



# “Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph  
Justice & Peace Office  
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## A prayer for Afghanistan

All-loving God, Your hands have fashioned every lovely corner of this treasured planet, and the beautiful land of Afghanistan is as precious as every other place Your children call ‘home’. By its rivers and mountains, its fields and gardens, its busy towns and ancient villages, it is the heart’s desire of its people and the place where their lives and loves are nurtured.

We grieve today with those who grieve over Afghanistan, the people who call it home indeed, the people exiled or suddenly having to leave, and the men and women from other countries who have made sacrifices in recent years in the cause of that country's future.

We remember with renewed sadness the loss of lives of military personnel during the years of this country’s involvement in Afghanistan, conscious of the questions that must today be troubling the minds of those in our community who were bereaved, those who were wounded on operations, and those who were forever changed by experiences suffered there.

We pray for peace, dignity, freedom and confidence for the men, women and children of Afghanistan; for courage, vision and generosity within the international community responding to such need; and for tranquility of mind amongst our own service community and its wider family.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the peace-giver, we pray. Amen.

US Catholic offers a prayerful reflection on the war in Afghanistan: <https://uscatholic.org/articles/202108/never-more-war/>



## Season of Creation 2021

The logo for this year’s celebration is the symbol of Abraham’s tent. We are reminded of the three strangers (“angels”) to whom Abraham and Sarah opened their home.

In return for their hospitality they were promised the gift of offspring that would become a great nation.

The theme of the open tent is an invitation to us to open ourselves to receive others, including the homeless, the destitute, and the refugee.

During this year’s Season of Creation we will be posting prayer services for you to use and opportunities for action regarding our common home, our earth that is so fragile and in need of our care during this time.

**Our special project and invitation during this season is to invite each of us to check our carbon footprint. How many earths are we using in our daily activities?**

**Go to the Carbon Calculator:**

<http://bit.ly/ecojust012>

**Calculate your footprint and send it to us:**

[ptierney@ssirochester.org](mailto:ptierney@ssirochester.org)

**We will track for the month and check again. No names will be used! Let’s see if we can reduce our footprint!**

## **Paying for Building Back Better...Reform the Federal Tax Code**

This week the House of Representatives passed a whopping 3.5 trillion dollar budget intended to ensure a just and equitable economic recovery in the US.

Two issues are at stake: one is to ensure that money allocated goes to priorities that we support, such as a pathway to citizenship, permanent expansion of the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, a paid family and medical leave program, and more.

The second issue is finding a way to pay for our economic recovery package. It is time to reform our federal tax code . In 2017 President Trump passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act which effectively cut 1.9 trillion dollars from revenue from the Affordable Health Care Act and enabled those in the highest income brackets to pay little in income taxes while increasing the tax burden on working people.

NETWORK has offered these statistics for us to ponder:

- 55 Fortune Five Hundred Companies paid no taxes last year and earned \$40 billion in profits!
- During this past year 700 billionaires increased their wealth by \$1.8 trillion during the first 16 months of the pandemic.
- Millionaires living off their income from stocks pay a lower tax rate than nurses and teachers pay on their wages.

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### **What Needs to Be Done?**

- Raise the corporate tax rate to at least 28%.
- Restore the top individual tax rate to 39.6%, its rate before the 2017 Republican tax cuts.
- Roll back rules allowing U.S. corporations to pay lower taxes on offshore profits than those earned in the U.S.
- Eliminate loopholes that let the wealthy pay a lower tax rate on their investment profits than workers pay on their wages.
- Eliminate the loopholes that let the wealthy avoid paying taxes on the profits from assets they inherit.
- Strengthen IRS enforcement and information technology to ensure the wealthiest people and corporations cannot cheat the tax code.

As Congress moves into the Budget Reconciliation Process to allocate funds to particular programs contact your Congress person to make sure resources are allocated where they are needed and demand a Progressive Tax Reform that demands millionaires pay their fair share!