

Compassion

Faith doing justice in the Central and Southern Province...and beyond

January 2019

National Migration Week is Jan. 7-13!

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances challenging immigrants, refugees, children and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2019 "Building Communities of Welcome" draws attention to the fact that each of our families has a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

Unfortunately, in our contemporary culture we often fail to encounter migrants as persons, and instead look at them as unknown others, if we even notice them at all. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as fellow children of God, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious or fearful of them. During this National Migration Week, we are encouraged to take the opportunity to engage migrants as community members, neighbors and friends. You can find resources to help you do that here:

[National Migration Week Toolkit](#)

[National Migration Week Prayer Card](#)

[A collection of prayers](#) for use in your National Migration Week celebrations

[Homily suggestions](#) to frame a message to parishioners on migration and its longstanding significance in the Church's moral tradition

[Petitions](#) for your National Migration Week Mass, or any celebration that reflects on the situation confronting migrants

9 Days for Life Novena is Jan. 14-22!

This year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is again encouraging Catholics across the US to promote and participate in the annual pro-life novena *9 Days for Life*. During the nine days, participants are invited to pray for the respect of all human life with daily intentions, brief reflections and more. Download a free mobile app or sign up to read the novena in daily emails or text messages. A printable version, flyers, bulletin announcements, graphics and other materials are available at www.9daysforlife.com.



National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty

The Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN) is a national organization that calls on Catholics and all people of goodwill to value life over death, to end the use of the death penalty, to transform the U.S. criminal justice system from punitive to restorative, and to build capacity in U.S. society to engage in restorative practices. Through education, advocacy and prayer based on the Gospel value that every human is created in the image and likeness of God, CMN upholds the fundamental belief that all those who have caused or been impacted by crime should be treated with dignity. A first step to getting involved in the network is to sign – and to act on – the [National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty](#), through which you commit to educate, advocate and pray for an end to the death penalty.

A Special Video from Fr. General Arturo Sosa

Even though it has an Advent theme, Fr. General Sosa's [video message](#) initiating the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Office of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES) is timeless and timely! It is 14 minutes long, in Spanish with English subtitles, and celebrates 50 years of the Society's commitment to promoting the faith that does justice, especially through the work of the SJES.



2019 Social Grants Application

Each year the Jesuits of the UCS Province offer *small* social grants for projects that directly engage UCS Jesuits or organizations they support in serving the poor or working for social justice. The deadline for applications for Social Grants for the UCS Province is Mar. 30, 2019. The grant guidelines and application can be found online [here](#).

- The primary purpose of a social grant is to encourage Jesuit solidarity with poor and marginalized people in the UCS Province. The provincial will consider grants that meet the following criteria:
- The Jesuit has inaugurated or is directly involved in programs that benefit poor and marginalized people.
- The Jesuit is directly involved as a leader, volunteer or staff person in a social ministry organization or program.
- The Jesuit is working for social change on behalf of poor and marginalized people.
- The project has a high likelihood of increasing Jesuit concern for poor and marginalized people.

Every grant application must be sponsored and signed by a Jesuit of the UCS Province. Grants will be modest, usually ranging from \$1,000-\$6,000. Any Jesuit or organization that received a grant in 2018 must complete a report on how the money was used before they will be considered for funding in 2019. The grant report form is available at the same website link as the application. For questions about eligible projects or difficulty accessing the online social grants materials, please call or e-mail Mary Baudouin mbaudouin@jesuits.org or 504-655-6574.