



TAKING SIDES

RABBI IRWIN KELLER, Oct. 18, 2023.

“Today I am taking sides.
I am taking the side of Peace.
Peace, which I will not abandon
even when its voice is drowned out
by hurt and hatred,
bitterness of loss,
cries of right and wrong.

I am taking the side of Peace
whose name has barely been spoken
in this winnerless war.
I will hold Peace in my arms,
and share my body’s breath,
lest Peace be added
to the body count.

I will call for de-escalation
even when I want nothing more
than to get even.

I will do it
in the service of Peace.
I will make a clearing
in the overgrown
thicket of cause and effect
so Peace can breathe
for a minute
and reach for the sky.

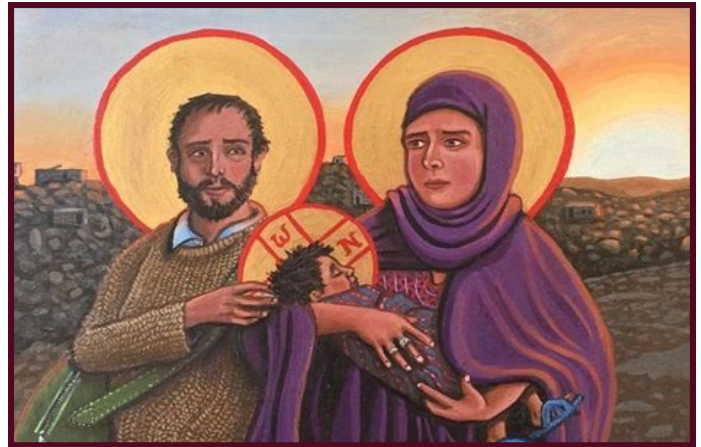
I will do what I must
to save the life of Peace.
I will breathe through tears.
I will swallow pride.
I will bite my tongue.

I will offer love
without testing for deservingness.

So don’t ask me to wave a flag today
unless it is the flag of Peace.

Don’t ask me to sing an anthem
unless it is a song of Peace.

**Don’t ask me to take sides
unless it is the side of Peace."**



TIME WITH NORMA PIMENTEL, MJ



In a whirlwind trip,
Norma shared
accompanying
migrants, especially
women and children
at the US-MEX border.

Norma met with the FCJ Refugee Centre staff,
then spoke at an evening Presentation and
offered a session with theology students.

The mission of Norma is simple: RESTORING
HUMAN DIGNITY, for “when we are leaving
somebody out, we are leaving God out”.

University of St. Michael’s College and
Becoming Neighbours co-sponsored the Event
with the generosity of: Srs. of St. Joseph,
Basilians, Loretos, Our Lady’s Missionaries,
Srs. of Zion, Jesuits, Redemptorists, Priests of
the Sacred Heart
and the Mary Ward
Centre.

Pictured:
NORMA PIMENTEL, MJ
& KEVIN STOREY, CSB



ADVENT AND OTHER RESOURCES 2023



[Catholic Climate Covenant](#)

1) CRS Online Advent Calendar:

Take time to pray and prepare for the coming of Christ with daily email during Advent. [Click here.](#)

2) Advent Simplicity Challenge:

Resource to help you pray and prepare for the coming of Christ. [Click here](#) to sign up.

3) Give to a Charity on someone's behalf

4) Advent 2023 Living Laudato Si'

An Advent calendar that invites you to join Laudato Si' efforts to care for our Common Home during Advent. [Click here.](#)

5) Practise the Advent pause:

Through [contemplative practice](#) be aware of the internal energy to have more than necessary.

6) Advent Guide 2023: Preparing the Way

[Maryknoll Office](#) for Global Concerns' weekly reflections, questions, prayers, and actions.

7) Reflection for Advent 2023 with Laudate Deum

Advent reflection calendar with a focus on creation care, Laudate Deum, and COP28. [Click here](#)

8) Advent Conspiracy

Lifting four tents during Advent: [Click here](#)

9) Give the Gift of Time

10) Opt for "Less is More" Decorations:

Use natural greenery from local evergreens

11) Save Paper: by reusing different types of paper.

12) [CAFOD's online Advent calendar 2023](#)

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development



- o [Advent and Christmas Renewal: Spiritual sustenance from sisters around the world](#)

Global Sisters Report 2023 eBook

- o [Ignation Spirituality Advent Resources](#)
- o [The Jesuit Institute Resources for Advent](#)

(Shared by URSULA WITKOWSKA, IBVM)

Except for the Grace of God Go I— Caroline Myss

"I am grateful for all I have and for all I do not have. If I am grateful for having been spared a suffering, give me the grace to help those who are suffering."

[Click here](#) to read the full reflection.

(Shared by BETTY LOU KNOX, CSJ)

VIRTUAL ADVENT RETREAT



NANCY SYLVESTER, IHM will explore the Advent theme of waiting.

Wed. December 13, 2023 3:00 pm EST

[Click here](#) to register.

INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS—DECEMBER

For people
with disabilities

December 2023



BASILIAN CURIAL OFFICE

is now located at:

360 Davenport Road
Toronto, ON M5R 1K6

416-921-6674

IMPORTANT MOMENTS

DIANA GALLEGO OCAMPO elected President of Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)



Is a Colombian-trained lawyer with experience in advocacy, human rights and social justice. Diana joined the FCJ Refugee Centre in 2015 and now is the Senior Director and a part time professor in the Centre for Community Services at George Brown College.

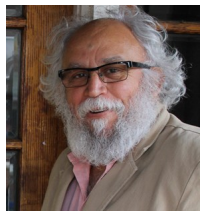
Loretto's appoint AUDREY FERRER Director of the Mary Ward Centre



Audrey was previously a Religion and Family Life Resource teacher for the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the coordinator of the Interfaith Youth Alliance Movement. She has a particular interest in engaging youth in interfaith dialogue and collaboration with community partners to advocate for equity and social justice issues.

