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**August 26, 2019**

"The outward freedom that we shall attain will only be in exact proportion to the inward freedom to which we may have grown at a given moment. And if this is a correct view of freedom, our chief energy must be concentrated on achieving reform from within." —Mahatma Gandhi

**August**

August 29 International Day against Nuclear Tests

**September**

Sept.1-Oct 4 Season of Creation

Sept. 2 Labor Day

Sept. 14-22 Nonviolent Week of Action

Sept 20 Week of Climate Strike

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**TAKING ACTION**

**Be a voice for the voiceless  
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**(Please watch, ponder and continue advocating for migrants and refugees)**

### *Family, hope and resilience on the migrant trail*

For the past 20 years, photographer and TED Fellow Jon Lowenstein has documented the migrant journey from Latin America to the United States, one of the largest transnational migrations in world history. Sharing photos from his decade-long project "Shadow Lives USA," Lowenstein takes us into the inner worlds of the families escaping poverty and violence in Central America -- and pieces together the complex reasons people leave their homes in search of a better life.

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| [Watch now »](https://ted.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=07487d1456302a286cf9c4ccc&id=51743278c0&e=21df47c728) |

***Climate emergency***

This June, Pope Francis declared that the world is in a “climate emergency.” Scientists estimate that our annual carbon pollution is on track to stay the same, or increase, by 2030. If that happens, the worst effects of climate change may be inevitable.   
  
As people of faith, we have a duty to care for God’s creation and reverse the cause of climate change. That is why we must call for a 100% clean energy economy.

[https://d3dkdvqff0zqx.cloudfront.net/groups/columbancntr/images/button_take-action.png](https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/P64oKbHt2owKzqgbuEqEeQ)

***Snap Under Attack***

On July 23rd, the Trump Administration [proposed a rule](https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/fr-072419) that would eliminate SNAP’s [broad-based categorical eligibility](https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/broad-based-categorical-eligibility) (BBCE) option. BBCE has been in place for [more than 20 years](https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/snaps-broad-based-categorical-eligibility-supports-working-families-and). It allows households with slightly higher incomes to be eligible for SNAP because they qualify for other assistance programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). In December, Congress rejected eliminating broad-based categorical eligibility in the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill. Members of Congress rightly saw that this change was punitive and contrary to the aims of the program. ***This new rule is the administration’s latest attempt to sidestep the will of Congress on food policy.*** It seeks to deny the basic level of support necessary for people to provide nutritional meals for their families.

We must speak out against this attempt to further marginalize people already struggling to put food on their tables. Every human being has a fundamental right to sustenance. As a [Matthew 25 Church,](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/) we are called to “actively engage in the world around us” by [eradicating systemic poverty.](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/poverty/) This means speaking out against policies that will increase food insecurity and push people deeper into poverty.

The proposed rule is currently ***open for public comment until September 23rd, 2019***. Prepare your comment and visit the [federal register comments](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/07/24/2019-15670/revision-of-categorical-eligibility-in-the-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap#open-comment) page

***U.S. House of Representatives Creates Requirement That There Be Some Basis for Any Foreign Bases***

The U.S. House of Representatives passed an amendment to the "National Defense Authorization Act" introduced by Congresswoman Ilhan Omar requiring that the U.S. military provide Congress with the cost and the supposed national security benefits of every foreign military base or foreign military operation. Now, as the House and Senate reconcile their two versions of the bill, they need to know that we want this amendment left in it. [**Learn more**](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/AgE/ni0YAA/t.2uh/TJzCVH80Q4WwfOEnhwEQwg/h13/1x6jJzOKvnsJ4-2FKHPfn05Gv6sHb4OQXcuuut7-2FyZcGeie4Txuor3jn2z-2BlDfHbChhGa4cjmDetSuoV3-2B4jHxkoB-2BjjmZclzCbFYH-2F15Rmm4u0NUKnBJnyrTAY8vWlMi1cFNuOP9BDe7iwP7lZbitjhjW1C-2BrTadB-2Bk3Ksm5KRAvwFT-2BuST6TmazpGtLbt7Rrx0u25PDdBBx9zxK6PdYC7VgKe5hKHMZgfc0r5qnWUkOtKg2TmVocbMB96DTzKXn990z7JEEUjuqgfdImEo7DZBEHWN8HDWITjt06SPmIDtlZM-2BshU41YLeLLnJnKJuedjYs6msaDoazmUDkAvpHcDFjMhOxTWpxwZyAksMjtbfVYIA4gzW2prNqGB0SPNJ2AynlmVhKDzO8jhMdapgQihg-3D-3D/akOu)**.**

