

**National Advocacy Center of the
Sisters of the Good Shepherd**

2026 Priorities

*Though the winds of politics
change, our commitment to lifting
up the needs of the marginalized
is unwavering*



Introduction

NAC raises its voice to remind our national leaders that we have the resources and the creativity to find means to support struggling youth and families here and abroad, and to offer solutions to complex problems. The U.S. was founded as a country of possibility, open to people from many backgrounds and experiences. We must continue to live out that tradition.

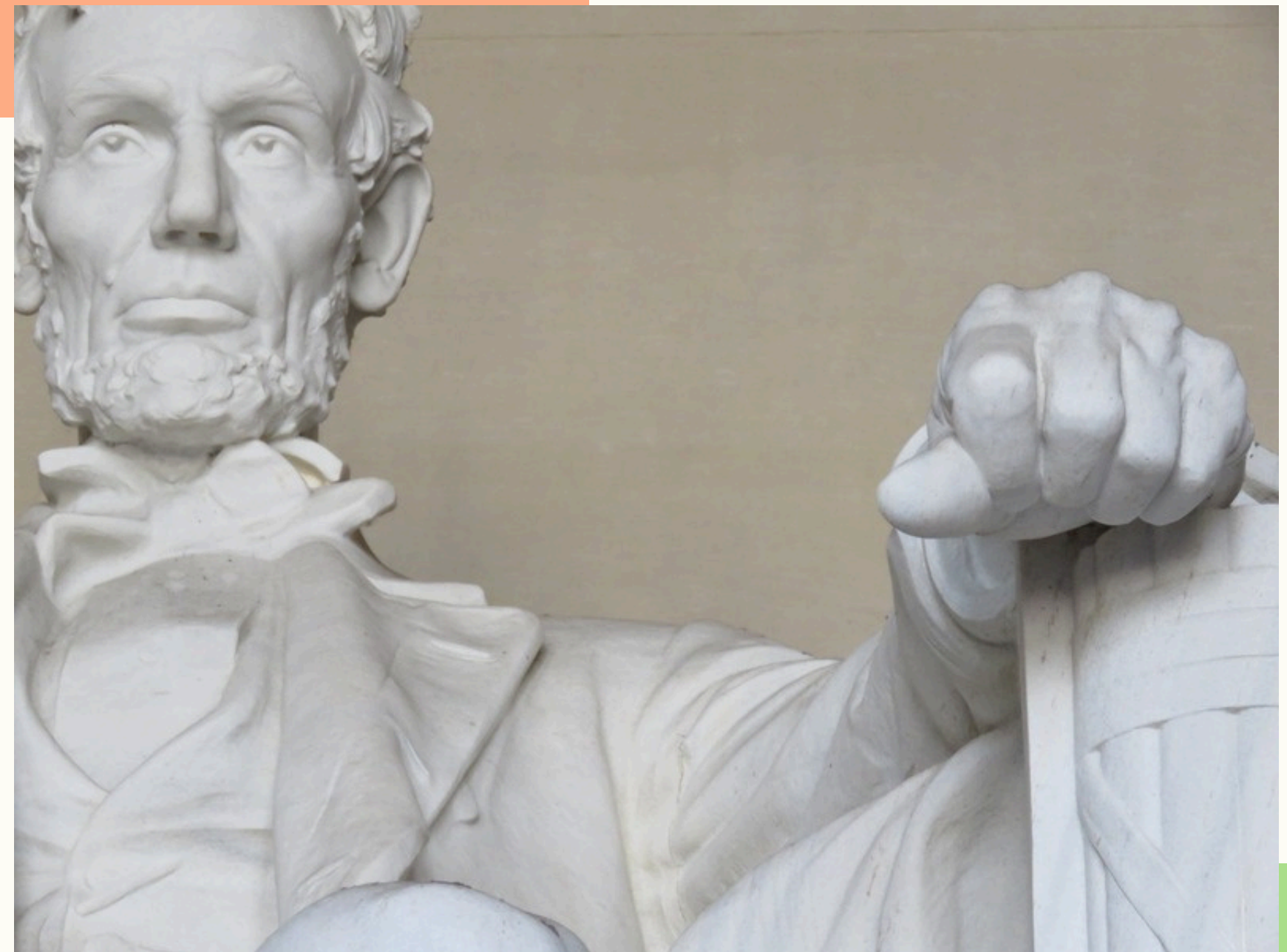


Solidarity in Justice

The National Advocacy Center, in coalition with like-minded partners, seeks to build a culture of justice in which every individual can thrive.

In solidarity with the disenfranchised, particularly women and children, we are doing what is ours to do, guided by our mission.

We do so regardless of who is in the White House or in Congress – we engage with all in pursuit of a more just society.



Solidarity in Good Shepherd Community

Sisters and partners-in-mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd throughout the United States and Toronto, Canada begin 2026 as a new region.

The regional tent is large, encompassing apostolic and contemplative sisters, partner agencies engaged in direct service with those on the margins of society, individual ministries of the sisters, Congregational associates and companions, and other partners-in-mission in regional structures – including the National Advocacy Center.



2026 Priorities

1

Human Trafficking

2

Families, particularly
Women and Children
on the Margins

3

U.S. Policies Abroad
Impacting Good
Shepherd Programs

Our focus as advocates remains rooted in our desire to uphold the God-given dignity of each human person.

NAC does its work always mindful of the root causes of gender inequality, racism and environmental degradation.

End Human Trafficking

Sex and labor trafficking are affronts to human dignity and represent a commodification of the individual. Prevention education, anti-trafficking policy and survivor supports are critical to addressing and ending this terrible scourge.

We are distressed by all caught in the web of human trafficking, a crime against humanity.



continued

In 2024, NAC joined with the Alliance to End Human Trafficking (AEHT) to pass legislation breaking the link between human trafficking and forced migration.

Congress began its new two-year cycle last year (2025) and continues in 2026, and NAC and AEHT have continued our partnership.

