



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
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Praying for Peace In A Time of Chaos

The month of May offers many opportunities for prayer. We pray in honor of Mary, the Mother of God. We pray for workers, (May 1), and we pray for all who have served their country in time of war but we also pray for the victims of war and chaos.

This is a time to pray for our country, and for our leaders. We cannot afford to give in to a popular culture that thrives on media hype. The way forward may not be clear, but the journey requires that we “keep trudging” as a good friend once reminded me!

Some quotes to meditate on:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

John 14:27

“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.”

1 Corinthians 14:33

Prayer for Victims of War

Sojourners: By the Web Editors 12-02-2010

<https://sojo.net/articles/prayer-day-prayer-victims-war>

We pray today for the victims of violence and war. We ask your healing, O Lord, for those who have been wounded in body, hurt emotionally, and broken spiritually. For the refugees who have been forced out of their homes because of war and destruction, we ask your protection and guidance. Amen

Green Light Drivers Program: What It Would Mean For Undocumented Drivers in NYS

The NY Immigration Coalition is advocating for legal drivers’ licenses for undocumented drivers in NYS. Until 2002 undocumented workers were able to obtain legal licenses which allowed them to drive within the state. Governor Pataki ended this privilege when he required Social Security numbers to be attached to applications. In 2007 Governor Spitzer attempted to revive the plan that would allow undocumented workers to obtain licenses but he was thwarted when County Clerks refused to cooperate and the NYS Senate voted down the proposal.

Now in 2017, with anti-immigrant sentiment ratcheting up, why is this issue again being brought up?

To be an undocumented worker means always to live in fear, for yourself and for your family! Undocumented workers picked up for minor traffic infractions who do not have the ability to produce a valid license are often candidates for deportation because of their inability to speak English. Police officers often call ICE or Border Patrol for interpretation and the person in question is whisked off to detention.

Anyone living in a rural area without available transportation must rely on finding someone who is willing to drive them to an appointment, to get groceries, to visit family members, etc.

For undocumented workers, this means paying large amounts of money for someone to drive them.

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Driver's Licenses for farmworkers, continued.

A farmworker told me his story. Farm work is a dangerous occupation. This young man had sustained injuries on four different occasions. The farmer he worked for would not take him to the hospital. He waited four days for a ride. His shoulder was injured and he has been unable to return to work in the three years since the accident!

The proposed Assembly Bill, No. 04050, would permit workers to apply for a limited license to drive in NYS only. It would be a State license not requiring a Social Security number, but it would not permit interstate travel or ID use to get on an airplane, etc. The person applying would need to pass a valid driver's test showing an understanding of the rules of the road!

Car registration and liability insurance would be required.

There are advantages in allowing undocumented drivers to have a state license:

- a. increased safety for everyone on the road. In case of an accident, there will be insurance coverage to assist the person(s) injured.
- b. Economic benefits of having drivers purchase insurance, cars, etc.
- c. Persons who can drive legally will be more likely to shop in area stores and purchase items that are needed, thus paying sales taxes, etc.

For the undocumented:

- a. Driving legally, workers would be more likely to be charged with civil offenses for traffic violations than being at risk of deportation because ICE or Border Patrol has been called.
- b. Workers can go about their business with the freedom accorded others instead of being treated as indentured laborers who must depend on others.

SSJ Website www.ssjrochester.org/
and links to Facebook!



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(CTRL & Click)

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

Deaths from Immigrant Crossings from Brooks County Sheriff's Dept., Texas

NY Times report: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/04/us/texas-border-migrants-dead-bodies.html?emc=edit_ta_20170504&nl=to

More people have died illegally crossing the southwestern border of the United States in the last 16 years than were killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and **Hurricane Katrina** combined. From October 2000 through September 2016, the Border Patrol **documented 6,023 deaths** in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas, while more than 4,800 people died in the Sept. 11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

Coming Events

ROC/Acts Sustainer Challenge and Celebration Sunday, May 21—FUNdraising Reception, Silent Auction and Basket Raffle: 3– 5pm, St. John the Evangelist Church Hall, 553 Humboldt St., Rochester, NY 14610—Come and hear what the Rochester Alliance for Transforming Communities is doing in the areas of poverty, criminal justice, education, with clergy and religious leaders. Bid on gift baskets and Silent Auction Items and enjoy wonderful refreshments! (See Attached flyer!)

GRCC Faith In Action Dinner—June 6, 2017 Burgandy Basin Inn, 5:30 pm; This is a fundraiser and dinner to honor contributions of members of the Faith Community. Honorees this year are the Rev. Larry Witmer, Faith in Action Award, and Metropolitan Award Winner, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Prince G. Singh, the Eighth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. For Reservations: 585-254-2570.