



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
Justice & Peace Office
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In Memory of Representative Louise Slaughter

I returned home from retreat on Friday to be greeted by the word of Representative Louise Slaughter's passing. Newspapers, TV and the media have been filled with stories of her life and accomplishments. Indeed she deserves recognition!

As coordinator of our congregation's SSJ Justice Ministry, I have e-mailed and sent phone messages many times a week to her office. She was a woman who stood by her constituents and her beliefs that we could be better. She was a champion for the environment, and defender of our Great Lakes, among many other issues!

She saw the pitfalls of trade agreements like CAFTA and NAFTA that exploited the poor. NETWORK, Catholic Social lobby gave her a 100% rating this year for voting on all the health, economic and social issues which NETWORK supports.

As Sisters of St. Joseph we appreciated her support and were happy to welcome her when she visited our motherhouse in 2016 with Representative John Lewis, her dear friend, who came to express his thanks to the SSJS for lifesaving treatment at Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma during the Bloody Sunday march in 1965.

Most of all. Louise reminds us that the political leaders we elect have a moral duty to represent their constituents to the best of their ability and to work across the aisle on issues that promote the greater good for all people.

Rest in God's peace, dear Louise, but, please, use your influence to heal the great political and social divides in our country !

NYS Legislative Action

Raise the Age Campaign passed legislation to raise the age adolescents can be charged as adult criminals to 18. Now this needs to be funded in the NYS Budget. State legislators will vote on the budget in 2 weeks. Click [here](#) to urge them to pass a state budget that provides the resources needed for Raise the Age, and the thousands of youth impacted by it, to be successful.

Stop Abortion Expansion In January 2018 Governor Cuomo introduced a bill, (S. 7511) which would expand abortion access to the last trimester of a woman's pregnancy.

- 1) The bill removes the current law's limit and allows abortions after 24 weeks. Studies show a fetus experiences pain at 20 weeks.
- 2) 5-10% of aborted babies are born alive. This bill would eliminate the law that requires a baby born alive to receive adequate health care.
- 3) Non-doctors would be allowed to perform abortions. State government could grant a license to anyone.
- 4) Eliminate criminal penalties for abortions even if the abortion is involuntary or coerced.

Take action: <http://www.nyscatholic.org/nys-catholic-conference-action-center/>

Young People Are Dying! When Do We Take Responsibility?

The death of Trevyan Rowe, a fourteen year old student at a Rochester School has sparked much discussion and concern about responsibility on every level: family, school district, emergency responders, Police, etc. As we mourn the death of this young man, the students in Parkland, and the victims of so many school shootings, we begin to question our collective moral conscience and our personal responsibility to see, assess, and take action when it is needed.

We are living in a time of social and political malaise. The concept of individual liberty has taken precedence over communal responsibility. We read in the newspaper or hear through social media about acts of violence daily, many committed by young people without thought of potential consequences for their actions. At the same time, when responsible citizens report suspicious activity, as in the incident at Parkland where serious concerns about the mental health of the young man, Nikolas Cruz, had been raised or in the case of motorists reporting a young person sitting on the edge of the Susan B. Anthony Bridge in Rochester, their concerns were ignored or not followed through.

The question of the sale of assault weapons designed to kill humans to anyone who wishes to purchase them is yet another red flag! Are we really the people who want freedom without limit and without responsibility or are we people of a moral conscience willing to work for the common good?

This Saturday, March 24, youth from around the country will march in Washington, DC to protest the sale of assault weapons. **We can join and support youth in the Rochester March for our Lives, at 3 pm at Washington Square Park 181 South Clinton Avenue, Rochester, New York 14604.**

SSJ Website 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>



**Good Friday, March 30,
2018**

**GRCC Faith In Action
10th Annual Ecumenical
Walk of the Cross for Solidarity and Justice**

sponsored by Greater Rochester Community of Churches, Episcopal and Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, Churches and Residents of the Maplewood Neighborhoods.

See Attachment for details.

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, April 3—Prayer for Our Times, 7 pm
Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 150 French Rd, Rochester. All people of faith are invited to share in our monthly prayer for peace.

Wednesday, April 4—Joseph Cardinal Tobin, Five Years Later, Is Pope Francis Making a Difference? 7 pm, St. John Fisher College, Herman Family Chapel of St. Basil the Great.
Doors Open at 6 pm. Event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Religious Studies Dept.

The Chapel is adjacent to Kearney Hall.

Prayers for these last days of Lent as we prepare for Easter and Christ's resurrection!