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# SALT & LIGHT

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## IMMIGRATION CRISIS

If your heart hasn't been wrenched this week, you haven't been paying attention. News of the horrors being experienced by children imprisoned at our border was quickly surpassed by the tragic photo of Oscar Martinez and his tiny daughter, face down in the mud on the shores of the Rio Grande. We're better than this.

That photo inspired Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration to issue this statement:

"We join with our Holy Father Pope Francis in immense sadness, having seen the horrific images of Oscar Martinez and his daughter Angie Valeria who drowned in the Rio Grande Valley while attempting to flee persecution and enter the United States. This image cries to heaven for justice. This image silences politics. Who can look on this picture and not see the results of the failures of all of us to find a humane and just solution to the immigration crisis? Sadly, this picture shows the daily plight of our brothers and sisters. Not only does their cry reach heaven. It reaches us. And it must now reach our federal government.

All people, regardless of their country of origin or legal status, are made in the image of God and should be treated with dignity and respect. Recent reports of overcrowded and unsanitary conditions are appalling and unacceptable for any person in U.S. custody, but particularly for children, who are uniquely vulnerable. Such conditions cannot be used as tools of deterrence. We can and must remain a country that provides refuge for children and families fleeing violence, persecution, and acute poverty.

Congress has a duty to provide additional funding to address the needs of children in federal custody. Their supplemental appropriations bill should also increase protections for immigrant children, including heightened standards and oversight for border facilities. It is possible and necessary to care for the safety of migrant children and the security of our citizens. By putting aside partisan interests, a nation as great as ours is able to do both."

## HELPING IMMIGRANTS

Sister Donna Markham, CEO of Catholic Charities USA released a statement today calling on Congress to provide the necessary aid to address the humanitarian crisis at the border. "Every day our Catholic Charities agencies are on the front lines, providing critical social services to these children and families at the border. These agencies are dealing with the enormous strain on their limited resources and staff. Without additional private and public funding, Catholic Charities agencies will struggle to meet these growing needs.

It is extremely painful to know what these people have endured to journey to our country, especially the children, knowing that they came at great risk and were running for their safety—in some cases for their lives. We remain steadfast in providing assistance at the border, but this endeavor cannot be solely the responsibility of private charities. Our response to this crisis must be a collective one. It is important that Congress and the Administration act to provide financial assistance and to ensure a certain standard of care that preserves the welfare and dignity of all persons."

You can add your voice by going to CCUSA's action alert at [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/border-crisis/](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/border-crisis/). That same page provides an opportunity to donate to assist Catholic Charities agencies working at the border.

There are many other worthy charities providing physical aid as well as legal advice for immigrants, including Annunciation House, a long-established shelter that has received several local volunteers: [annunciationhouse.org/](http://annunciationhouse.org/).



Green tip of the week: Are you considering new window treatments? Insulated blinds and drapes look good, save energy and increase comfort. Honey-combed blinds come with single, double, or triple insulating cells, and block up to 75% of heat transfer in winter or summer, as well as filtering light. Insulated drapes offer more privacy as well.

## SAVE THE DATES

Mark your calendars now to join Marcus and Ruth at one or more of the following events. In addition to sharing information, we'll welcome Marcus and celebrate Ruth's retirement with some cookies.

July 11, 7:00 PM, Parish Creation-Care groups will meet at St. Anne's Church, 1600 Mt. Hope Ave.

July 16, 2—3:30 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, or 7—8:30 at St. John of Rochester, 8 Wickford Way.

## MOVIE NIGHT

Join Sts. Mary and Matthew Parishes in their *Summer with the Saints Movie Nights*. All movies will be held at 6:00 P.M. at St. Matthew Church, 6591 Richmond Mills Road, Livonia, 585-346-3815.

The movie series includes cinematic portrayals of modern-day saints.

June 27th Edith Stein

July 25th Maria Goretti

Aug. 22nd Maximilian Kolbe

Sept. 26th Giuseppe Moscat

Some of the movies are not appropriate for children, Detailed information at

[www.stsmaryandmatthew.com/media/1/Bulletin%20Insert%20for%20June%209%202019.pdf](http://www.stsmaryandmatthew.com/media/1/Bulletin%20Insert%20for%20June%209%202019.pdf)



## REFORESTATION WALK

Rush Recreation & Park Association Presents an Outdoor Walk-About Workshop: Reforestation and Re-Wilding for any Outdoor Space featuring Kay Megorden-Staten, certified Permaculture Designer, Teacher and Herbalist.

Saturday, July 27, 2019, Rain date July 28

9:00 am sharp – 11:30 am

The Rush 100 Acres. Meet at the field just west of the Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, 250 Rush-Scottsville Rd (Rt. 251). Park along the 251 shoulder. For more information: [rushrpa.org](http://rushrpa.org) or [rush.ny.rpa@gmail.com](mailto:rush.ny.rpa@gmail.com)

## MORE MOVIE NIGHT

The Sisters of St. Joseph will show the film, *The Doctrine of Discovery*, on Sunday June 30, at the SSJ Motherhouse: 3-5pm in the Great Room.

Early Spanish explorers were given permission to exploit and mistreat native Americans in their quest for land, riches, and the call to convert the natives to Christianity. This ugly truth has become enshrined in American and International law which allows the conquerer to take possession of lands belonging to indigenous people. It became the foundation for the buying and selling of persons and has influenced institutional racism.

The film is approximately one hour followed by discussion. All are welcome, but RSVPs are helpful to Sr. Phyllis Tierney, [ptierney@ssjrochester.org](mailto:ptierney@ssjrochester.org).

## HELP WANTED

Do you have a few hours to volunteer in the next week or two? Saints Place is getting ready for their Annual Super Sale. They need folks this Friday and Saturday (June 28 & 29) from 8:30-2 PM and again on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday next week (July 1, 2, 5 & 6). Volunteers will be moving small boxes, bucket brigade style, into the selling area. Many hands are needed, no need to call ahead, just come! Report to St Louis Church at 64 S Main St in Pittsford any time after 8:30 AM on the dates listed above.

The Super Sale is July 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. It is HUGE and all proceeds fund the programs at Saints Place. This includes furnishing refugees' homes and purchasing new mattresses and pillows. Please spread the word.

Our world is facing a refugee crisis of a magnitude not seen since the Second World War. This presents us with great challenges and many hard decisions. On this continent, too, thousands of persons are led to travel north in search of a better life for themselves and for their loved ones, in search of greater opportunities. Is this not what we want for our own children? We must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation. To respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal. We need to avoid a common temptation nowadays: to discard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Mt. 7:12).

Pope Francis, Address to Congress, 9/24/15