

Here are some guidelines that are helping me use my Christian voice and giving me hope for engagement in the kind of country I want and will work for, for the sake of my children and grandchildren, and for the sake of those who cannot lift a voice or who remain invisible in their needs. In the December 21, 2016 issue of Christian Century magazine, I found on the editorial page a listing of actions that will help me "resist the spell" of a master manipulator who is now my President. Perhaps this list will help you to be alert in these areas as well: (this list before any EO by Trump)

-- Protecting constitutional rights and being alert to occasions when freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion are in jeopardy.

--Defending stewardship of the environment. Almost all scientists agree that abandoning limits on greenhouse gas emissions and watering down environmental regulations will imperil the planet and its most vulnerable citizens.

--Encouraging policies that narrow income inequalities and provide genuine economic opportunity to all workers - and that don't pit one segment against another

--Keeping an eye on where the money goes. As a businessman with financial dealings around the globe, President Trump needs to distance himself in office and adjusting policies to serve his interests

--Speaking up alongside immigrants and their families those who are targets of hate crimes, and all those whose voices are rarely heard by decision makers.

--Building up diverse coalitions that work to meet the needs of people at the local level, thereby strengthening the basis for more truthful political discourse

--Call out sexism, racism, homophobia, misogyny , anti-semitism, ,Islamaphobia, and all isms that seek to destroy the beautiful diversity of citizens in this country and in our faith communities.

Finally, I would like to lift up a recent comment by Jesuit priest and author, James Martin. He spoke out against the President's Executive Order on

Immigration and Refugees. He speaks to my heart and I hope yours as well:

"This is an issue of life or death. Migrants flee from profound poverty which causes suffering and can lead to death. Refugees flee from persecution, terror and war, out of fear for their lives.

Jesus himself is speaking to us from the Gospels. It is Jesus whom we turn away when we build walls. It is Christ whom we reject when we slash quotas for refugees. It is Jesus Christ whom we are killing, by letting our neighbors die in poverty and war rather than opening our doors...."

LORD, HAVE MERCY. CHRIST, HAVE MERCY. LORD, HAVE MERCY.