nd highest number of seats in Germany and Finland, 3rd highest in France and significantly advancing in the UK, Ireland, Denmark and Sweden. Their share of the 751 seats have increased from 51 to 69 since the 2014 EU Election.

Bas Eickhout, the Green’s co-lead candidate for commission president, informed the Guardian the Greens will follow a progressive and tough pursuit within EU environmental policy; “we will need to see much more serious climate action, a real change of attitude: a price on CO2, properly tackling aviation, the greening of agriculture”.

The Greens’ policy will focus upon the 2015 Paris Agreement, under which the EU pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% below the levels in 1990 by 2030.

***U.S. Minimum Wage Would Be $33 If It Had Kept Pace with Wall Street Bonuses***

﻿ In 2010, Congress recognized that fat banker bonuses had encouraged the high-risk behavior that caused the 2008 crash, costing millions of Americans their homes and livelihoods. A new Institute for Policy Studies report found that if the minimum wage had increased at the same rate as the average Wall Street bonus since 1985, it would be worth $33 today, instead of just $7.25.   Read more: <https://inequality.org/great-divide/minimum-wage-wall-street-bonuses/?source=newsletter>

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