

WALKtheTALK

SGFMC Action for Justice News

This is a limited compilation of **CURRENT** opportunities for action. **Additional suggestions are welcomed at:** marynpaul@comcast.net We will make every effort to share them as quickly as possible.



MARCH 2024

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God..." (Matt. 5:9)

****Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence - Saturday, **APRIL 27th**, at 6:00 PM** (following the 5PM Mass) **at ST. EDMUND CHURCH, 188 S. Oak Park **** [No gathering this month, due to Easter Vigil services]



American
Friends
Service
Committee

"KITES FOR GAZA" – Saturday, March 30th: "In 2011, more than 12,000 children in Gaza flew kites on the beach, setting a new world record for most kites flown simultaneously...Join us on Saturday, Mar. 30, ...virtually from around the world, to fly kites for a cease-fire in Gaza. In DC, we'll be flying kites at the kite festival happening as part of the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival. We hope you will join us in making, displaying, and flying kites to help amplify the call for a cease-fire in Gaza.

Make a kite and post a photo on social media. Be sure to tag AFSC on **Facebook, X, Instagram**, or **TikTok** and use the hashtag #KitesForGaza! Kites of all kinds are welcome, whether they are meant to fly or are part of an art installation.



<https://www.cawc.org/about-programs/> Multi-lingual shelter, hospital services, education and outreach programs, counseling, court advocacy, and more! [**CAWC 24-HOUR HOT LINE: [773.278.4566](tel:773.278.4566)**]

sarah's inn



together strong

<https://sarahsinn.org/> Comprehensive domestic violence support & services in Chicago and west Cook County. **24-HOUR CRISIS LINE: [708-386-4225](tel:708-386-4225) (phone) / [708-669-6149](tel:708-669-6149) (text)** [**NOTE:** Sarah's Inn is hiring: <https://sarahsinn.org/employment/>]

o **National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233**

- o [Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline 1-877-863-6338](tel:1-877-863-6338)
- o National Sexual Assault Hotline (all ages) 1-800-656-4673
- o Trevor Line (for LGBTQ teens and young adults) 1-866-488-7386
- o National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **DIAL 988** – 24/7, toll-free everywhere



Find Your 2024 Gun Sense Candidates

https://gunsensevoter.org/?akid=298829.5417268.-CuZli&rd=1&refcode=emve_20240314

"Let us pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country." – Pope Francis

Where do political candidates stand, on eliminating the death penalty? TRACK THE CANDIDATES HERE: <https://deathpenaltyaction.org/2024candidatepositions/>



Urge President Joe Biden and his administration to honor the sanctity of life by prioritizing an **end to the federal death penalty.** <https://catholicmobilizing.org/biden-end-federal-dp>



"The following link is to an updated list of **currently scheduled executions** in the United States. **Select the prisoner's name to sign the petition** which will be delivered on your behalf to the respective state's government officials". <https://deathpenaltyaction.org/take-action/execution-petitions/>

URGENT ACTION NEEDED:

March 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm ET: [Willie Pye in Georgia](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-execution-of-willie-pye-in-georgia/)
<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-execution-of-willie-pye-in-georgia/>

April 4, 2024 at 10:00 am CT: [Michael Smith in Oklahoma](#)

April 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm CT: [Brian Dorsey in Missouri](#)

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25: 35



Centro San Edmundo (200 S. Oak Park Ave.)

"We are desperately in need of shoes (casual shoes, please, no dress shoes, high heels, or boots), all sizes for men, women and school-age children. Other items needed are large, warm blankets, towels, roller bags (used is fine, but with all wheels and zippers working).

We are still in great need of items noted on the Amazon Wish List :

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VKSYQWISEBOM?ref=wl_share Items do not need to be purchased from Amazon; it is merely a list of needed items. **Donations may be dropped off on Monday mornings from 9 am to 12 pm at St. Edmund School. Please enter from the Pleasant Avenue door."**



848 Lake Street, Oak Park – <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/volunteer>

"A variety of volunteer shifts are available, during weekday, evening, and weekend hours. We offer shifts that run the gamut, including data entry, repacking, serving Pantry guests, and unloading delivery trucks. We hope to provide a volunteer opportunity for everyone, at every ability level." [Volunteer Orientation](#) Mar 20 2024 | 6 - 7pm



Coming April 1-30: Annual "CAN DO" Community Challenge (Food- and Fund-Raiser) -

<https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/events/can-do-community-challenge-2024>



"Volunteers are a key part of operating our emergency warming shelter for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. The volunteer opportunities for this shelter are **HERE:**

