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“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
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Prayer for a new year

By Debbie Ford

Dear God,

On this day I ask You to grant this request,
May I know who I am and what I am,
Every moment of every day.

May I be a catalyst for light and love,
And bring inspiration to those whose eyes I meet.

May I have the strength to stand tall in the face of
conflict,
And the courage to speak my voice, even when I'm
scared.

May I have the humility to follow my heart,
And the passion to live my soul's desires.

May I seek to know the highest truth
And dismiss the gravitational pull of my lower self.

May I embrace and love the totality of myself,
My darkness as well as my light.

May I be brave enough to hear my heart,
To let it soften so that I may gracefully
Choose faith over fear.

Today is my day to surrender anything that stands
Between the sacredness of my humanity and my di-
vinity.

May I be drenched in my Holiness
And engulfed by Your love.

May all else melt away.

And so it is.

US Catholic, posted January 2, 2019



National Migration Week, January 6-12 This year's theme for National Migration Week 2019, "Building Communities of Welcome,"

draws attention to the fact that every family has a migration story. All people are part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

Some startling statistics:

- According to the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees, in June 2018, 68.5 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide. (UNHCR)
- Only the most vulnerable refugees are considered for third country resettlement beyond those neighboring host countries. On an annual basis, less than 1% of refugees worldwide actually receive resettlement.
- Since 1975, the United States has accepted more than 3.3 million refugees for permanent resettlement. In 2018 the U.S. accepted only 20,000 refugees. For comparison, the average number of refugees admitted to the U.S. from 2010-2017 was approximately 67,000/year.
- Unaccompanied children & families fleeing to the US from Northern Triangle countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras) reached 110,000 in 2015, a five-fold increase from 2012. Unaccompanied minors accounted for much of this increase, with 41,435 children apprehended in FY2017, down from a high of nearly 70,000 in FY2014.
- Immigrant detention in the United States has reached record levels. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2001, the now defunct Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detained 204,459 people. In FY2017, 323,591 people were detained in an ICE facility (Department of Homeland Security). For-profit contractors operate 73% of facilities. Community-based alternatives cost approximately \$4.40/day compared to \$133.99 for incarceration.

Information taken from *Migration & Refugee Services, Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice Toolkit*, US Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2019

El Paso News From the Border

Sister Donna Del Santo returns to Rochester today after spending several weeks in El Paso. Her blog is posted on the Sisters of St. Joseph Facebook Page. Sister Donna's blog is posted <https://ssjsontheborder.blogspot.com/2018/12/christmas-is-waiting-to-be-born-by.html?fbclid=IwAR0nZiO8kNSiP4VynfTOb>

Copy and paste in browser to open directly to the page.

I will be going to El Paso January 15-29 to work with asylum seekers. Sister Janet Korn, RSM will be going to El Paso January 20-Feb. 3.

Anyone willing to send money donations may make checks to Annunciation House.

Donations may be mailed or given to either of us.

I am willing to take cash donations as well!!

Annunciation House
815 Myrtle Avenue
El Paso, Texas 79901.

Phyllis Tierney, SSJ

NYS Legislature—New Term, New Actions

As the new legislative term begins, both houses of the legislature have a Democratic majority. The NY Catholic Conference and the Diocesan Public Policy Committee have concerns about Governor Cuomo's proposed Abortion Expansion Bill which now has majority support in both houses. The current bill endorsed by the Governor which he hopes to pass in 30 days will be introduced on January 9.

The proposed legislation would far exceed Roe vs. Wade, allowing abortions in the last trimester if a woman's "health" is at risk. No physician needs to be present and abortions can be performed by non-doctors. This particular provision is especially scary.

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SSJ Website www.ssjrochester.org/ and links to Facebook!



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

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

NYS Abortion Expansion, continued

To Take Action: <https://www.nyscatholic.org/nys-catholic-conference-action-center/?vvsrsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f58392%2frespond>

Click on Stop Abortion Expansion and fill in required information to send to your legislator.

COMING EVENTS

Prayer for Our Times Tuesday, January 8

7:00 pm, Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 150 French Road. All are invited to come for prayer at the beginning of this new year!

Rochester Regional Coalition vs. Human

Trafficking Proclamation Day, Friday, January 11, 2 pm, Ebenezer Watts House, 47 So. Fitzhugh Str., Rochester. Please join us to hear the Mayor's Proclamation in this month of action vs. human trafficking.

RRCAHT is holding a fundraising event at Nox Cocktail Lounge, Village Gate, on January 28. The event celebrates the 501C-3 status of the organization and provides opportunities to learn about groups working on human trafficking in Rochester and raise money to expand the "YES, Here Campaign." More information will be forthcoming.

Sunday, January 13, Catholic Social Teaching and Climate Change, Our Lady Queen of Peace, 601 Edgewood Ave, Rochester, 14618. 6:30 pm

Sister Phyllis Tierney, SSJ Justice Office will discuss Church teaching and how we can become advocates for this important concern.