

Justice, Peace and Life

November 2020

Keeping our gaze fixed on the poor is difficult, but more necessary than ever if we are to give proper direction to our personal life and the life of society. It is not a matter of fine words but of a concrete commitment inspired by divine charity.

— Pope Francis, [*Message for the Fourth World Day of the Poor*](#), to be commemorated **November 15, 2020**

Abysmally Low

Credit: Migrants-Refugee
Section/Vatican



Last month the Trump administration set the ceiling for the number of refugees to be allowed admittance to the U.S. during fiscal year 2021 at the lowest rate ever: 15,000.

The heads of 29 national refugee resettlement agencies including the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services, [wrote](#) to the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security calling the number “**abysmally low**.” They urged policy changes to ensure that at least that very low number of people fleeing war and persecution would be admitted. Without their recommended changes, the number might not even reach 8,000.

Archbishop José H. Gomez, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration also [responded](#) to the low number:

We continue to be disappointed by the Trump Administration's diminishment of the U.S. refugee resettlement program, as these decisions have a tangible impact on those fleeing religious persecution and other vulnerable families in need of refuge. While refugees will thankfully be allowed to seek refuge here in the United States in 2021, the low number of admissions, given the global need and the capacity and wealth of the United States, is heartbreaking.

A bill [endorsed](#) by the USCCB, S.3470, “would establish a National Office of New Americans in the White House, ...provide social, economic, and civic support to refugees and rebuild the capacity and infrastructure of local communities to welcome refugees, ... set a minimum refugee admissions goal of 110,000 and eliminate roadblocks to citizenship for eligible residents.”

Please support this bill when it's reintroduced next year.

A Prayer for World Day of the Poor

“You asked for my hands
that you might use them for your purpose.
I gave them for a moment,
then withdrew them for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth
to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper
that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes
to see poverty.
I closed them
for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life
that you might work through me.
I gave a small part
that I might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive my calculated efforts
to serve you only when it is convenient
for me to do so,
only in those places
where it is safe to do so,
only with those who make it easy to do so.

Lord, forgive me, renew me,
send me out as a usable instrument
that I might take seriously
the meaning of your cross.”

-Joe Sereman, South Africa, 1987
taken from Lifelines, Christian Aid

WORKING ON THE MARGINS

Many thanks to all who supported CCHD—the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. There's still time to support positive social change. Checks should be made out to your parish with “CCHD” in the memo.



Boycott Amazon: Use Your Money for Good

Want to help keep more people employed in your town?

Want to help ensure your local government can fund social services for local youth, elders and low income people?

Support Your Local Economy! **Boycott Amazon!**

We vote every few years but we buy something just about every day. Just like you exercise your vote for good, exercise your buying power for good. This is especially crucial during the financial crunch of this pandemic.

Supporting local businesses instead of Amazon means supporting local owners and workers who live in your community. AND you get your items right away. No need to wait! Many local businesses offer curbside pickup with social distancing measures now in place.

Supporting local businesses also means keeping your tax dollars in your local community. Without sales tax, our local governments won't have the funding they need to provide public services, and might have to raise property taxes.

You can find what you need without giving your money to Amazon. You can keep your money local and support small or family-run businesses instead of giving your money to the Amazon CEO worth \$196 BILLION.

You don't have to look far to find [credible accusation](#) after [credible accusation](#) of Amazon's horrible treatment of its workers— unsafe working conditions, including lack of access to personal protective equipment, poor wages and [union-busting](#) when workers try to organize.

Yes, ordering from Amazon is easy and convenient. But ask yourself— by supporting an enormous, monopolistic company, am I supporting my community? Am I supporting low income people? Am I supporting the Common Good? **Use your money for good!**

**BUY
NOTHING
DAY:**

Friday

November 27

*Join the movement to **NOT SHOP** on Thanksgiving or the day after.*

Don't feed into the joyless, angry frenzy of consumption.

Don't support the corporations that force their low-wage retail workers to leave their families to come into work on Thanksgiving.

Instead, pray, play and prepare your heart for Advent.

***The More
We Consume
The Less
We Live***

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