



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
Justice & Peace Office
150 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618

No. 378 March 8, 2019

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Laudato Si’ Lenten Practices Week 1

“We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationship with other people.” (LS 92)

10 First Sunday of Lent Embrace the Silence Sunday – Turn off iPhones, TV, radio, computer. Spend time outside listening to the sounds of creation.

11 Pray for those most affected by climate change - those living in poverty.

12 Try this week not to use a single disposable plastic product.

13 Plan to host a simple soup and bread supper with your friends and watch an ecological video together.

14 Spend some time with an animal. How is it prayer for you?

15 Abstain today from a spirit of defeatism that despairs of facing climate change.

16 Clean your dryer’s lint filter after each use – this can reduce its energy usage significantly.



Our friends at Ignatian Solidarity Network have provided an Ecological Examen to use during Lent (or any other time!) to examine our personal relationship to Creation, to see the suffering caused by the ways we misuse the gifts we have received and laid waste to our environment. Check the website for visual images to help us reflect on our environment and the suffering it has caused to our poorest brothers and sisters. We are challenged to make choices consistent with reconciliation to creation.

http://www.ecologicalexamen.org/#after_section_1
(Copy & Paste into Browser)

Update on Human Rights Activists In Honduras

Jose Artiga has reported that the Honduran Guapinol Twelve were released to their families and friends after five days and nights of detention and a fight for their immediate release. Due to superlative legal representation, dogged accompaniment and unrelenting international solidarity all charges were dropped and they are free.

As reported last week in this newsletter, these human rights activists were arrested for defending the Guapinol River which was being polluted by a mine operating in the Carlos Escaleras National Park. Three activists from the US travelled to Honduras on a day’s notice to accompany those who were arrested and observe the court proceedings. The Honduras Solidarity Network is especially grateful to Rev. Kathleen McTigue, Claire White, Paul Fitch and Alexandra Goodman.

More Good News

JP Morgan Chase Bank has disinvested from the private prisons where refugees and asylum seekers have been incarcerated at our southern border. This has been a victory for grassroots groups who have put pressure on these banks to stop financing Geo-Group and Core Civic, two of the large private prison corporations that profit from the separation of families at the border.

Families Belong Together have been leading this fight. Now they are focusing on Wells Fargo who announced they would no longer fund these industries but have continued to maintain their investments.

Legislative Updates

H.R. 1 passes the House of Representatives!

H.R. 1 For the People Act contains a number of provisions to improve election security. These include a requirement for states to replace paperless voting machines with ones that create an auditable paper backup, grants to help states enhance election security, and security requirements for election system vendors (including an obligation for companies to report cybersecurity breaches to the federal government). If passed, the legislation would mark the first national-level overhaul of U.S. election infrastructure since the Help America Vote Act of 2002 including money for states to perform risk-limiting audits and complete regular comprehensive threat assessments. The bill also identifies the need to create federal standards for electronic poll-books or electronic versions of polling place voter rolls.

The bill will be sent to the Senate where it is unlikely to be presented because Senator Mitch McConnell is refusing to bring it to the floor. The bill would require Presidents to release their income tax information.

March 12, Green Light NY Lobby Day

Allies from across NYS will be descending on Albany on March 12 to march for NY Drivers' Licenses for immigrants so that all new Yorkers who pass a NYS Driver's test can drive legally. This is an important time to lobby our legislators as there are co-sponsors in both the Assembly and the Senate. We thank Assemblyman Harry Bronson from Rochester who serves on the Transportation Committee for being a co-sponsor. We need to bring our NYS Senate Reps on board: Senators Joe Robach and Rich Funke. Bill nos. are S01747 / A03675.

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



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(CTRL & Click)

Brazil link: Copy & Paste:

<http://www.isjrochester.com.br>

Events

Lenten Program, SSJ Motherhouse—Praying the Psalms presented by Joe Kelly, on Wednesdays March 16, 20, and 27 from 6:30 –7:15 pm sponsored by the Motherhouse SSJ Spirituality Committee; open to Sisters, Associates, Collaborators and Friends.

Sunday March 17 *God's Own Junkyard*

Environmental Stewardship in New York State 2019 Asbury First United Methodist Church 2:00 –4:30 pm 1050 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14610, sponsored by Interfaith IMPACT of New York State—annual legislative briefing

Keynote: Dr. Sandra Steingraber, environmentalist, author

Panel: Harry Bronson, NYS Assembly

Rev. David Ingis, United Church of Christ

Hridesh Singh—Brighton High School Student

St. Patrick's Day Concert—SSJ Motherhouse—3 pm by Striking Strings Dulcimer Ensemble directed by Mitzi Collins and Linda Sniedze Taggart; Casey Jones Costello, Irish Tenor, and Harmonious Harps directed by Roxanne Ziegler.

Donations are Requested to benefit Annunciation House, El Paso Texas, for their work in sheltering asylum seekers at the Border and assisting them to travel to their destinations.
150 French Rd, Rochester, NY 14618

Handicapped Accessible

Thurs., March 21 Shannon Lecture Series, Nazareth College Otto Shults Center 7 pm.

The Virgin Mary, Bridge or Barrier between Catholics and Muslims, Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Ph.D, specialist in Muslim-Christian relations teaches at Benedictine University in Illinois

Free and Open to the Public