



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
Justice & Peace Office
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In this Holy Week, there is much to pray for and many actions to take!

Migrants continue to flee the northern triangle countries. The situation in Honduras is very bad. Jose Artiga from SHARE sent word that another indigenous leader of the Lenca people has been assassinated. Juan Carlos Cerros Escalante, a community leader and defender of water rights led protests against the government take over of Lenca lands to give a hydro-electric company, Hidroeléctrica El Volcán HIDROVOLCÁN, the right to build dams in the river which would flood their property and destroy their livelihoods. This is one of the many reasons why people are fleeing their countries.

Children & Families at the Border

A roundtable of service providers at the southern US Border shared information about the situation in centers where children are being temporarily held. They noted that while the situation is far from perfect the Biden Administration is doing all that it can to better the situation. Sadly many families with children are being sent back to Mexico because there is no way to process them in an orderly way. Take time to watch the Youtube presentation and hear from those on the frontlines!

<https://fb.watch/4sliQojd01/>

We pray for these children and families, for the root causes that cause families to flee from violence in their home countries.

We pray for those affected by the sin of racism.

We pray for victims of Covid-19, their families and all caregivers and first responders!

Jesus carried His Cross for all of us!

Legislative Actions Needed For the People Act (S.1)

Voting Rights in Georgia have been severely limited by the State legislature and Governor. H.R.1 For the People Act has passed the House of Representatives and is now headed to the Senate. It needs 60 votes to pass! Please take action and call your Senator today.

Call Your Senators Now: 888-885-1748

Tell them to support and protect our democracy!

Call twice to reach both Senators

When you call, here's what you might say:

"Hi, my name is [NAME] and I am a constituent from [TOWN]. I am calling to encourage the Senator to support the For the People Act. Too many people are disenfranchised based on their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, or class. My faith teaches that we have a responsibility to participate in our civic society, and this civic duty begins with voting. Among other critical democracy reforms the For the People Act (S.1) would ensure that elections are free, fair, and accessible in every state. Please vote in support of protecting and strengthening our democracy. Thank you."

The **Greater Rochester Community of Churches** virtual Cross Walk connects the 7 last words of Christ with race as it intersects daily life in Rochester: healthcare, education, the arts, hunger, violence, environment, and hunger. Featured are Joe Prude (Daniel Prude's brother), the Community Garden Project, Bethany House, urban mural artists, Food Link, Nativity Preparatory School, and the Gandhi Institute. You may engage them all at once, or perhaps one a day as a spiritual walk to the cross. <https://www.canva.com/design/DAEZfb-NpDM/1w51Mn3BExcN8pmfoT6KTW/view?website#2>

NYS Legislative Actions ASAP!

Call the Governor Now to Reform Solitary Confinement

Please take a moment to call Governor Cuomo's office to encourage him to SIGN the HALT solitary bill to reform solitary confinement in our state. The bill, recently passed by the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate, would end the use of solitary with young, old, ill and pregnant prisoners, and would limit how long prisoners can be held in solitary confinement. This is a big step in ensuring basic humane conditions for people who are incarcerated. **The Governor has until tomorrow WEDNESDAY MARCH 31 to sign or veto the bill (or just leave it, which has the same effect as signing it.)**

The NYS Catholic Conference and many other organizations have supported this bill for years. This is our best chance so far to finally see this justice done. Please do make the call

[1-518-474-8390](tel:1-518-474-8390)

Or write an email here [https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-](https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form)



[contact-form](https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form)

#Coverage4All. The NY Senate and Assembly included \$20 million dollars towards the Essential Plan expansion for folks who had COVID-19 and who are not eligible

for insurance due to their immigration status in their one house budgets. Our original ask was for \$13 million, so this is incredible news!

Simply click on the links below to contact Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Governor Cuomo. It's so easy!

English: <https://p2a.co/izzBYt7>

Spanish: <https://p2a.co/zncvmgu>

Highlight and right click to open.

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Volunteers and Donations Are Needed At the Border

The 19 Catholic Charities border sites in California, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona are all facing the challenges of caring for many families and children. The specific points of entry are fluid. As of now, Laredo, McAllen, Tucson, Yuma, San Antonio, and San Diego are facing significant numbers of arrivals, but that can change tomorrow. Currently, the most urgent needs are volunteers who speak Spanish and financial aid to buy clothes for the children. We suggest that donations be made via the Catholic Charities USA website: <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

As we did last time, our staff at CCUSA is happy to help with logistics should any sisters wish to volunteer. Our contact person is Kristan Schlichte. Her email is: kschlichte@catholiccharitiesusa.org.



Virtual Economic & Ecological Way of the Cross

The observance of Christ's passion is an opportunity to reflect on the ways we have broken our covenant with God at the expense of other persons and creation. At each station we will focus on a different economic or ecological challenge or sign of hope

for our times. Persons of all faiths are welcome.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/SCMKevent>

YouTube Live Stream: <http://bit.ly/MOGCYoutube>

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