

INTERCONNECTION



FEBRUARY 2018

"We certainly do not understand why it should be harder to make plans with friends on weekends than to buy an automatic or semi-automatic weapon."

- Emma Gonzalez, senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, addressing a gun control rally in Ft. Lauderdale, FL on 2/17/18

USCCB ORGANIZES NATIONAL CALL-IN DAY TO SUPPORT DREAMERS FOR MONDAY, FEB. 26

"Nearly 1.8 million Dreamers, young people who were brought into the United States by their parents as children, **may face deportation as soon as March 6th**, unless Congress reaches a bipartisan deal to protect them."

1. "Please call **855-589-5698** to reach the Capitol switchboard and **press 1 to connect to your Senator**. Once you are connected to the Senator's offices, please ask the person on the phone to deliver this message to your legislator:

I urge you to support a bipartisan, common-sense, and humane solution for Dreamers: Protect Dreamers from deportation and provide them with a path to citizenship. Reject proposals that undermine family immigration or protections for unaccompanied children. As a Catholic, I know that families are not "chains," but a blessing to be protected. Act now to protect Dreamers, our immigrant brothers and sisters." (Excerpted from USCCB call for action notice.)

2. Next, call the same number, only this time **press 2 to connect your Representative** and share the same message.

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"Educators in cities across the country, including Seattle, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Boston, D.C., Baltimore, and many more are [organized] a national Black Lives Matter Week of Action in Schools the week of February 5-10, 2018. The movement in schools grew out of an action in Seattle in 2016. During Black Lives Matter Week of Action in Schools, thousands of educators across the country [taught] lessons about structural racism, intersectional Black identities, and Black history. In the evening, there [were] events for educators, students, stakeholders, and community members to actively engage in the movement. The lessons and dialogues that take place that week are intended to continue throughout the year."

"There are three key demands issued by the Black Lives Matter at School national movement:

- End Zero Tolerance, and Implement Restorative Justice.
- Hire More Black Teachers in our Schools.
- Black History/Ethnic Studies Mandated K-12. "

- from <http://www.teachingforchange.org/black-lives-matter-schools-nationwide>

Community Life in Montana

By Mark Joseph Costello, OFM Cap.

Long days with challenging ministry is a good description of our reality on the Crow reservation in southeastern Montana. Having a sense of accomplishment is rather elusive in an environment of unemployment, broken families and addiction. While the unemployment rate in the country is at an all time low, it runs to 70% here on the reservation. We try to support people through education and attending to their faith needs, but this can take a toll on a friar's mental and spiritual health.



February 1, 2018 - During Catholic School Week at Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy, the St. Katharine Friars were honored with a special lunch for their contributions as Religious ministering on the Crow Reservation.

One major source of support, is what the friars do for each other living in community. Coming home to an understanding heart or two (or in our case three), and sharing a meal or prayer together provides the balance and support that one needs in dealing with reservation culture. Keeping positive and realistic in ministry requires an honesty that often only a community member can provide. The people we serve here are both troubled and beautiful. Native culture is both attractive and easily misunderstood. Together as friars, the mysteries and miseries of this rather unique minority can be served better by our communal presence. We friars are of different abilities, ages, cultures and personalities. We complement each other in many ways and the people see that. The people also see us as belonging together, our own little clan among the clans of the Crow tribe.

Now that two of us St. Katharine friars fairly singlehandedly (no staffs) run four small parishes, teach at the Catholic School and do Sacramental preparation, there is much to occupy our time. While another friar is teaching full time at the school and running Children's Sunday school, our retired friar continues to do help-outs and a lot of work around the friary and home parish. The life in the friary is a major stabilizing effect and a source of joy, allowing us to face the challenges and needs of the people of God.

"CLINIC's Digital Devotional is [an electronic guide](#) that links together Scripture, prayer and real human stories to promote dialogue within your faith community. Each section presents a different immigration issue through the lens of Catholic teachings, from family detention to farmworker rights, along with discussion questions to prompt conversation in group settings. You can use the entire guide as an eight-week study, or choose individual entries for specific needs. Each topic also includes resources and calls to action to help you take your lessons beyond the classroom. This resource is perfect for Bible study groups, classroom settings for teens or adults or household use."
- from *Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.*





“On **March 24**, the kids and families of March For Our Lives will take to the streets of Washington, DC to demand that their lives and safety become a priority and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools today.”

- marchforourlives.com | [#MARCHFOROURLIVES](https://twitter.com/MARCHFOROURLIVES)

The following is from [The Justice Conference of Women Religious \(JCWR\)](#) and their 2016 JPIC [resolution](#) on gun violence:

As Franciscans, we affirm our relationship with all persons as our brothers and sisters. Following the example of St. Francis who reached out to the poor, oppressed and marginalized in his day, we have special concern for the dignity of all human beings and a call to respond when persons are suffering due to gun violence.

- Stricter background checks for all types of gun purchases. Individuals requesting firearms must complete a full background check prior to purchasing a firearm regardless if the firearm is small or large.
- Making sure that all firearms be registered with the local police station within three days of purchasing the firearms from the arms dealer or a fine will be instilled on the purchaser.
- Realizing that the US Government can restrict the right to bear arms to mental health patients, we must examine, strengthen, and advocate for a stronger mental health system.
- We have to address simultaneously declining family life and the increasing availability of deadly weapons, the lure of gangs and the slavery of addiction, the absence of real opportunity, budget cuts adversely affecting the poor and the loss of moral values.



TAKE ACTION and click on the following movements to learn about the latest efforts underway:



Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Office.
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