



February 23, 2017

## Pope Francis Sends a Galvanizing Message to Faith and Community Leaders

Last week, Pope Francis sent a message to hundreds of faith and community leaders taking part in a national meeting of popular movements in Modesto, California.



The encounter, which took place from February 16th to 18th, was been organized with the support of the Vatican's new Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development, the U.S. Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the National Network of People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO).

In the message, the Pope encourages participants to persevere with their commitment to fight for social justice, to work for environmental protection and to stand in solidarity with refugees and migrants.

**Here are excerpts from the Pope's message. To read the full text:**

<https://www.mothercabrini.org/news-and-publications/pope-francis-sends-message-to-faith-and-community-leaders-meeting-in-modesto-ca>

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A few months ago in Rome, we talked at the third World Meeting of Popular Movements about walls and fear, about bridges and love. Without wanting to repeat myself, these issues do challenge our deepest values.

We know that none of these ills began yesterday. For some time, the crisis of the prevailing paradigm has confronted us. I am speaking of a system that causes enormous suffering to the human family, simultaneously assaulting people's dignity and our Common Home in order to sustain the invisible tyranny of money that only guarantees the privileges of a few. "In our time humanity is experiencing a turning-point in its history."

As Christians and all people of good will, it is for us to live and act at this moment. It is "a grave responsibility, since certain present realities, unless effectively dealt with, are

capable of setting off processes of dehumanization which would then be hard to reverse.”

The economic system that has the god of money at its center, inflicts injuries that to a criminal degree have remained neglected. Globalized society frequently looks the other way with the pretense of innocence. Under the guise of what is politically correct or ideologically fashionable, one looks at those who suffer without touching them.

Sooner or later, the moral blindness of this indifference comes to light, like when a mirage dissipates. The wounds are there, they are a reality. The unemployment is real, the violence is real, the corruption is real, the identity crisis is real, the gutting of democracies is real. Jesus teaches us a different path. Do not classify others in order to see who is a neighbor and who is not. You can become neighbor to whomever you meet in need, and you will do so if you have compassion in your heart.



The ecological crisis is real. “A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system.” Science is not the only form of knowledge, it is true. It is also true that science is not necessarily “neutral”—many times it conceals ideological views or economic interests. However, we also know what happens when we deny science and disregard the voice of Nature. Let us not fall into denial. Time is running out. Let us act. I ask you again—all of you, to defend Creation.

The other is [that] no people is criminal and no religion is terrorist. Christian terrorism does not exist, Jewish terrorism does not exist, and Muslim terrorism does not exist. No people is criminal or drug-trafficking or violent. “The poor and the poorer peoples are accused of violence yet, without equal opportunities, the different forms of aggression and conflict will find a fertile terrain for growth and will eventually explode.” There are fundamentalist and violent individuals in all peoples and religions—and with intolerant generalizations they become stronger because they feed on hate and xenophobia. By confronting terror with love, we work for peace.

I ask you for meekness and resolve to defend these principles like Saint Francis of Assisi, let us give everything of ourselves: where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, let us sow pardon; where there is discord, let us sow unity; where there is error, let us sow truth. Please know that I pray for you, that I pray with you, and I ask God our Father to accompany and bless you. May He shower you with his love and protect you. I ask you to please pray for me too, and to carry on.

Vatican City, 10 February 2017 (from Vatican Radio) ~with thanks to Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC

## CAAC, CRS Ambassadors and Pura Vida

Partner to Raise Awareness re:

### Human Trafficking

*We carried this news story in last week's Update, however, there was a problem with the transmission of the photos accompanying the article. Therefore, we are running this article once again. The Update regrets any inconvenience.*



**Top photo:** Hugh Organ (3<sup>rd</sup> I.), Executive Director of Covenant House, PA and Chairperson of the Philadelphia Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition visited Cabrini University on St. Josephine Bakhita Feast Day, Patroness of Trafficking Victims, to educate students on human trafficking. Mr. Organ gave a presentation at an event organized by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Ambassadors, Pura Vida, the campus Latin American Club, and the Cabrini Action and Advocacy Coalition (CAAC). **Photo left:** Those in attendance made handprints on a STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING poster that was displayed in Founders' Hall on campus. Hugh Organ also spoke with Ms. Cindy Ross' Anti-Human Trafficking class.

*~ submitted by Karol Brewer*



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## Ash Wednesday is March 1



The imposition of ashes is a solemn ritual that signals the beginning of the holy season of Lent. The ceremony is distinctive; there is no liturgical action like it throughout the entire church year.

The ashes come from a previous Palm Sunday. The palms are burned, the ashes collected and then crushed into a fine, sooty powder and placed into bowls.

The ashes are blessed by the priest during the Ash Wednesday Mass after the homily. Then, in a Communion-like procession, people are invited to come forward, and the ashes are applied to

each person's forehead in the shape of a cross as the minister says either, "Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15), the usual prayer, or "Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19), the older, more traditional invocation. ~ *Catholic Spirit*



Lent is a great time to give God a chance to convince you of his desire for your friendship. Traditionally, Lent has been a time of engaging in practices of penance or prayer that will ready us to experience, more and more deeply, the almost unbelievable love and generosity of God toward us wayward human beings. Try to make spiritual reading and prayer part of your Lenten journey this year. Find a spiritual resource that resonates with you. It is hoped that you will find it enriching to spend a few minutes each day communicating with God about that which you have read. If you do this regularly, I can promise you that on Easter Sunday you will be on more friendly terms with God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ~ *William A. Barry, SJ*

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## Prayer Requests

### ***Sr. Margaret Ellen Burke, SC***

Please continue your prayers for Sr. Margaret Ellen who is experiencing complications with her chemo treatment. Sr. Margaret Ellen is a good friend of Sr. Grace Waters, MSC.

### ***Sr. Immaculate Gough, MSC***

Your prayers are asked for Sr. Immaculate who is currently hospitalized. Please pray that she may soon be returned to full health.

### ***For those who are living in fear***

We pray for our immigrant brothers and sisters who are living in fear and for all who are fleeing war and terror their homelands.

### ***For the Tornado Victims in New Orleans***

In early February, a tornado hit New Orleans. Sr. Alice Zanon, MSC writes, "East New Orleans suffered the worst impact, but fortunately, there were no fatalities. A parent of a Cabrini High School student sent a photo of herself standing in the skeleton of her house. "The Storm Katrina took away my first home," she said, "And now, this house is lost." Please pray for all those who have suffered unfathomable loss, some for a second time. Pray for their resolve and courage to rebound from this natural disaster.