<https://www.housingforward.org/get-involved/volunteer>

#CROPHungerWalk

SAVE THE DATE: 2024 Annual "CROP WALK" to end hunger. [NOTE: Youth Ministry of the combined Catholic parishes in Oak Park will walk to support the Migrant Ministry.] Sign up and/or donate **HERE:** <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/migrant-ministries>



"The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization whose mission is to provide human connection, housing support, and health care to members of our community who are unhoused or experiencing poverty... <https://www.thenightministry.org/other-ways-to-support>

"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof..." Psalm 24:1



SAVE THE DATE: 2024 MAY 9th - CLIMATE LOBBY DAY in Springfield

"This year, environmentalists will come together to push for legislation that advances our policy goals in the Power, Buildings, and Transportation sectors while also creating good jobs, protecting consumers, and safeguarding our communities. **JOIN US** at Lobby Day to rally at the statehouse and meet with your state representative and senator about these critical bills. [Sign up to attend Climate Lobby Day](https://ilenviro.org/2024-climate-action-lobby-day/) on May 9! **Be sure to check off "Sierra Club Illinois"** on the sign-up link. <https://ilenviro.org/2024-climate-action-lobby-day/>

**** What YOU can do in 2024 - help to ensure that every eligible person in this country is given the opportunity to VOTE! ****



**Americans
OF CONSCIENCE**

checklist

<https://americansofconscience.com/02-16-2024>

- ❖ **Prevent AI-generated campaign advertisements - Contact:** [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](https://www.eac.gov/); Commissioners Christy McCormick, Chairwoman; Benjamin W. Hovland, Vice Chair; Donald L. Palmer; Thomas Hicks
Address: U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 866-747-1471 (toll free) or 301-563-3919 **Email:** clearinghouse@eac.gov
- ❖ **Urge your state to ensure campaign ads contain only accurate information**
33 states (including ILLINOIS) have pending legislation that would regulate the use of computer-modified video, audio, and images intended to deceive the public (also known as [deepfakes](#)) in election communications.
Illinois SB 1742 <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/SB1742/2023>
Illinois HB 4933 <https://legiscan.com/IL/research/HB4933>
Illinois HB 4644 <https://legiscan.com/IL/research/HB4644/2023>
- ❖ **Encourage young potential voters to register today:** Approximately [10,000 Americans turn 18 each day](#), and anyone who will be 18 before Election Day on November 5 can [pre-register](#) so their registration becomes [immediately valid on their 18th birthday](#). Remind your young friends that registering to vote [gives them a voice in crucial local issues](#) like housing costs, reproductive rights, community policing, and education.

SOJOURNERS <https://sojo.net/resources/poll-chaplain> Poll Chaplain

SojoAction (Sojourners' ministry of faith-rooted advocacy), in partnership with Faiths United to Save Democracy, invites interfaith and multicultural faith leaders – lay and clergy – to protect vulnerable voters. During the 2024 election season, we will be working in the following 10 key states: ALABAMA, ARIZONA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, MICHIGAN, NORTH CAROLINA, OHIO, PENNSYLVANIA, TEXAS, and WISCONSIN. If you are a resident in any of these states, please join our work. Even if you are not a resident in these states but are interested in defending democracy, we still encourage you to apply. Applicants will have the opportunity for training for civic engagement as a member of the faith community. Empower yourself and begin the journey to become a poll chaplain for the upcoming election!

...and more...



The Race Conscious Dialogues are designed to deepen awareness of identity, privilege, positionality to power and more, then integrate learning with everyday life. The foundational series consists of 4 sessions, 3 hours each, and are held both in-person and online. Spring 2024 Cohorts (April 4th - 25th) are **now open for registration**. Virtual Sessions on Thursdays, 9am-12pm. <https://www.raceconsciousdialogues.org/>

"For I was in prison and you visited me..." Matthew 25: 36



Help protect minor children in Illinois. Urge your state Senator to sponsor IL SB 3321
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?GA=103&DocTypeID=SB&DocNum=3321&GAID=17&SessionID=112&LegID=152731>

"SB 3321 will **protect children during interrogation** by requiring that they have a lawyer with them throughout the custodial interrogation. Juveniles aged 13 to 18 are at risk of prosecution in adult court. Depending on their statement, even being at or near the scene of an offense could trigger transfer provisions that send them automatically to adult court (and adult mandatory sentencing) based on accountability. "

(source: Juvenile Justice Initiative <https://www.jjustice.org/>)