



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
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Summer Months—Various Issues

During July and August *Just Us* will be published sporadically.

Please pray for our Congregation as we enter into our Chapter during this coming week to charter our hopes and energies for the next four years and to elect our leadership team.

There will probably be no Newsletter during the remainder of July as I will be on retreat from July 18-26.

Many national issues remain on a ‘see-saw.’ The census question re. citizenship seemed to be a settled issue. A late report indicated that the President has changed his mind once again and members of the Justice Dept. were instructed to contact members of the Supreme Court to see what they needed to indicate that it was a vital question. We await the decision again!

Public outrage re. the condition of children and families at our nation’s southern border continues. Many members of Congress are finally going down to explore those conditions for themselves.

The ‘remain in Mexico’ policy continues to do great harm to those waiting to enter the U.S.

The decision to charge exorbitant fees to persons who have been given deportation orders and have not left is another grave cause for concern.

With this newsletter there is an attachment to pray for the People of South Sudan on their Independence Day, July 9.

Rethinking Recycling

The July-August issue of Sierra Club’s magazine featured several articles on ecology and green energy. The article that caught my attention was one entitled, *You Can’t Recycle Garbage*. The author, Edward Humes, argued that China has done us a favor in refusing to take many of the items that we formerly recycled.

The reasons cited in the article included the sad fact that much of what we put into the recycling bin can’t be recycled because it is mixed in with a lot of garbage! Much of what went to China ended up being dumped down rivers.

Among the reasons:

- A) Items put into plastic bags
- B) Dumping garbage trash in with recyclables
- C) Failure to wash recyclable items before placing them into the container.
- D) Failure to secure bottle caps which left separate clog machines.
- E) Making sure that paper and cardboard are clean and items that are too small, such as straws, etc. are not put in.

By refusing our items, the U.S. is being given an opportunity to invest in its own recycling. Economics re. shipping of products to be recycled has changed. Just one statistic noted in the article was that Stamford, Connecticut went from earning \$95,000 from recyclables in 2017 to paying \$700,000 in 2018 to get rid of them!

For us to note: **Never put recyclables in plastic bags! Make sure all items to be recycled are clean. Check with your waste management system to be sure that what you put in is recyclable.**



In September 2015, the world adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and embraced goals and targets on trafficking in persons. These goals call for an end to trafficking and violence against children; as well as

the need for measures against human trafficking, and they strive for the elimination of all forms of violence against and exploitation of women and girls.

<https://www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/index.shtml>

The theme of this year's day is Government Action.

<https://www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/index.shtml>

Website Information on Human Trafficking & Exploitation

Children are vulnerable through internet contacts who seek to engage and exploit them.

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/our-blog/7-facts-you-need-to-know-about-child-exploitation>

Fox News reports that the US is among the world's worst offenders in human trafficking. Among the quotes: 85% of the world's sex trafficking victims come from the U.S.

Children in foster care are 50-60% of victims.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/human-trafficking-in-america-among-worst-in-world->

Labor Trafficking:

Forgotten in the Fields by Dana Ullman is an excellent article on H-2A farmworkers in Texas who are exploited for their labor. They come on valid work visas but much of their earnings are taken away by various "charges" levied against them.

(Continued, Column 2)

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

Labor Trafficking, Continued

H-2A workers are limited in terms of employment and visas are valid only for the time and for the work for which they were hired.

<https://www.texasobserver.org/forgotten-in-the-fields/>

Prayer for Trafficking Victims

Oh God, we didn't see them.

But you did—

The hundreds and thousands of human beings Trafficked each year to join the millions who are trapped in modern-day slavery.

Under terrible conditions, they work in factories, plow fields, harvest crops, work quarries, fill brothels, clean homes, and haul water.

Many are children with tiny fingers for weaving rugs and small shoulders for bearing rifles. Their labor is forced, their bodies beaten, their faces hidden from those who don't really want to see them.

But you see them all, God of the poor. You hear their cry and you answer by opening our eyes, and breaking our hearts and loosening our tongues to insist:

No more. No more.

Amen

From Catholic Relief Services