† FRANCISCO RICO-MARTÍNEZ NAMED 2023 GUTHRIE AWARD RECIPIENT

"Recognizing exceptional justice champions, The name Francisco Rico-Martínez is synonymous with the rights of refugees, ...



He devoted his life to 'walking with uprooted people' and used his passionate voice and empathy to inspire a more just, fair, and humane immigration system."

MICHAEL SMOLINSKI, CSsR

Appointed Bishop of Eparchy of Saskatoon

Since January 2023, Michael was the appointed Provincial Superior of the Redemptorists in Canada. He served in pastoral ministry in Saskatchewan and in Manitoba, where he directed



The Welcome Home project for inner city people. Michael was a member of the BN corporation.

Recommended Reading



- o ["The kids aren't all right. Hungry for a better start"](#)
- o ["Filling the gaps for refugees and asylum seekers in the GTA"](#)
- o ["Canada needs immigrants. It also needs a plan for the influx of new Canadians."](#)
- o ["Refugee's death sparks federal funds"](#)
- o ["Deported family stuck in limbo"](#)
- o ["City approves bold housing plan"](#)
- o ["Canadians' support for immigration is slipping, polls show. Some say misinformation is partly to blame"](#)
- o ["Canada's wage gap crisis: Newcomers earn considerably less than nonimmigrants"](#)

ELIZABETH DAVIS, RSM AWARDED REGIS COLLEGE HONOURARY DOCTORATE

"With an array of honours, from local, national and international sources, recognizing her commitment to health and education, Elizabeth was one of the voting participants in the



Synod named by the Union of International Superior Generals and among the first group of women with voting rights in the Synod of Bishops in the Church." Regis College awarded Elizabeth an honorary doctorate degree in November 2023.

[Click here](#) to read citation by GILL GOULDING, CJ
[Click here](#) to read Elizabeth Davis' presentation
(Shared by EVANNE HUNTER, IBVM)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2023: Human Rights Day

The 75th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* will be celebrated on December 10, 2023. The UN a year-long campaign to showcase the UDHR by focusing on its legacy, relevance, and activism. According to UN personnel, “we need all hands-on deck” in order to achieve dignity, justice and freedom for all. [Learn more](#), [get inspired](#), [take action](#).

Also consider participating in Amnesty International’s

[Write for Rights campaign](#).



“We are reminded that there are many whom we know that we must walk with and listen to, but we stumble terribly in knowing how: children and young people, persons sexually abused and their abusers, Indigenous communities, migrants and refugees, persons with cognitive impairment, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community” (ELIZABETH DAVIS, RSM)

Monday December 18, 2023: International Migrants Day



Since 2000, the United Nations has recognized December 18 as International Migrants Day. It is a day to uphold our brothers and sisters who choose or are forced to migrate due to economic, environmental or social strife. There are an estimated 281 million, or 3.6% of the global population, living in a country other than their country of birth. See the [2022 UN's interactive migration report](#).

During the Advent Season, we remember that the Holy Family was a migrant family – on the move to Bethlehem and then to Egypt to escape Herod’s threat to kill the newborn Jesus. What are our attitudes towards strangers seeking to live among us? As Christians, we are called to welcome the stranger, and when we do so, we welcome God in person. In doing this, we will be made richer through their gifts of culture, skill, energy, and faith.

Like migrants around the world, we too, are on a journey with God. Let us accompany one another, like the biblical innkeeper who assisted the Holy Family, offering help and refuge to those in need.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR INDIVIDUAL/COMMUNITY REFLECTION TO FOLLOW

“Our faith instills in us a sacred duty to cherish not only our human family but also the fragile ecosystem that cradles us.”

(ABU DHABI INTERFAITH STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE)

SHINE A BLUE LIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Many Canadian landmarks will shine bright **BLUE** across Canada on December 10, 2023 to celebrate International Human Rights Day. [Click here](#) for a Prayer about Human Rights.



**JOIN IN SOLIDARITY,
WEAR BLUE TODAY!**

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SOLIDARITY DAY



DECEMBER 20, 2023

Together We Pray



Every Day
is
Human Rights
Day



Advent Prayer on **CONSUMERISM**

Slow us down LORD, this Advent,
so we may understand
the darkness we are in,
the darkness of fear
that comes with wanting more,
and the fear of having less.

Grant us the light of transformation,
as we wait for your true abundance,
the love of the Incarnation,
a love that brings us
true dignity and security,
a love that embraces all,
that enriches all,
that calls us all to share justly
and celebrate joyfully.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
Our Lord and brother, AMEN

LET US BE IN SOLIDARITY

On December 10 we celebrate
Human Rights Day, the day
on which the United Nations
affirmed the Declaration on
Human Rights. On this day
we pray for all global citizens
who have been denied their
rights. See the "Litany for
International Human Rights
Day" <http://tinyurl.com/j82rf4g>

Advent



Prepare a way for the Lord



"Help Us to See You" A Christmas Prayer

In the Christmas season, we hope in Jesus.
Holy Family, pray for our renewed commitment
to respond to the signs of our times.
Child Jesus, help us to comfort you
in the forgotten children of God,
and especially the discriminated minorities and migrants.
Forgive us our trespasses against the Earth,
And lead us to embrace climate refugees.
Your power and will be done through the peacemakers.
Help us to accompany our brothers and sisters
burdened with the struggle of a world in crisis.
And help us to be BEACONS of HOPE. AMEN

Dianna Ortiz, OSU's prayer: <http://tinyurl.com/jbgn7px>



ARTIST: Mickey McGrath, OSFS