



# “Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph  
Justice & Peace Office  
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## Ecumenical Advocacy Days Focus on Refugees & Immigrants April 20-23

Each year members of Christian faith communities gather in Washington, DC to advocate for particular justice issues which affect all of us.

This year's focus comes at a particularly crucial moment as the nation continues to struggle to provide a pathway for DREAMERS to achieve legal status and refugees continue to struggle for admittance to the US and other nations where they can put down new roots. They are forced to leave their own countries due to war, violence, economic conditions or climate change.

The faith community was challenged to look at the push factors that cause people to leave their own countries to seek safety. We were also challenged to look at ways we address the crisis when we speak about the issue. We were challenged to avoid comparing refugees and migrants and to seek rights for all people in other parts of the world including justice for Palestinian refugees.

Monday brought us to the hill for advocacy with our Senators and Representatives. Our NY delegation met with Lucy Panza from Senator Schumer's office. She encouraged us to be active in advocating at our local and state levels with regard to immigration and DREAMERS. She noted that refugee resettlement is important and local resettlement of even one family is important. Due to the many political divisions in our country the way forward will be in incremental steps.

## “Queen of the Hill Rule”

During our visit to district Representative we learned about an obscure rule called Queen of the Hill. A bipartisan committee in the House of Representatives has proposed using this to finally pass legislation to give permanent status to DREAMERS.

Reps. Pete Aguilar (D-CA), Jeff Denham (R-CA), Will Hurd (R-TX) and Lujan Grisham (D-NM) announced that their bipartisan “queen-of-the-hill” rule to allow a floor debate on four DACA solution measures now has the support of 50 Republicans and 190 Democrats for a total of 240 cosponsors, easily surpassing the 218 votes needed to pass the measure through the House. The rule would force a debate and floor vote on one of the 4 bills: a) Rep. Goodlatte's Securing America's Future Act; b) a clean Dream Act; c) a bill offered by Speaker Ryan; and d) the bipartisan [USA Act](#), a bill introduced by Reps. Aguilar, Denham, Hurd and Lujan Grisham earlier this year. Whichever proposal receives the most votes and meets the mandatory majority-vote threshold would be adopted.

US Catholic Bishops have announced support for one of the proposed bills: USCCB Committee on Migration Chairman, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez sent a [letter to the House](#) of Representatives urging their support of H.R. 4796, the Uniting and Securing America (USA) Act of 2018. This legislation provides a path to citizenship for Dreamers and focuses on greater border security through digital technology rather than establishing physical barriers which require significant funding.

[www.weeklystandard.com/haley-byrd/immigration-moderate-republicans-look-to-hold-vote-on-dream-act-o](http://www.weeklystandard.com/haley-byrd/immigration-moderate-republicans-look-to-hold-vote-on-dream-act-o) (Copy & Paste or right click for info.)



**Join Riverkeeper’s Campaign to Ban the Bag in NYS! (Information from website)**

Plastic pollution is both a public nuisance and a public health threat. Reducing the use of single-use plastic bags is one of the most meaningful steps that New York can take to reduce pollution from single-use plastic.

- Each year, nearly 23 billion single-use plastic bags are used across NYS. Many of these light-weight bags end up on our streets and make their way into our local waterways, carried by wind, storm sewers, and shoreline littering.
- Additional research from Columbia University analyzing shrimp, oysters, clams, and other species found microplastic particles in their digestive tract, as microplastics are often mistaken by wildlife for food across the food web.

Urge Governor Cuomo, your Assembly member and Senator to pass Senate Bill S7760 and Assembly bill A9953. The legislation would ban polluting single-use plastic bags and place a 10-cent fee on paper. The fee will help fund state parks, environmental programs, and free reusable bags for low and fixed income New Yorkers.

Visit the Webpage and Sign the Petition <https://secure3.convio.net/river/site/Advocacy;jsessionid=00000000.app337b?pagename=hom>

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

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



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

**Words to Live By– Quotes to Ponder**

“Beyond obedience, is attention fixed on the goal—freedom from fear. Beyond fear—openness to life. And beyond that—love.” — [Dag Hammarskjold](#)

"History shows that neither war nor violent revolution have ever solved humanity's problems, nor will they ever. They are born of hatred, and though hatred harms it does not heal."

—[Pedro Arupe](#)

Taken from Daily Quotes sent by *Pace e Bene*

In these difficult days when we experience so much fear and so much hate, we try to focus on what is good, including the many who do want peace, who do welcome immigrants and refugees, who do care for the earth, who do abhor violence.

**Coming Event**

**Tolton  
From Slave to Priest  
Monday, May 21, 2018  
7:00 pm  
Aquinas Institute of Rochester  
1127 Dewey Ave.  
Admission: \$10 Individual  
Tickets and Info: Lynette Saenz  
(585) 328-3210  
[www.ToltonDrama.com](http://www.ToltonDrama.com)**