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2018 Priorities

A Charge To Keep We Have To Serve This Present Age

January 14, 2018 is designated **Justice Sunday™** by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice. The words “**justice**” and “**Sunday**” are symbols of faith, fairness, and freedom, all of which were core values of selfless service rendered by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and countless others who committed their time, talents, and lives to a movement of change. There remains a critical need to build trust, cooperation, communication, integrity, discretion, leadership, and responsibility, each key to sound community policing and unity. The annual theme of JUSTICE SUNDAY™ is “**A Charge To Keep We Have To Serve This Present Age.**” The title, Justice Sunday™, is a symbolic call to action before and beyond the MLK Day of Service which reminds us of the responsibility we each have, in our own way, *to serve this present age*. To this end, a snapshot of our 2018 Justice Sunday priorities are provided below.

MENTOR

January is **National Mentoring Month**. A bit of history . . . in 1997, the Center for Health Communication of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health launched a national media campaign to promote the growth of the mentoring movement with the goal of linking large numbers of young people with adult mentors. Historically, mentoring takes on many forms. Most importantly and using appropriate screening methods, we encourage the opportunity to renew our commitment to our youth and others who might benefit from a voice of wisdom and guidance.

HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE

Throughout the pages of history, institutions of faith were not only meeting places, but they served as an epicenter of freedom and a haven for the strategic planning of critical movements. They were training centers for courageous volunteers, youth and adults, who were enlisted then dispatched to serve in armies of justice and compassion. Justice Sunday™ represents an occasion to continue to mobilize and to inspire the armies of service and collaboration across the nation on the day before and the year to follow the congressionally authorized day which honors the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

NON-VIOLENCE TO NO VIOLENCE

From September 25, 2017, through August 28, 2018, the **National Alliance of Faith and Justice** will recognize a continuum of historic anniversaries which will serve as benchmarks. Amidst these important dates are periods to encourage students to take a stand to keep a seat in school, learn more about and adopt Dr. King’s philosophy of non-violence, and choose to unite school-wide in 50-, 55-, or 60-day commemorative service commitments of no violence.

FACILITATE ASSISTANCE IN TRANSFORMATION AND HEALING

Through F.A.I.T.H., we mobilize our communities to raise public awareness about the challenges facing men and women returning home from prison and need for criminal justice reform. We further examine and prioritize the contribution we each can make to tear down walls of division. A culture of peace means working for a world where we can all be free and comfortable – it means standing up for our rights and beliefs – but without harming others.”