



# “Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph  
Justice & Peace Office  
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***International Women’s Day was March 8, but it’s not too late to Campaign for Women’s Rights!***

**International Women’s Day** (March 8) is a global **day** celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of **women**. The **day** also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

The theme this year is [#Press for Progress](#). (Right click or paste in your browser to reach the website). The focus is on gender equality for women in the work-place and challenging sexual stereotypes that prevent women for being recognized for their achievements.

By going to the [Press for Progress Website](#) you can make your own pledge to fight for women’s equity.

**March 12-23 marks the 62nd. UN session on the Commission of the Status of Women.**

The theme this year is: “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.”



**Interfaith Worker Justice Center Alert: Sign a petition to give women working in poultry plants bathroom breaks!**

**[Sign the petition to the big four poultry companies and urge them to protect women by slowing line speeds and ensuring every worker receives bathroom and water breaks, as needed.](#)**

**(Right click to open the browser)**

**Racism Continues to Influence Our Lives**

Fr. Brian Massingale, SJ, challenges American Catholics (and others!) to check out their attitudes towards person of color and the total effect it has on our society. In a particularly pertinent article printed in **America Magazine**, Massingale states:

“ We must address racism because of this simple fact: Almost every social justice challenge that faces us in the United States is entangled with or exacerbated by racism against persons of color, and African-Americans in particular. No matter what issue you bring to the table, whether it be health care access, immigration, mass incarceration, educational disparity, living wages, justice for women, pro-life, poverty or L.G.B.T.Q. issues, they are all entangled with and enmeshed in racism. If you want to deal with educational access, or immigration, or care for the environment, or poverty, and you do not deal with race, you are on a bridge to nowhere. You cannot get justice right if you do not get racism right.”

Fr. Massingale challenges us to look at the meanings and values we attach to skin color. These attitudes have been absorbed in ways we may not recognize but they create implicit biases and associations that influence our lives, our public policy decisions that benefit some and disadvantage others.

As we continue to examine the issues that affect our own community, we would benefit from studying our own attitudes and the unnamed influences that we have the power to change.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2017/11/20/racism-sickness-soul-can-jesuit-spirituality-help-us-heal> (Right Click to open browser)

## Food Deserts in Urban Neighborhoods, Including Rochester

**NETWORK**, Catholic Social Lobby's issue this week is Food Insecurity.

Food Insecurity is not the same as hunger. Food insecurity results when the household level of economic and social conditions gives limited or uncertain access to adequate food. This means that one incident can throw a family into an economic crisis. Food becomes a lower priority when low wages strain families and force them to decide between paying for healthcare, insurance, transportation, and housing, or putting healthy food on the table.

NETWORK reports that in 2017, more than 40 million people received assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in a given month, and more than half of these SNAP households with at least one working-age, non-disabled adult were working. More adults and children are eligible for other nutrition programs such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and school lunches, but all of these programs combined still fail to meet the country's full need.

**What is a 'food desert?'** It is an area where fresh healthy foods are unavailable due to lack of grocery stores that sell fresh items and the inability of low income people to access stores outside of the area due to lack of transportation or mobility. Foods available in neighborhood stores are often higher priced and offer limited nutrition.

[www.networkadvocates.org/21stCenturyPoverty/Food](http://www.networkadvocates.org/21stCenturyPoverty/Food)  
(Control & Rt. Click to access or copy and paste into browser).

**Food deserts exist in Rochester! Inner city neighborhoods do not have access to supermarkets. Food pantries and soup kitchens try to supplement but fresh food is limited.**

One of the organizations seeking to help is the <https://www.barakahmuslimcharity.org/> which provides a food give-away every week: Thursdays 5 pm to 7 pm & Sundays 10 am to 1pm.  
584 Jefferson Ave  
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**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:**

## Coming Events

**March 19, Injustice, the Story of the Holy Land Foundation Five, Rochester Academy of Science and Medicine , 7 pm** Mike Pelo, author, shines a light vs. injustice committed vs. Muslim leaders in the US. Sponsored by Christians Witnessing for Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace, Rochester Chapter.

Open to the community ~ Free-will offering will be received ~ For more information contact: [johnsonron888@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonron888@gmail.com)  
**see attachment for details!**

**March 30 Good Friday Cross Walk, sponsored by GRCC** Meet at Aquinas Institute at 8:45 on Dewey Ave. to pray and walk through Maplewood-Edgerton neighborhoods in solidarity for justice. We hope you will be able to attend this always meaningful event!

Good Friday, a solemn day, provides an opportunity to walk with and for people most in need. We are inspired by the compassion of Pope Francis as we walk together as **"Neighborhood Companions in a Field Hospital."** Walking in solidarity with refugees, with people affected by the opioid drug crisis, with people in poverty and without a home, and with people effected by violence and racism, we walk the streets of the North-West quadrant of the Maplewood-Edgerton neighborhood. The Walk is approximately 1 <sup>1/2</sup> miles. A short prayer service begins the event. For more information, contact Rev. Debbie Grohman at GRCC: [grcc1@frontiernet.net](mailto:grcc1@frontiernet.net).

**On Saturday March 24 students in Rochester will hold a local rally vs. gun violence in Washington Square Park from 3-5 pm to support the national march taking place in Washington, DC. Watch and listen for more details as the date draws near!**