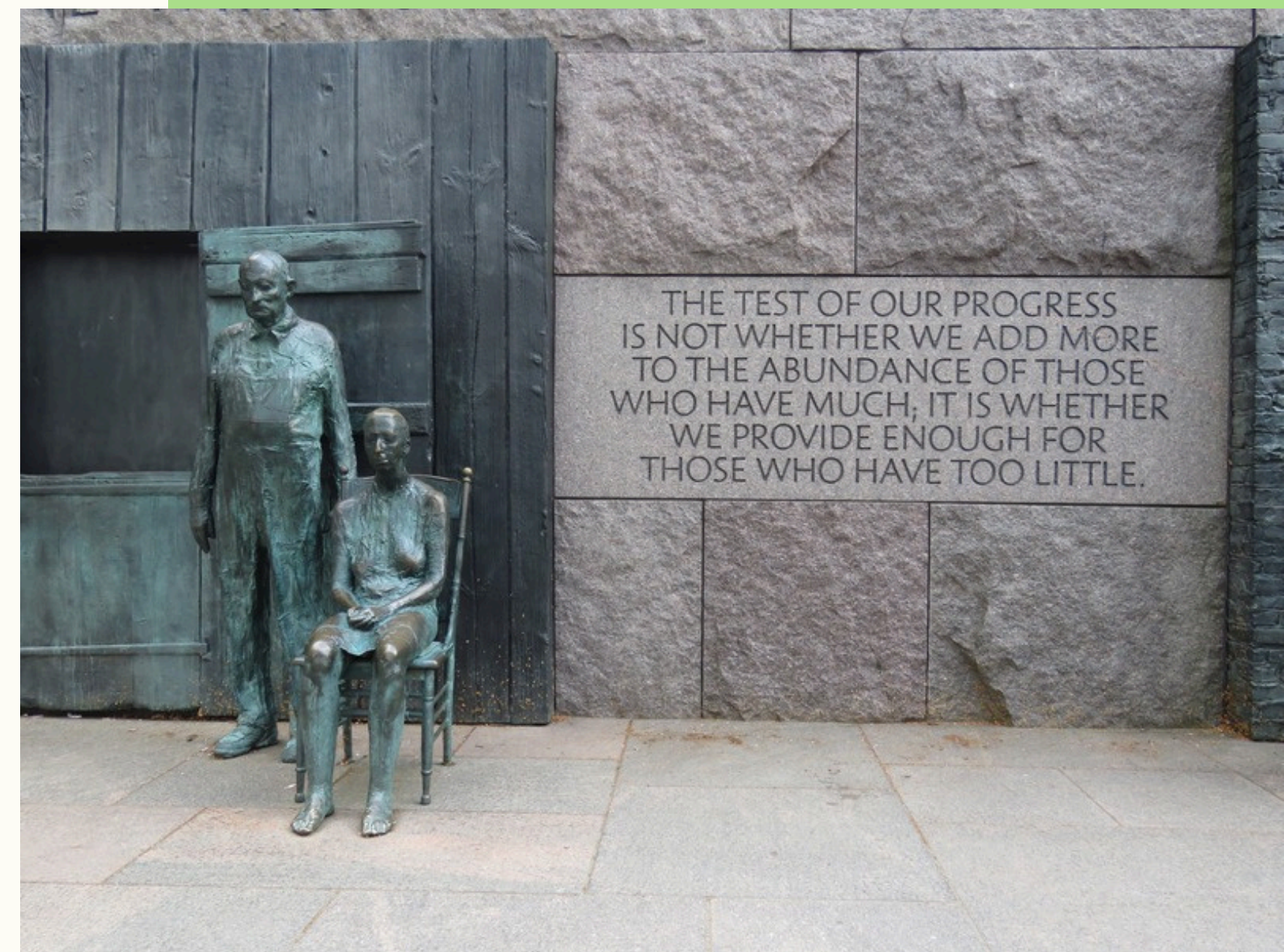
Our emphasis for the 2025-2026 congressional sessions has been to prevent human trafficking and bring hope to survivors.

One of the three bills we lobbied for passed and has been signed into law - The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act! We will continue to advocate for our other priority legislation.



Advocating to Improve the Lives of Families, particularly Women and Children on the Margins

- Working for Economic Justice / Ending Poverty
- Addressing Violence in our Communities
 - Domestic and Gun Violence
- Seeking Support and Safety for Immigrant Families, including Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Caring for our Foster Youth
- Improving Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Supports



continued

This call – while ambitious – is central to our mission to be in solidarity with those so often lost, forgotten or dismissed. We seek a world where everyone can reach their potential and thrive.

