



Peace Practices

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December 14, 2018 (Just Us No.373)

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Guadalupe, A Symbol of Hope for Migrants at the Border... reflections shared by Scott Wright, Director of the Columban Center



Some excerpts:

Scott recently returned from a visit to El Paso where he visited refugees seeking asylum in the United States. "Every day in El Paso, TX, more than three hundred migrants and children are held in detention two, four, sometimes eight days before being released to a network of churches who welcome them, provide temporary hospitality, assist them in contacting their relatives, and send them on their journey to pursue protection and asylum."

In the past several weeks, the Diocese of El Paso, in an unprecedented response to the humanitarian crisis on the border, opened its seminary and many other church buildings and parishes to provide shelter. There the works of mercy were put into practice: the strangers and recently detained were welcomed, the hungry were fed and given drink, the naked clothed and their wounds healed, and the miracle of encountering Christ in the poor migrant and refugee revealed in acts of hospitality and solidarity."

Read the full reflection here at <http://columbancenter.org/content/migrant-families-and-our-lady-guadalupe-season-advent>
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Las Posadas Novena



Las Posadas Navideñas (the Christmas Inn) is a Mexican religious tradition that commemorates Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their struggle to find refuge there. For nine nights (a novena), from December 16-24, neighbors recreate the events described in the Gospels, as Mary and Joseph were denied shelter by many, until one innkeeper at last allowed them to sleep in his barn – and there, Jesus was born. The novena culminates with a celebration that echoes the rejoicing of the shepherds and angels at the birth of the Christ Child.

The Atlantic-Midwestern Province Immigration Committee of the School Sisters of Notre Dame are generously sharing this nine day Novena prayer as a way to invite us to pray with migrants and all journeying to find a home. <https://atlanticmidwest.org/posts/las-posadas-novena>

The group also has a website, JUST ACT that has many resources groups may be interested in. <https://atlanticmidwest.org/post/just-act-social-justice-resources>

Good News to Share

Revised Farm Bill

The revised Farm Bill has passed the Senate and the House. The new bill protects funding for SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Program which was threatened in the previous version of the bill that passed the House.

The new bill passed the Senate with a 87-13 vote and the House with a 369-47 vote.

The final version contained some revisions to SNAP but none of the work requirements that the House had previously added. No individual benefits will be cut.

The final farm bill provides permanent funding for a number of programs including farmers' markets, research funds for organic farming, and money for organizations to train the next generation of farmers at a time when experts have raised concerns about the aging of the industry.

The bill also provides permanent funding for **veteran and minority** farmers.

Reported by the *Washington Post*

Senate Votes to Withdraw US Military Support from Saudi's War in Yemen

In a rare rebuke to the President, the Senate voted 56-41 to limit President Trump's war powers and send a powerful message of disapproval for President Trump's support of Saudi Arabia despite the killing of the journalist, Jamal Khashoggi.

The war in Yemen has nearly four-year conflict that has killed thousands of civilians and [brought famine to Yemen](#).

In a separate resolution senators unanimously approved holding Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia personally responsible for the death of the journalist, Jamal Khashoggi.

Continued War Powers Disapproval

The Resolution must be passed by the House of Representatives before it can be enacted into law.

The Resolution was blocked in the House by five Democrats who joined Republicans in blocking the resolution until the end of 2018. Republicans introduced a rule that passed on Wednesday, 206-203, that effectively blocks lawmakers in the House from forcing a vote on Yemen-related resolutions through the end of 2018. **It will be taken up by the House when the new session of Congress begins in 2019.**

Human Trafficking Campaigns

Campaign Update November 7, 2018

Colorado has officially abolished slavery in detention! This week, voters in Colorado voted to pass Amendment A which will remove language from the state's constitution that allows involuntary servitude as a form of criminal punishment. Specifically, the state constitution will now eliminate this line: "There shall never be in this state either slavery or involuntary servitude, **except as a punishment for crime**, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."

Labor Trafficking has been identified in several of the for-profit detention centers currently operating in our southwestern states.

Freedom United reports on human rights abuses and labor trafficking. Recently the giant Malaysian Palm Oil Company, giant FGV Holdings Bhd (formerly known as FELDA Global Ventures) is responding to Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) sanctions over human trafficking by overhauling its worker recruitment system. It announced it was freezing all new recruitment by outside contractors until their compliance with guidelines can be met.

<https://www.freedomunited.org/advocate/forced-labor-detention/>