[**click here**](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mps2/c/AgE/ni0YAA/t.2uh/TJzCVH80Q4WwfOEnhwEQwg/h14/CA0gLXQEKb6jqGkD7RqZiZ68-2FuJEwwKRNY3KQnepVonJaUUtov6L9ngVT83psOzbS55tC6RJBVqSnjKMbIJP92m5ZhvxBVJ4GcdMxADuEcJ2bWhOLBdm7LFmfSVNoC-2BgVEsYwbdJoJWruwAAf7QxBrM-2BsiXpn5bAzeCdx-2BpnMNNGGhi5bhNS6Wf1mOXkt1Ccemq-2Fhyt1mqCUNNq0BMVNc8f6yYe83VtqOwatoamZ0hMseFwzNL4-2Fn9oziec54AbNAxw3u7btBb6fdThAP7rfLS7C1jyKK7aKAf-2Bw5rN6DLJXABWiDmEQVrWyfqvGufRcGGSwjW6PIWtifg6H-2FoQE0A-3D-3D/qC_1) to email your Congress Members.

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**INFORMATION/RESOURCES**

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***Labor Day Resources***

In the Catholic tradition, work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continued participation in God’s creative action. As we mark Labor Day this year, we are invited in a special way to reflect on the persistence of low wages and inequality in our workplaces. Read more of the soon to be released [2019 Labor Day statement](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=42f9678d70&e=00839b1b92) (also [available in Spanish](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=69f96c7681&e=00839b1b92)), and find ways to help your community respond with prayer and action in the [2019 pastoral aid](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=4d91c9d16b&e=00839b1b92). (en [Español](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=016aa10aef&e=00839b1b92))  

***400 Years Ago***

You may want to watch the You Tube video below as African Americas recall their history of arrival in this country as slaves.

### [US marks 400 years since first Africans arrived as slaves - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FM2IzXW4TLM)

[***Amazon fires draw consternation from UN, world leaders***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lKtTCCjbkDDimLmbCieHdeCicNzvVB?format=multipart)

The world cannot afford to lose the valuable biodiversity and oxygen provided by Amazon rainforests, which must be protected, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said this week in response to news of a record number of wildfires in Brazil this year. Environmentalists point to rapid deforestation in Brazil as the cause of the increase, while Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro blames a higher frequency of droughts

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| |  | | --- | | ***Infographic: Untangling the knot of immigration prisons***  The immigration detention system where the U.S. government locks up immigrants and refugees is intentionally difficult to understand, involving a network of government and privately-operated centers and jails spread across the country and across four different federal agencies. NIJC's new infographic and blog post explains the system. | |
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***Global Climate Strike***

One month from today, on September 20th, youth around the world will lead a climate strike – walking out of their classes and jobs to call for action on the climate crisis.  
  
The timing is meant to influence the U.N. Youth Climate Summit on September 21st and U.N. Climate Action Summit on September 23rd in New York City. Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist who began the global climate strike movement will be arriving via sailboat to New York that week. [**Find out how you can support the climate strikers.**](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=IUEws3tfuMc18QUeRBCLPFZirKry2yvD)

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **From USCCB Justice, Peace and Human Development Office**   * Chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace and CEO of Catholic Relief Services [oppose cuts to already allocated funding for poverty reducing efforts around the world](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=1c6bd5bbb1&e=00839b1b92). * Chairmen of U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Committee on Migration reject [proposed rule which limits access to public benefits for families and individuals](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=38c7414cb6&e=00839b1b92). * Chairmen of the Committee on Migration, the Committee on Domestic Social Development, and the Ad-hoc Committee Against Racism [seek change in rhetoric after tragic shooting in El Paso, TX](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=387fc06c76&e=00839b1b92). * President of U.S. Bishops’ Conference and Chairman of Committee on Domestic Social Development call on all Catholics to [pray and advocate for a change in culture and national policy in wake of horrific shooting in Dayton, OH](https://usccb.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=75c0c9953e20885f1295adc0f&id=c37ec9874d&e=00839b1b92). | | |