



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
Justice & Peace Office
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A Prayer for Workers

Leader: Let us continue to recognize the many people whose work is a blessing, and to call those who are in leadership positions to act with justice.

All: God of Compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for construction workers who build our homes and places of work and worship.

All: God of Compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for injured workers who are too often neglected.

All: God of Compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for farmworkers and poultry workers who help provide us with our food but who often work in dangerous conditions and struggle to provide food for their own families.

All: God of Compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray that our legislators and elected officials act on the cries for justice in our community.

All: God of Compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray that all owners and managers recognize the dignity of workers and uphold the standards of our faith traditions by providing living wages, affordable benefits and the freedom of association.

All: God of Compassion, hear our prayer.

God of Exodus, you went to your people in Egypt, saw their pain and set them free — free from the bondage of their oppressor. You walked with them to freedom. Walk with all of us who struggle for dignity in the workplace, for a living wage and for fair benefits. Bless all of us as we continue working to bring forth your vision — a vision of justice and peace, kindness and compassion, grace and mercy.

May 1 is International Workers' Day President Biden is lobbying for a fifteen dollar /hour minimum wage & more!

Wednesday evening President Biden gave his first joint address to Congress. He spoke of what has been accomplished and what he hopes to do in this Congress. Here are some resources to help us understand the wage gap and where we might lobby our lawmakers.

From NETWORK: Federal Policies that establish a living wage: Our nation's current minimum wage is too low. A worker making minimum wage (\$7.25 per hour) working 40 hours a week and 52 weeks a year would receive a pre-tax salary of \$15,080. In 2019, the federal poverty threshold for a single person was \$12,490 per year, and for a family of four it was \$25,750. For workers who receive tips, including restaurant staff and hotel housekeepers, the minimum wage has been locked in at \$2.13 since 1991. The current minimum wage leaves families in poverty, even when working full time or multiple jobs.

Establish policies that prevent wage theft, offer equal pay for equal work, and fight discrimination policies against gender and race based.

NETWORK supports unions as one of the most effective ways to ensure workplaces and employers are accountable to their employees. Collective bargaining allows workers to organize for better conditions. Employers must also be held accountable for abiding by employment health and safety standards as well as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

All of these policies support Catholic Social Teaching on the dignity of work and the rights of workers. President Biden addressed the same issues in his Speech to Congress. <https://networklobby.org/issues/income> (Copy & paste into your browser.)





SSJ

**Justice & Care for Creation Committee
Is sponsoring a fundraiser for the
40th Anniversary of SHARE**

While the US Government attempts to deal with the flood of migrants pushing toward our borders, there is a counter-movement to encourage groups who are working to assist persons to stay in their own countries.

SHARE is a non-profit group devoted to assisting the people of El Salvador & Honduras to maintain a livelihood in their own countries to sustain them in these difficulties. The Director, Jose Artiga, is a friend with a long-standing relationship with the SSJs.

Our Committee is sponsoring two projects: In El Salvador:

- **SHARE** wishes to purchase the Office Building they have rented to provide support assistance to students so they can do their homework, access the Internet & the receive a warm meal! Renovation will provide space for youth, women, and LGBTQ persons to advance the arts & social media projects.
- In Honduras, **SHARE** joins with Radio Progreso to sponsor **Vamos a la Milpa!** **Vamos a la Milpa** is a project to assist communities to purchase seed, supplies, and equipment to develop community gardens to assist in food shortages which residents face.

After hurricanes Eta and Iota destroyed or affected agricultural production, 80% of the people were left without basic resources.

Indigenous communities are coming together to use their knowledge by planting community gardens, and fruit trees in rural areas and urban settings to nourish their bodies and spirits, the community & Mother Earth.

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



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

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

Money raised will generate resources to purchase native seeds & tools. Several communities have already come together to do this. Additional funds are needed to help purchase land.

**Donations can be made directly online to
Share El Salvador at**

<http://www.share-elsalvador.org/>

**Or: Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
c/o SSJ Justice & Peace Office
150 French Road
Rochester, NY 14618**

Memo on Check: SHARE El Salvador

**SHARE is sponsoring a delegation to Honduras from
July 2-July 12**

See the website for details

<http://www.share-elsalvador.org/honduras-delegation-2021.html>

Copy & Paste into your Browser

I (Phyllis) was part of a delegation in 2016 You will have conversations with people who have been affected by all the conditions of repression in Honduras as well as see land devastation. Many restrictions are in place due to the COVID-19 epidemic and groups will be kept to minimum numbers and required to wear masks. Currently Honduras has not had access to vaccines.

**Reminder: Diocesan Social Ministry
Conference is Thursday, May 6. It will be by
zoom and it is free. Featured address will be on
Fratelli Tutti. Register here:
To register, go to www.dor.org/conference/
(Copy & paste into your browser)**

Meeting is 9am– 12:00 Noon