

Justice, Peace and Life

November 2023

“Nothing is solved with war. Nothing.”

-Pope Francis

Fr. Ibrahim Faltas, the Vicar of the Custody of the Holy Land, calls for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.



CEASEFIRE NOW! Work for peace!

Join Pope Francis and thousands of others in calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war. Go to this [link](#) through the Maryknoll congregation (the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America) to connect to the White House. **Call** the White House Comment Line at 202-456-1111. Hours of operation are 11am to 3pm ET, Tuesday - Thursday. Or leave a comment on the White House comment page at this [link](#).

Share the Pope's message calling for peace at this [link](#). Fr. Ibrahim Faltas, the [Vicar of the Holy Land](#) speaks out for a ceasefire in this [video](#). Fr. Faltas is a member of the Franciscans in the Holy Land whose mission is "to welcome pilgrims, serve the poor, carrying out local ministry and to guard and carry out the liturgical life of the Holy Places."

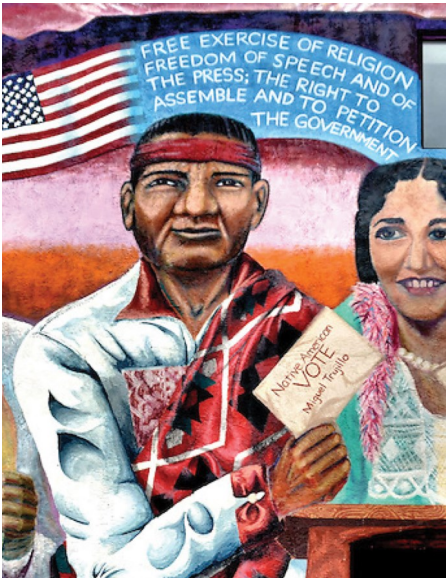
Donate to Catholic Relief Services work in the Holy Land. Message from CRS: *CRS and its partner aid workers stand mobilized and ready to meet the needs of displaced families. Our staff report that children lack food and water, mothers cannot feed their infants, and families lack the most basic shelter. Recent aid convoys entering Gaza meet only a tiny fraction of the humanitarian need for two million Gazans. The humanitarian funding in this supplemental request is urgently needed.*

"Lord, we pray to you for the Holy Land, for the people of Israel and Palestine who are under the grip of unprecedented violence, for the victims, especially the children, for the wounded, for those held hostage, for the missing and their families.

In these hours of anguish and suspension, we join our voices to that of the Pope and to the choral prayer of those around the world who implore peace.

Help us, Lord, to commit ourselves to building a fraternal world so that these peoples and those in the same conditions of conflict of instability and violence may find the path of respect for human rights where justice, dialogue and reconciliation are the indispensable tools for building peace."

-Margaret Karram, President
Focolare Movement
and a Palestinian Catholic



**Your Vote is
Your Voice**
**Election Day is
Tuesday
November 7.**

*The local officials
elected this year
will make hugely
important
decisions for our
communities.*

*Don't miss the
opportunity to
help choose who
has this power.*

November is Native American Heritage Month

Did you know that Native Americans born in the United States were not granted U.S. citizenship until **1924**? Though the Fifteenth Amendment, passed in 1870, granted all U.S. citizens the right to vote regardless of race, it wasn't until the Snyder Act that Native Americans could enjoy the rights granted by this amendment. However it still took over forty years for Native Americans to have the right to vote in all fifty states. The Constitution left it up to the individual states to decide who had that right. Even with the lawful right to vote in every state, Native Americans suffered from the same mechanisms and strategies, such as poll taxes, literacy tests, fraud and intimidation, that kept African Americans from exercising that right.

—from [The Library of Congress](#)

A few short videos to watch:

**[Native Americans on "Language"](#)

**[Iroquois Confederacy: The Birth of Democracy](#)

Story of the alliance of six nations who lived in what is now New York State and southern Ontario

**[Indigenous People Answer Commonly Googled Questions About Native Americans](#)

**[A Conversation With Native Americans on Race](#)



November is also Black Catholic History Month

See this [article](#) and watch this short [video](#) on six holy and amazing Black Americans who have been proposed for canonization.

**BLACK FRIDAY IS AN ANNUAL
HEAVILY-ADVERTISED MEGA
SHOPPING DAY WITH THE
GOAL OF CONVINCING YOU TO
BUY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.**

But every product you buy
has an environmental cost,
from long before it hits
store shelves to long after
you toss it in the bin.

Boycott Amazon: Use Your Money for Good

As the holiday shopping season approaches please consider spending your dollars at locally owned businesses and socially conscious Fair Trade enterprises.

Shopping at local businesses instead of Amazon means:

-supporting local owners and workers who live in your community

-keeping your tax dollars in your local community (Without adequate revenue from sales tax, our local governments won't have the funding they need to provide public services, and might have to raise property taxes

-circulating money locally instead of funneling it to a billionaire

—avoiding further enriching those who profit off the [unsafe working conditions](#), [poverty wages](#), and [union-busting](#) that Amazon has long engaged in

**BOYCOTT
amazon**

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