



# “Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph  
Justice & Peace Office  
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## The Week That Was, More to Come, Looking Ahead!

This past weekend saw catastrophic floods from Hurricane Irma that destroyed many of the Caribbean Islands, as well as parts of Florida and has now moved on as a tropical storm.

Monday, September 11, we were reminded of the 9/1/01 catastrophe that destroyed the World Trade Center and killed thousands of people.

DACA recipients are speaking up and groups are mobilizing to stand with the immigrant community.

Several other issues are on the Congressional agenda which need to be addressed. Support is needed.

**September is Hunger Action Month.** The SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is up for reauthorization. The House of Representatives plans to cut \$10 billion over 10 years. Read more at the Feeding America Website: <https://secure.feedingamerica.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=368>

### Please take action:

**SEND A MESSAGE:** Voice your concern to your representative, urging them to oppose the House Budget Resolution, [through this Feeding America action alert.](#)

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The **CHIP (Child Health Protection Act)** is also up for reauthorization. <http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/data/extend-chip-for-5-more-years.pdf>



## DACA Rally, Friday Sept. 8 In front of Federal Bldg

Kemberly Gel, 21, DACA recipient speaks to the crowd

In the wake of President Trump’s decision to terminate the DACA program, activists have rallied in support of these young immigrants who are brave enough to stand up, be counted, and fight for their rights.

Please take a moment to watch the footage from the rally.

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2017/09/08/rally-save-daca-brings-together-more-than-200-activists-urging-immigration->

(highlight and hit ctrl click. Hit OPEN)

**Many bills are in Congress. Here is a brief summary:**

**BRIDGE Act: (Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy)** bipartisan support; introduced by Lindsey Graham and Dick Durbin in Senate. This essentially provides what DACA does now by extending it for 3 years.

**RAC Act (Recognizing America’s Children),** sponsored by Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., provides immigrants vetted by the Dept. of Homeland Security with three pathways toward legalization: higher education, service in the armed forces or work authorization. Five year conditional status, reapply for a 5-year permanent status. After 10 years, apply for citizenship.

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## **Immigration Bills in Congress, Continued**

DREAM Act sponsored by Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. Qualifications for permanent status in the Dream Act include having lived in the U.S. for a certain length of time and meeting certain educational, work or military service requirements. It would take at least 13 years for those eligible to achieve citizenship.

**HOPE (The American Hope Act)**, sponsored by Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill. To be eligible, people must have entered the U.S. before age 18. The bill does not include any work, education or military requirements but does reject people who have been convicted of certain crimes, It also provides the fastest path to citizenship. Those eligible can apply for conditional permanent residency, valid for up to eight years, and after three years can apply for lawful permanent residence status. After a total of five years, they can apply for U.S. citizenship.

The [NYS Immigration Coalition](#) has not yet taken a particular position on any of these bills.

## **Bill Needing Action: Extending the H2A Program**

**What is H2A?** It is a temporary visa program which allows foreign workers to enter the country for a particular period of time to work for one employer. This applies to seasonal workers but has never been applied to dairy workers who are needed all year.

### **What is the potential change in this program?**

The House Appropriations Committee added a policy rider which would allow the US Dept. of Labor to hire agricultural guestworkers without regard to whether jobs are temporary or seasonal. Since workers are limited to one employer, there is concern that employees can be coerced to remaining on the job even if working conditions are unacceptable. Workers would not be able to seek other employment. Proposals usually include elimination of wage and other protections.

**Action Requested: Contact your Senators and Representatives and ask them to block this legislation which has the potential of taking jobs away from dairy workers who are currently employed.**

**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>

## **Coming Events**

**Wed. Sept. 13 – 6:45 -8:30 pm** The Shults Center Forum Seminar on the *Healing Power of Touch, Compassion and Attentiveness* by Dr. Bradford Berk, U of R Professor.

**Thurs., Sept. 21—7:00 pm** Shannon Lecture Series begins at the Nazareth College Shults Center: Bishop Robert W. McElroy, *“Nationalism vs. The Catholic Vision of the Common Good”*

**Friday, Sept. 22, 7 pm** - Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas Gandhi and Kate and Martha Hennessy, granddaughters of Dorothy Day on *“The Legacy of Our Nonviolent Grandparents.”* Shults Center, Nazareth College

## **Contact your legislator:**

- Put the legislator’s name into your web browser.
- Follow the directions given re. contact information.
- Briefly write what you are asking in the message box.

E.g. Please block proposed change to the H2A Guestworker Program that would extend to year round employees such as dairy workers. Since workers are limited to one employer, there is concern that employees can be coerced to remaining on the job even if working conditions are unacceptable. Workers would not be able to seek other employment. Any immigration program must provide an opportunity to earn legal status and citizenship.