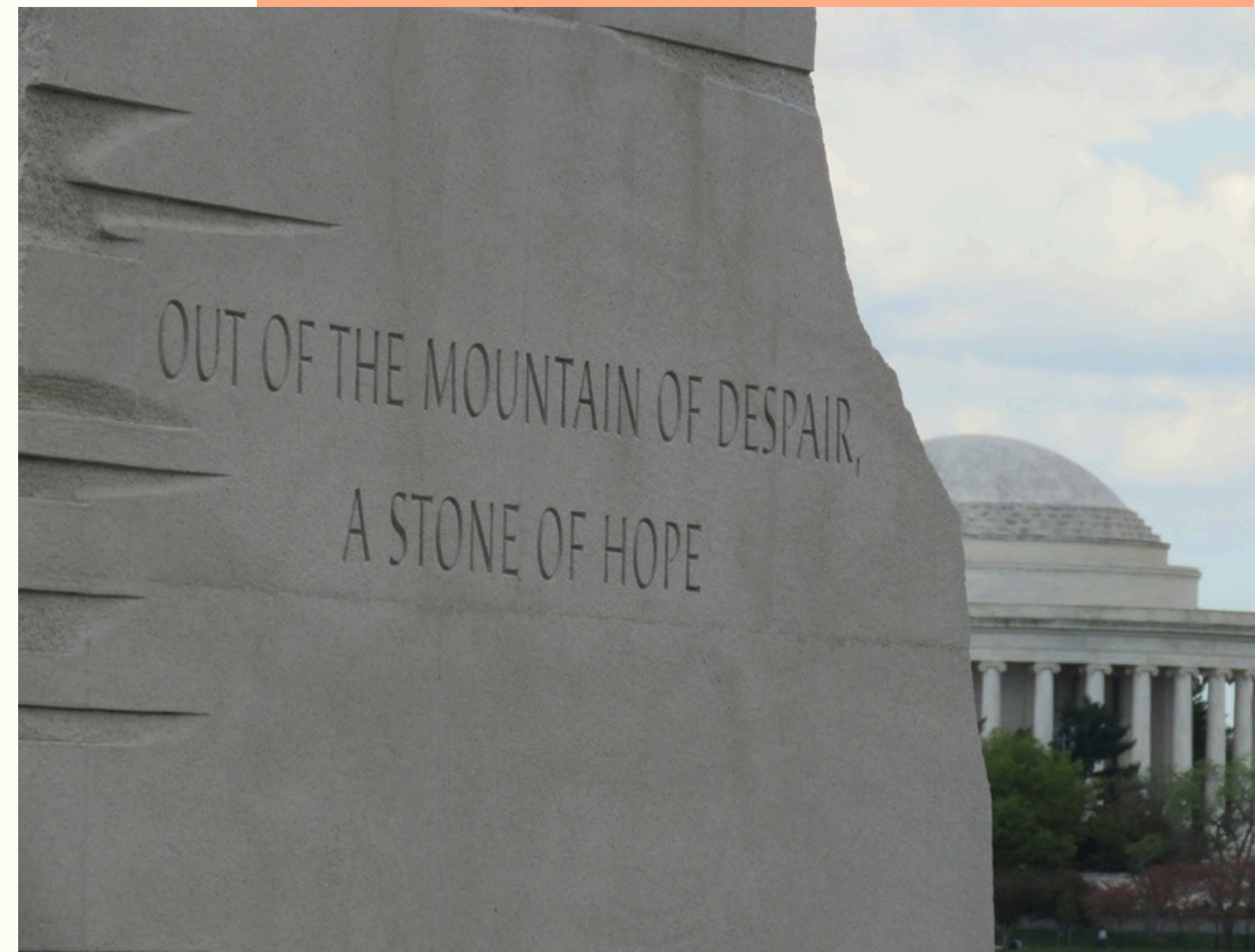
Our Good Shepherd agencies around the country are integral to this work, as the experiences of program participants and the staff members working with them bring critical insights about what is needed to bring systemic change.



Responding Strategically to U.S. Policy Abroad

The United States is a powerful and affluent country on the world stage. Its decisions and policies have a far-reaching impact. Given its position, the U.S. is called to act sagely and with compassion for the safety and benefit of our global society.

NAC works with its partners to lift up situations in other countries, rising from U.S. action, that require attention. Since the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd is international, with sisters and lay partners in 68 countries, we are able to speak from their experience.



Priority Legislation

1

Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act

3

Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention Act

2

Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA)

4

Just appropriations for women and children

5

Legislation supporting the rights and dignity of immigrants

"Zeal does not consist in continual preaching and inciting to virtue, but is rather exercised by good example."

Saint Mary Euphrasia, Foundress, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Final Thoughts

Pope Leo XIV is a pope who welcomes all - "todos, todos, todos." He calls all of us to an "unarmed and disarming peace," emphasizing personal conversion, rejecting violence and building peace from within through unconditional love, dialogue and a focus on compassion over force.

May all of our hearts be disarmed so that we might promote reconciliation and peace.



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER
Rise Up AND Act for Justice