

## Our Inhumanity Is Showing - Again



A series of eye witnesses reports have surfaced revealing the deplorable conditions inflicted upon children from infants to teenagers – children who have come here for help, have instead found indifference, prejudice, and cruelty. 80% of immigrant children held separated from families have relatives in the U.S. but authorities do not get them to their relatives. There are families willing to take in the rest but authorities do not facilitate that either. Instead, authorities lock the children in warehouse cages often for weeks or months with no caregivers, no health care even when they are sick, not enough diapers for babies. . . Children are not given the means to keep clean, clean clothes, or beds to sleep in. Even supplies donated to meet these needs have been turned away. Instead the children are treated like criminals, ‘punished’ by having to sleep on concrete floors and suffer verbal abuse in addition to the abuses already mentioned. Their plight is at least as bad as the conditions suffered in the workhouses, debtors’ prisons and other such institutions of centuries past which we look back on as contemptible and appalling. . .

Reports this week also indicate that since the move to private prisons has made incarceration a for profit proposition, saving money has become the goal. Prison staff is poorly trained. More prisoners mean higher profits so high incarceration rates are encouraged. Skimping on healthcare; ignoring prisoner pleas for medical care; has led to long-term health issues for some prisoners and preventable prisoner deaths (from appendicitis and pneumonia, etc.). It seems that profit and retaliatory punishment mean more than humanity and compassion.

***Lord, forgive us for keeping silent, for letting these things happen, or even condoning such treatment of human beings you created!***

***We are called to love not hate; care for not abuse; open doors not shut them; give our lives for others not put ourselves first and look out for number one.***

### ***This week pray for:***

- **Refugees** – Statistics published for World Refugee Day (June 20) show the current U.S. administration is closing the door to refugees, many of whom are being persecuted for their faith. The administration is cutting the number of refugees allowed to enter the U.S. by more than two thirds. This means the number of refugees given asylum to escape persecution of Christians has been cut by 58 to 96 percent and the number of refugees escaping persecution, because they follow other faiths, is being cut from 62 to 100 percent depending on their country of origin (see *Newsline*, June 20).
- **Nigeria** where people continue living with the threat of violence.
- **Asylum seekers** threatened with deportation.
- **Emigrants** caught in a political dispute largely created by U.S. government.

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