

“UNBEARABLE” — Sister on Border: Silence from pulpit over immigration ‘unbearable’ — from **Global Sisters Report**, a project of **National Catholic Reporter**

Sr. Ann Durst, a member of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, and an immigration lawyer, voiced disappointment with Catholic leaders who preach, yet maintain what she sees as an “unbearable” silence from the pulpit as candidates for public office painted an often-negative view of newcomers to the United States.

“I am saddened by the fact that church leadership controls who preaches the Gospel and then doesn’t preach it,” she told GSR. “And so, it makes the sound of silence resonate as a few other things have done. The silence is unbearable for me and has been. I cannot comprehend it.”

Durst founded Casa Cornelia Law Center, which has for more than 30 years helped migrants and refugees in the San Diego area She is worried about what will happen to them, given the incoming president’s campaign promises to implement harsh ... policies

President-elect Donald Trump promised mass deportations in his second term. He has also threatened to end the humanitarian parole immigration program, which has allowed refuge to people from places such as Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, Ukraine and Haiti. He also has said he will eliminate *Temporary Protected Status* and the popular *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals* program

More than half of Catholic voters voted for Trump, according to The Associated Press’ VoteCast

Facing challenges to heed Gospel teachings that urge helping the stranger, there are some Catholics who will engage in civil disobedience because “*it’s the right thing to do*” ... *It’s not about being faithful to a political party, but to a set of religious beliefs ...*”

“We just have to be comfortable that we are being faithful to the Gospel. There’s going to be rough riding in some instances, and there’s going to be injustice. People won’t like us, some of us; that’s not new. But it’s hard ...” “The important thing is that we’re truthful and compassionate. I don’t think we have to be brash or offensive, but we certainly have to be truthful.”

by Rhina Guidos

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“We must pay special attention to the strangers in our midst ... it is not only about foreigners; it is about all those in existential peripheries who, together with migrants and refugees, are victims of the throwaway culture. The Lord calls us to practice charity towards them. He calls us to restore their humanity, as well as our own, and to leave no one behind ...

Loving our neighbour as ourselves means being firmly committed to building a more just world, in which everyone has access to the goods of the earth, in which all can develop as individuals and as families, and in which fundamental rights and dignity are guaranteed to all.”

Homily, Pope Francis, 9-29-19



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