



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
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Election Preparation Prayer to the Holy Spirit from LCWR

O Divine Spirit!

During these days, stir our hearts and minds that we might fight for a vision that is worthy of you and your call to honor the dignity of all creation.

A vision of who we are as a people, grounded in community and care for all, especially the most marginalized.

A vision that cares for our earth and heals the planet.

A vision that ends structural racism, bigotry, and sexism so rife now in our nation and in our history.

A vision that ensures hungry people are fed, children are nourished, immigrants are welcomed.

O Spirit, breathe in us and our leaders a new resolve...that committed to this new promise, we will work together to build a national community grounded in healing, fearlessly based on the truth, and living out of a sense of shared responsibility.

In the name of all that is holy, O Spirit, bring out of this time of global and national chaos a new creation, a new community that can....with your help...realize this promise that we affirm.

With profound hope, let we the people say:

Amen!

Prayer Room for Peace

Throughout the election season, the School Sisters of Notre Dame invite you to enter our virtual Prayer Room for Peace. Please feel free to visit this space often and to share this invitation with others. All are welcome! May peace prevail.
<https://vimeo.com/465546744>

As we prepare for elections, perhaps the time we take for prayer and reflection will be the best time we can give. Our media hype manages to alternately frighten us or enlarge issues to larger than life so it is difficult to discern between ‘alternate facts’ and truth. Centering ourselves in the present moment helps us to deal with the now. The future has not yet happened!

If you haven’t yet signed up, consider the 21 Day Racial Equity Challenge sponsored by the United Way ? [United Way of Greater Rochester - 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge](#)

We Love Chocolate But... Nestles & Cargill use child slave labor to harvest cocoa beans

In September a case went to the Supreme Court challenging Nestles and Cargill for the use of child labor in their supply chain.

September 2, Washington, D.C.–This week, agriculture giants Nestlé and Cargill submitted briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court in the cases *Nestlé USA Inc. vs John Doe 1* and *Cargill Inc. v. John Doe 1* arguing that they have immunity from responsibility for human rights abuses alleged by former child slave laborers on cocoa farms on the Ivory Coast of Africa. The plaintiffs sued under the federal Alien Tort Statute, which allows lawsuits for violations of international law. The companies claim they are not responsible for slave labor because they are corporations. Even though slavery has been banned by international law since the 19th Century, they argue that only human beings—not corporations—can be sued for slavery. So even if they profit from child slavery, the children who escape this bondage cannot hold them accountable.

Nuns on the Bus Tour Ends

The closing press conference for the virtual bus tour was broadcast at 11 am on Friday. Friday evening at 7 pm will be the closing event. To watch these events at your convenience, go to: <https://networklobby.org/bus2020/watch/>

We thank Sr. Simone Campbell for her tireless efforts to promote social justice and fight for those living in poverty, those suffering from racial disparities, and for all of us who suffer from income inequity due to race or gender. We pray for her as she begins the transition process so a new director can be appointed in March of 2021 to keep NETWORK alive and viable.

Twenty-One Day Racial Equity Challenge For Those Living in Rochester Begins Today

I checked some of the hard facts in the report that was presented by the United Way. The facts are bone-chilling when it comes to educational and income disparities among White, African-American and Latino groups. Here is some basic information and a few facts:

I was particularly struck by no. of deaths of infants before the age of 1 in Monroe County:

- 10% African American Children live births die before age 1
- White Children – 3.6% before age 1
- Latinos -4.2% before age 1

Educational disparities show that English and Math attainment for children in Grade 3 is far below the achievement in the rest of the state. For example, Language Art Proficiency for African American Students in NYS is 31% but in Rochester it is only 19%. Math proficiency for 4th graders is 23% state-wide and only 17% in Rochester.

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



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

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These figures indicate that much work needs to be done both state-wide and in Rochester.

To learn more:

[*Hard Facts: Race and Ethnicity in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area*](#)

TUNE IN:

Creighton University's recent webinar "**Voting and Catholicism: A Critical Discussion of *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship***" featuring Bishop John E. Stowe of Lexington, KY and Cathleen Kaveny, JD, PhD, professor of theology and law at Boston College is online.

The event recording is now available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIBC4jx7JF8&t=1401s>

This webinar offers some new insights into the document, *Faithful Citizenship* which the Bishops publish every four years before a Presidential election. Bishop Stowe offers an excellent critique of the document which he says needs to be rewritten to reflect the current reality. We must recognize the sacredness of all life and discern which candidate best reflects that position even as we recognize that no political party represents all of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Professor Cathleen Kaveny spent time discussing Catholic Social Teaching and its implications when we look at issues at stake in the current election.

The viewpoints of both presenters was refreshing and enlightening.