



No. 347 February 2, 2018

# “Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph  
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## Prayer for an End to Human Trafficking

Oh God, we didn't see them. But you did.  
The hundreds and thousands of human beings  
Trafficked each year to join the millions  
who are trapped in modern-day slavery.  
Under terrible conditions, they work in factories,  
plow fields, harvest crops, work quarries, fill brothels,  
clean homes, and haul water.

Many are children with tiny fingers for weaving rugs  
and small shoulders for bearing rifles.  
Their labor is forced, their bodies beaten,  
their faces hidden from those who don't really want  
to see them.

But you see them all, God of the poor.  
You hear their cry and you answer  
by opening our eyes, and breaking our hearts and  
loosening our tongues to insist:

No mas. No more

Amen.

**Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity."**  
—Pope Francis

We commemorate Human Trafficking Month January 11-February 8, Feast of St. Bakhita.  
As we prepare for Super Bowl Sunday we are reminded that major sports events attract traffickers!

Catholic Relief Services has many resources on their website, including videos.. **Let In the Light** gives statistics on the number of trafficking victims globally. <https://www.crs.org/get-involved/learn/slavery-and-human-trafficking>

## Racism is a Hot Topic! Have You Ever Thought About What It Means to Have “White Privilege?”

**“White privilege is a hidden and transparent preference that is often difficult to address. Only on closer inspection do we see how it creates a sense of entitlement, generates perks and advantages for white people and elevates our status in the world.”**

White people receive all kinds of perks as a function of their skin privilege.

Consider the following:

- When I cut my finger and go to my school or office’s first aid kit, the flesh-colored band-aid generally matches my skin tone.
- When I stay in a hotel, the complimentary shampoo generally works with the texture of my hair.
- When I run to the store to buy pantyhose at the last minute, the ‘nude’ color generally appears nude on my legs.

When I buy hair care products in a grocery store or drug store, my shampoos and conditioners are in the aisle and section labeled ‘hair care’ and not in a separate section for ‘ethnic products’.

**Teaching Tolerance** <https://www.tolerance.org/professional-development/on-racism-and-white->

### Reminder: Sisters, Associates, Collaborators

Learn More at **Sacred Conversations on Race and Action**, a workshop sponsored by the SSJ Justice Committee on Feb. 24, 9am—4 pm  
Contact Sr. Barbara Gulino to register:

[bgulino@ssjrochester.org](mailto:bgulino@ssjrochester.org) or Call  
585.474-2184

**NETWORK, Catholic Social Justice Lobby**, hosted a webinar outlining its legislative priorities for 2018, on Wednesday, January 31.

Concern over the President's State of the Union speech was evident. Poverty continues to be an issue of concern as wages for lower/middle income workers remain flat. Programs like Earned Income Tax Credit and SNAP (Supplemental Assistance Program) have traditionally helped low wage workers to survive.

Immigration Issues, including DACA, are still on the agenda. It is projected that 2018 will see an increase in deportations, increased border security, and severe cuts in family-based immigration programs. Increased enforcement will be an issue as Sanctuary Cities are targeted. ICE has increased its operations including picking up immigrants in hospitals, schools and churches. Temporary Protected Assistance (TPS) has ended for El Salvador, Haiti, and Nicaragua. Syria is still to be decided. Severe limitations on family members who will be allowed to enter the US are also included.

#### NETWORK priorities

Funding for the 2020 Census: to ensure a full and accurate count. This is to ensure that there is sufficient funding for social programs and Congressional apportionment. NETWORK opposes adding a question re. citizenship to the census data being collected. Currently the Census Dept. is without leadership.

Access to Healthcare: CHIP, Childhood Health Program has been reauthorized for six years. Other programs have expired including Community Health and DSH (Disproportionate Share Program). Community Health affects 27 million people who use community health centers. DHS provides funding for those who cannot pay for their hospitalization.

NETWORK opposes the Medicaid Work requirement which states are now allowed to require. Statistically 8 out of 10 Medicaid families are working. Six out of 10 people on Medicaid work themselves.

For a complete look at priorities go to the website: <https://networklobby.org/> or check webinar: <https://networkadvocates.org/webinarrecordings/>

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

**Find us on Facebook:** [facebook.com/SistersofSaintJosephofRochester](https://www.facebook.com/SistersofSaintJosephofRochester)  
(CTRL & Click)



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

### **Coming Events**

**ROCLA Film Showing:**

***Maya Faces in a Smoking Mirror***

**7 pm, Wednesday, February 7, 2018**

**Downtown Presbyterian Church**

**121 North Fitzhugh Street, Rochester**

"Maya Faces in a Smoking Mirror" is a feature length documentary about the search for identity and resistance in Chiapas, Mexico. In the face of the building of a "Rural City" in one Maya township and exploitation of the earth, young Mayas fight for their identity and a life of dignity in various ways. They cultivate the earth to attain food self sufficiency, become successful artists, earn university degrees and work to reestablish connections to their indigenous language and culture. Director Bill Jungels will join us to introduce the film and lead a discussion following the film.

You are invited to a  
**Community Memorial Service**  
for Our Neighbors Who Have Died  
Over the Past Year Without  
Family or Resources

**Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 2:00 pm**  
**Peace of Christ at St. Ambrose Church**  
**25 Empire Boulevard**  
**Rochester, NY 14609**

Corner of Empire, Culver and Clifford  
Music, Readings, Reflections  
Ritual will include the Rochester Bell  
(from Bells of Remembrance Project)  
All are welcome.  
Sponsored by GRCC—Faith in Action  
Network

For more information:  
(585)254-2570 [grcc1@frontiernet.net](mailto:grcc1@frontiernet.net)