



PEACE PRACTICES

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Just Us No. 467

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World Day of Peace January 1, 2022

Pope Francis issued his annual World Day of Peace Message on January 1 calling for Dialogue between Generations, Education and Work: Tools for Building Lasting Peace. Pope Francis noted the state of the world, including the pandemic, effects of climate change and environmental degradation that are causing increases in hunger and thirst and the dangers of increased individualism.

Pope Francis proposed three paths to peace:

a) *Dialogue between generations to build mutual trust between the young and the elderly.* The pandemic brought increased isolation to the elderly and a sense of helplessness among the young. He noted that intergenerational partnership is needed. Young people need the wisdom and experience of the elderly and they need the support, affection, and creativity and dynamism of the young. It is only by abandoning 'piecemeal solutions or quick fixes' that dreams can emerge and hope can blossom.

b) *Teaching and Education as Drivers of Peace* happen only when governments develop economic policies that invert the proportion of public funds spent on education and on weaponry. Pope Francis calls for a process of international disarmament to free up resources for education and healthcare, schools, infrastructure, care for the land. He calls for "a global pact on education for and with future generations, one that commits families, communities, schools, universities, institutions, religions, governments and the entire human family to the training of mature men and women."

c) *Labor is an indispensable factor in building and keeping peace* From a social perspective the workplace enables us to learn to make our contribution to "a safer, more habitable, and beautiful world." Pope Francis cites the devastating effects of Covid-19 on the labor market including the economic impact on both low-wage workers and young persons entering the labor market for the first time. Migrants and those working in informal economies suffer because there is no legislation to protect them in a social structure. Companies are encouraged to promote fundamental human rights of workers.

The Pope concludes by an appeal to government leaders and those charged with pastoral responsibilities and all people of good will to work together to achieve peace. Read the entire message at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace.html>

Human Trafficking Awareness

January is human trafficking and slavery awareness month. Human trafficking is a global issue and involves men, women, and children of all ages. Trafficking can be for sexual exploitation and sexual tourism; for labor; for other enslavement including child soldiers.

A common misconception about human trafficking is that it does not happen in the United States. This is false, as the United States is ranked as one of the [worst countries globally](#) for human trafficking. It is estimated that 199,000 incidents occur within the United States every year. In New York State last year 454 cases were reported.

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/human-trafficking-statistics-by-state>

Rochester Regional Coalition vs. Human Trafficking (RRCAHT) is our local coalition to fight trafficking. Please check the <https://www.rrcaht.org/> website to participate in the annual proclamation event, January 11, 9-11:30 am by zoom.



On January 19, RRCAHT will launch its inaugural human trafficking conference. It is free and will be on zoom! Register here. <https://rrcaht.tradewing.com/conference/ZCuneYtmxiZTMT9Bp>

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



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New Books in Justice Office

Three very readable books are now available through the Justice Office and SSJ Library.

Daniel Horan, OFM, has taken much of the literature re. racism and white culture and put it into an easy-read guide.

A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege by Daniel Horan, OFM, Ave Maria Press 2021*

William "Bill" Wynne, a local activist, tells his own story as a Rochester native who shares his experiences of understanding racism through people that many of us may know!

Understanding and Combating Racism, My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist by W.E. Wynne, Pathbinder Publishing, 2021

Under the Sky We Make by Kimberly Nicholas is her very personal story about making conscious decisions for living with the environment in mind. As we enter this age of global warming, we, too, are called to make life choices about how we will live so that others may also have life.

Under the Sky We Make, How to Become Human in a Warming World, Kimberly Nicholas, PhD, G. P. Putnam Sons, New York 2021*

*Will also available in the SSJ Motherhouse Library