



# “Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph  
Justice & Peace Office  
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## January...A New Year & Multiple Issues!

Traditionally January 7-13 is set aside as National Migration Week by the Catholic Church in the US. This year we deal with many issues.

TPS, Temporary Protected Assistance for refugees who have sought asylum in the U.S. because of natural disasters and violence in their home countries, is in danger of being terminated for yet another group of refugees, many of whom have made their home in the United States for many years.

Currently 195,000 Salvadorans who have made their home in the U.S., will see the termination of the current TPS period in March of 2018. El Salvador is still one of the most dangerous countries in Latin America and subject to frequent natural disasters.

On November 6, 2017 USCIS (US Customs & Immigration Services) terminated TPS for 2500 Nicaraguans and gave them only 4 months to leave the US. TPS for 57,000 Hondurans has been extended until July 2018. That country is in serious civil disarray since the reelection of their sitting President, Juan Hernandez, who there is reason to believe was illegally elected.

### TAKE ACTION!

- Review the report in the Interfaith Immigration Coalition's TPS support resources and TPS Toolkit at: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/issues/tps/>
- Contact your US House legislators to urge support for H.R.4253, the American Promise Act, or the bi-partisan H.R.4384, the ASPIRE Act, and call your US Senators to urge they pass the S.2144, the SECURE Act. For each one, call: 202-224-3121.

## January is Human Trafficking Month!

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month. Beginning in 2010, by Presidential Proclamation, each January has been designated National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Following the start of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, with the help of non-government organizations, National Human Trafficking Day began and is observed annually on January 11.

President Trump announced that in January, he will sign into law two anti-trafficking bills, the “Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act” and the “No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act.”

In Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren will issue a proclamation on Thursday, January 11 at 1 pm at the Ebenezer Watts Community Center on 49 So. Fitzhugh Street. Members of the Rochester Regional Coalition against Human Trafficking (RCAHT) will be present to receive the proclamation.

A Prayer Calendar from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA. is attached with this Newsletter for those who wish to pray for victims. Please consult the RCAHT website, <http://www.rcaht.org/> for other resources and links on this vital issue.

Check this link to see how you can be involved: <http://www.rcaht.org/what-you-can-do>

## Listen to the Stories of Refugees Who have Made Their Homes in the Greater Rochester Area

President Trump has severely limited the number of refugees to 45,000 which the United States will accept this year. To date only 2400 have arrived despite the number of persons in refugee camps from Syria and other areas who are desperate for safe haven. Catholic Family Center's Refugee Resettlement Program in Rochester has accepted only 50 in the first two months of this fiscal year.

CFC has performed an extraordinary act of public service for us by asking some of the members of the refugee community who have resettled in this area to tell their stories. The PSAs are available to groups who wish to share them and post on their own websites. The website link is <http://www.seetheirstories.org/>

## Emergency Delegation Needed for Honduras

Honduras has been in a state of upheaval since the Presidential election in November. The sitting President, Juan Hernandez, chose to run for re-election and forced the amendment of the Constitution which limited the Presidency to one term. The opposition candidate, Salvador Nasralla, appeared to be winning but delays in the vote counting gave the election to Hernandez. There have been massive demonstrations and calls for a new election. Jesuit priest, Rev. Ismael Moreno, known as Padre Melo, is director of Radio Progreso, one of the few free radio voices in that country. His radio tower has been demolished. He is begging for international delegations to come to Honduras to witness what is happening. It is only the presence of these delegations that prevent further violence. Unfortunately the US chose to recognize the new government because there has been a slight decrease in crime since Hernandez has been President. The Organization of American States (OAS) and others warning that the election did not meet standards. The Honduran military and police have received over \$100 million from the U.S. since the 2009 coup d'etat.

SSJ Website [www.ssjrochester.org/](http://www.ssjrochester.org/) and links to Facebook!

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(CTRL & Click)

Brazil link: Copy & Paste:  
<http://www.isjrochester.com.br>



## Delegation Objectives:

- To accompany the Honduran human rights defenders and social movements as they mobilize and demand respect for the true results of the November presidential elections; and to lend support to the faith communities accompanying those most vulnerable;
- To collect testimonies and witness the repression against those involved in the peaceful demonstrations; and
- To return to the U.S. to share the findings, carry forth the "cry of the people" of Honduras for justice, and advocate for a just resolution to the crisis.

**Dates of the delegation:** January 24th to the 30th. We will be traveling to San Pedro Sula, Honduras

**Cost:** Airfare approximately \$500 - \$600; plus \$400 in country for room and board.

Contact: If interested, **Please contact:** Jose Artiga at [415.558.8634](tel:415.558.8634), [jose@share-elsalvador.org](mailto:jose@share-elsalvador.org)

This delegation is sponsored by the [Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity](http://www.im4humanintegrity.org/).  
<http://www.im4humanintegrity.org/>

**Support Padre Melo & The People of Honduras**  
<http://www.share-elsalvador.org/emergencyappealforhondurans.html>

Join us in sending critical financial aid to cover emergency medical and transportation costs, emergency housing, legal defense, Radio Progreso (a vital means of communication) and the ongoing mobilizations by the people of Honduras in defense of freedom and democracy. 100% of your tax free donation to the SHARE Foundation will be delivered to the Jesuit-sponsored Radio Progreso in Honduras.