



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
Justice & Peace Office
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Laudato Si' Week 2021 will be celebrated May 16-24. The theme of this year is the very positive message: “*for we know that things can change*” (LS 13). The Laudato Si' Week will be a core event of the Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year, and a way to celebrate the steps that the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion. It will also be a time to reflect on what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us and how we might prepare for the future with hope.”

[Click here](#) to view all the events of the week. Inspired to take a fresh look at *Laudato Si'*—consider [this study guide \(https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/laudato-si-discussion-guide.pdf\)](https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/laudato-si-discussion-guide.pdf) Copy & paste into browser.

Take some time to learn about the [Laudato Si' Action Platform initiative](#) and [Laudato Si' Goals](#). (copy into browser to open) [Pray](#) for Our Earth!

Honduras—Please Call Our Congressional Reps to Co-Sponsor These Bills!

There are currently three bills in Congress (two in the House and one in the Senate) which address the human rights abuses in Honduras that are forcing so many to undertake the arduous journey to the U.S. They are:

[Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act](#) (HR 1574)

[Honduras Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act of 2021](#) (HR 2716)

[Honduras Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act](#) (S 388)

These bills call for the suspension of all U.S. security assistance to Honduras until the Honduran government adequately addresses the systemic corruption, impunity and human rights violations that plague the country, and brings the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

Please call your lawmakers and ask them to support these bills. The Capitol switchboard number is 202-224-3121; simply ask to be directed to your senators' and representative's office in turn.

We Can make a Difference for the People of El Salvador and Honduras!

Our Fund Raiser for SHARE EL SALVADOR addresses root causes and wants to make a difference! The Sisters of St. Joseph are raising funds for two projects that are both sponsored by SHARE. The money raised will be split between the two projects! The building in office building in El Salvador will provide space for students to study. The Vamos a la Milpa Project in Honduras helps provide food and community building but it is one donation to SHARE. The money will be split for the 2 projects!



Conference of Major Superiors of Men Newsletter, May 5, 2021

<https://www.cmsm.org/jp-alert-may-5-2021/>

[Click here](#) for the JP Alert from May 5, 2021, with the latest updates from justice, peace, and integrity of creation.

The image is of Our Lady of Manaoag, [Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in the Philippines](#). The basilica is under the pastoral care of the Dominican Friars. Photo: “Our Lady of Manaoag” by [The Mauretania](#) licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

Rochester Area News

Police accountability and stemming the tide of violence in Rochester are taking center stage.

Mayor Warren's Office announced the establishment of a new **Office of Neighborhood Safety** at a press conference on Tuesday, May 4. Rochester has seen a continuing growth of gun violence on our streets that has resulted in 22 homicides this year alone. A number of agencies in the city already work to try to stem violence on the streets but the newly announced office will bring together groups to encourage communication and cooperation to make neighborhoods safe and provide programs to discourage the violence.

- Provide public safety data collection
- Coordinate non-police responses
- Peacekeeper fellowship
- Mentorship programs
- Violence interruption programs
- Job readiness programs
- Trust building with civilian messengers

Monroe County FIT Program

Other efforts underway include mental health teams established by the city and by the county to respond to mental health crises. The Monroe County Program, FIT (Forensic Intervention Team) has recently increased its number. FIT partners Office of Mental Health clinicians with the County's eleven law enforcement agencies to assist individuals with mental health needs who have referrals that come directly from law enforcement. The program's goal is to increase the individual's connectedness to outpatient services and decrease the utilization of emergency and crisis response services. The City of Rochester has established a similar program called the Person in Crisis Team (PIC) which will respond to mental health and substance abuse crises.

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>



The goals of the PIC Team are to increase connection to community crisis services that meet the need, by de-escalating crisis calls and diverting crisis call coming in to 911 to the most appropriate response option, activating law only when needed; and strengthening supports post crisis to address full range of needs to stabilize and prevent future crises.

Both of these programs are new and coordination of response services depends on extensive training of the dispatchers that will receive these calls.

The NPR Series on "How Can Americans Make Democracy Work for them?" came to Rochester to interview Stanley Martin and La'Ron Singletary in an interview that was broadcast on Monday, May 8. Steve Inskeep interviewed them regarding their different views around policing. Stanley, who is running for city council, favors abolition of the Police Department and promotes spending money on crime prevention and alternative services. Le'Ron Singletary, retired Police Chief, favors reimagining the role of the police, to be persons who are there to help in times of crisis. You can follow this interview by listening to the podcast <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/03/992993591/npr-project-how-can-americans-make-democracy-work-for-them>

DEMONSTRATION TO OPPOSE ISRAEL'S ATTEMPTS TO EVICT PALESTINIANS FROM SHEIKH JARRAH AND SILWAN HOMES!

Wednesday, May 12th at 4:00 PM
In front of the Federal Building
State Street, Rochester



Link to letter written by Congresswoman Marie Newman and Congressman Mark Pocan to Secretary of State Antony Blinken: <https://peacenow.org/WP/wp-content/uploads/Letter-to-State-Dept-on-WB-evictions-and-demos-05.06.2021.pdf>