



# “Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph  
Justice & Peace Office

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## Sunday, August 6, 72nd Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Peace messages are written on the lanterns that are floated down the Motoyasu River, where they will pass directly in front of the Atomic Bomb Dome.

### PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God, the keeper of the atoms and stars:  
You made us collaborators in creation,  
but we have pilfered the secrets of ordered  
existence  
and justified their immoral use in the name of  
"security" and "peace."

We could say then that we didn't know the  
consequences.

Now we do know, but we are complacent and  
silent.

### Lord, have mercy.

We have abused the glue of the universe.  
We have made and stockpiled weapons of mass  
destruction  
instead of saying "No" to their use for evil.  
Fear and presumption have driven us  
to be ready to annihilate untold lives and  
make areas of the earth uninhabitable.

### Christ, have mercy.

Open our eyes to see how small and fragile the  
planet is and  
how the destruction of any human being  
diminishes all.

Heal the wounds opened with the destruction of  
Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Mend the fabric of the human family.

## RAISE ACT Introduced

On Wednesday, Senators Tom Cotton (R-AR) and David Perdue (R-GA) introduced the “Reforming American Immigration for a Strong Economy” (RAISE) Act, which has garnered support from President Trump and opposition from members of Congress in both parties. If passed this legislation would permanently cap refugee admissions, make family reunification inaccessible and it would eliminate the ability of U.S. citizens to sponsor their brothers and sisters.

This act would make family reunification impossible and limit those who could be admitted to the US as only those persons with the skills sets needed for business and industry. English language skills, educational achievement and work backgrounds for high level jobs would be required. Refugee admissions would be capped at 50,000 per year. U.S. citizens would be unable to sponsor their parents for five-year visas because they would not be able to work and the child sponsor would have to cover all expenses and health insurance costs. Green card workers would be unable to sponsor children over 18 years of age.

Those opposing the legislation say it goes counter to the image of the U.S. portrayed by the Statue of Liberty: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free...” Those who support it believe it will limit “welfare” for immigrants and refugees coming into the country without high level skill sets.

Fact check on President Trump’s speech: Immigrants coming into the US are already barred from federal assistance programs for five years including food stamps, Medicaid and Social Security. Exceptions are pregnant women and children under 5 who are eligible for WIC and the free and reduced school lunch program. Continued p. 2

## **RAISE Act, Continued**

These would continue but there will be fewer families admitted under RAISE and those who are admitted will be highly skilled and more able to get employment.

<http://www.factcheck.org/2017/08/trump-overstates-impact-immigration-bill/>

**Action:** Call your Senators and Representatives at 202-224-3121 today and ask them to oppose the permanent cap on immigrants and refugees today

## **Environment—Clean Water Rule is Up for Review**

The Clean Water Rule finalized during the Obama Administration after years of planning, 40 stakeholder meetings and more than a million public comments, safeguards our drinking water and restores water protections to the drinking water sources of in 3 Americans.

President Trump proposes to roll back the Clean Water Rule and the Environmental Protection Agency is giving only 30 days for a public comment period.

The 45 year old Clean Water Act has protected rivers, streams and other bodies of water under federal jurisdiction regarding pollution standards. The President has issued an executive order making it easier for the Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw the Clean Water Rule which was only codified and passed in 2015. Without these protections in place it will be easier for developers building over wetlands and streams to dump pollutants into our waters and put public health at risk!

**This is a high alert for public comment! Comments will be received by the EPA only until August 28.** Individual comments can be submitted: [https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA\\_FRDOC\\_0001-21030](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA_FRDOC_0001-21030)

**This link gives the whole document. Look at the top for the box to submit your comment! (Otherwise you'll miss it!)**

**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>

## **Deadline to sign a Group Letter: August 9**

The Clean Water For All Campaign has also extended the deadline to sign your organization on to this letter that will be sent to EPA Administrator Pruitt. Please use the following link to view the letter and sign your group on if you are interested: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/>

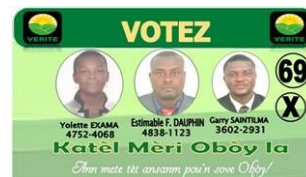
## **For More Information:**

[What is the Clean Water Rule? | Protect Clean Water](#)

## **Coming Events**

### **Haiti, Ice Cream and Sloppy Joes at St. Joe's**

*Join us for some simple summer treats and a talk by recently released Haitian political prisoner Francius Dauphin Estimable.*



### **St. Joseph's House of Hospitality,**

402 South Ave., Rochester

**Sunday, August 20, 2017, 5-7pm**

**\$5 suggested donation**

Estimable will share the story of his political persecution and year-long imprisonment. His arrest on July 5, 2016 was a direct result of his persistence and success with development projects in the community of Borgne, Haiti and from his attempted run for mayor and subsequent challenge of the election results... despite his coming from a poor family. Join us to learn about what it is like to be in prison in Haiti and hear about the community projects Estimable has been involved in. Be ready to be inspired with what people living in poverty in Haiti are doing to develop their own community, how they resist oppression and how global cooperation and partnerships help us all build a better world.