



Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City Prayer and Action Network

ONE WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE: The human person, made in the image and likeness of God, is endowed with an inherent dignity that demands respect. Violence, in all its forms, gravely offends that dignity and is, at the same time, an offense against God. Sadly, gun violence, domestic violence, the global illicit trade of weapons and ammunition, terrorism and other acts that strike at the life and dignity of persons, are an all too common reality. More than ever, the Church and all people of good will must work together to confront the pervasive culture of violence.

It begins with a clear conviction: respect for life. Respect for life is not just a slogan or a program; it is a fundamental moral principle flowing from our teaching on the dignity of the human person. It is an approach to life that values people over things. Respect for life must guide the choices we make as individuals and as a society: what we do and won't do, what we value and consume, whom we admire and whose example we follow, what we support and what we oppose. Respect for human life is the starting point for confronting a culture of violence.

While many communities are touched by crime and the fear that comes with it, violence especially ravages poor communities. Young people are particularly threatened by violence. In some communities, teens talk of "if" they grow up, instead of "when" they grow up, planning their funerals instead of their futures. Between 1985 and 1992 the annual number of youths killed by guns grew from 2,500 to 5,326. During Oct. 2013, 46 women will be murdered—and this is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Less obvious and less visible is the slow motion violence of discrimination and poverty, hunger and hopelessness, addiction and self-destructive behavior. Grinding poverty and powerlessness leave too many without a stake in society and a place in our community. Economic, social and moral forces can tear apart communities and families not as quickly, but just as surely, as bullets and knives. Lives sometimes are diminished and threatened not only in the streets of our cities, but also by decisions made in the halls of government, the boardrooms of corporations and the courts of our land. An ethic of respect for life should be a central measure of all our institutions -- community, economic, political, and legal.

Source: USCCB

What can you do? Attend the YWCA Week Without Violence Daffodil Planting on **Tues., Oct. 15** at the new Salt Lake Public Safety Building, 475 South 300 East beginning at 10:30 a.m. Co-sponsored by the Gun Violence Prevention Center and Salt Lake City Police Department, this annual event serves as a reminder of the lives lost in Utah to gun violence.

As recommended last week, contact your federal representative and senators and ask them to end the government shut down and pass a clean continuing resolution. This **Thursday**, October 17, federal borrowing authority will be exhausted. Congress needs to prevent that and allow the Treasury to borrow for an extended period *and* pass a spending bill to end the shutdown. More importantly, Congress needs to stop playing political games on the backs of the poor. SNAP and WIC programs will run out of funding by the end of Oct. Thirty-one children and many more adults have already lost cancer treatments due to the closure of the National Institutes of Health. Government grants to Catholic Relief Services may not be funded, jeopardizing anti-poverty programs and refugee services around the globe. Help protect the lives of the vulnerable and urge Congress to do the same.

Contact information for Utah's congressmen is available at <http://governor.utah.gov/goca/representatives.html>.

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK: Lower your emissions on Halloween by buying locally grown pumpkins, and then lower your waste by composting them after Halloween is over. Use recycled paper to make window decorations, and then send them on for another round of recycling after the holiday. Paper grocery bags can be cut and molded into spooky Halloween trees, masks, and painted white for ghostly effects. This Halloween, make a green Halloween costume box and throw old clothes, interesting props and other recyclable materials into it throughout the year. By next Halloween, you'll have lots of eco-friendly materials to make into new costume ideas.

PRAYER: God our Father,
inspire us with a great respect for all human life
from the time of the child growing in the womb to the point of death.

May that respect lead us to grow in a sense of responsibility
for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world,
knowing that, where one person suffers and is degraded,
all of humanity is belittled and abused.

May we grow in a sense of love and care for those less fortunate than ourselves,
and lead us to do something about the troubles in our world.

Amen.