



# Just Us

Sisters of St. Joseph or Rochester

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## A Prayer for the Feast of Mary Magdalen

Holy Mary of Magdala, Apostle to the Apostles,  
Friend of Jesus,  
Soul Freed from Seven Demons, pray for us.

Brown-skinned prophetic sister,  
comfort those who are grieving and exhausted.  
Bring the consolation of company, rest, and  
return for their labor.

Watcher at the foot of the cross, give us the  
strength  
to bear witness to those falsely imprisoned in jails  
or by systems.  
Grant us the willingness to speak against a culture  
of fear-mongering and death.

Weeper at the tomb, strengthen us by your  
example and knowledge  
to keep walking, keeping speaking, keep singing,  
and to demand, still, that we want to see Jesus.  
And help us to radiate joy when he speaks our  
name.

Holy Mary of Magdala, Apostle to the Apostles,  
Friend of Jesus, Soul Freed from Seven Demons,  
pray for us.

Amen.

—Reverend Julia Seymour, via [RevGalBlogPals](#)

*Reprinted with permission from US Catholic,  
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## Themes from the US SSJ Federation Gathering

As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of St. Mary Magdalen themes from our Federation gathering in St. Louis July 8-10 resonate with this prayer.

Incarceration of persons who have committed non-violent crimes is often exacerbated by their inability to pay cash bail. This results in extended jail time. Those who are most affected are the poor who do not have income to pay bail, and persons of color who are arrested and detained more often than their white counterparts picked up for the same charges.

Women who face jail time are often in demeaning conditions, without privacy of any kind and open to the eyes of male guards who watch everything including dressing, bathroom and personal hygiene needs.

You are invited to watch this short video clip that portrays themes from past events centering on human trafficking and the current event which focused on trafficking in the carceral system. . <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APG2LFxBrY4> **(Copy & paste into browser).**

We were heartened by speakers from The Bail Project, Keyway Center for Diversion and Reentry, and New Hour for Women & Children — Long Island. All of these organizations provide bail for women who are unable to pay and need to be home with their families as they await trial. There is a link on the US Federation website for those who might wish to donate.

**Repair and Redress: Reparations for Slavery NETWORK** Catholic Social Lobby is advocating for President Biden to set up an HR 40 –Style Commission to study reparations for slavery and the legacy of slavery in the United States. This was a campaign promise of the President when he was running for election and it has yet to be established.

**A bit of history:** H.R. 40 refers to the 40 acres of land and a mule that were to be given to freed slaves after the Civil War. This promise, never fulfilled, has been introduced in Congress every year since 1989 beginning with Representative John Conyers, who asked that a Commission be established to study reparations. This year for the first time, the resolution was introduced by Representative Shirley Jackson Lee and passed. Senator Cory Booker has introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

The current request, simply asks President Biden to establish a Commission to study Reparations and make recommendations.

Catholics have their own need to repair and redress the wrongs that have been done over the years to Black Catholics who were not allowed to be accepted in white religious congregations or seminaries nor admitted to white colleges or universities. The Jesuits and other religious orders held slaves and sold them. Shannon Dee Williams has given a scholarly account of this history in her book, ***Subversive Habits, Black Catholic Nuns and the Long African American Freedom Struggle.***

The struggle continues and has been documented by other authors including Fr. Bryan Massingale, Fr. Dan Horan, OFM, and author Olga Segura, a black feminist writer.

SSJ Website [www.ssjrochester.org/](http://www.ssjrochester.org/) SSJ

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(CTRL & Clic)Brazil link: Copy & Paste: <http://www.isjrochester.com.br>

**Pope Francis, The Catholic Church and Reparations**

*Black Catholic Messenger* Article:

The Catholic Church has never formally apologized to African Americans for its role in the slave trade, but a group of scholars—including Dr. Nikole Hannah Jones—met Monday with a Vatican rep to seek a plan for healing and economic repair.

<https://www.blackcatholicmessenger.com/reparations-delegation-at-vatican-07-2022/>

**(Highlight and rt. Click to open)**

(\*A thank you to Shirley Nagg, SSJ Associate for finding this article.)

**The SSJ Justice Office has materials for loan:**

**Racial Justice & the Catholic Church**, Bryan M. Massingale

**A White Catholic Guide to Racism & Privilege**, Daniel Horan, OFM

**Birth of a Movement, Black Lives Matter and the Catholic Church**, Olga M. Segura

**Subversive Habits, Black Catholic Nuns and the Long African American Freedom Struggle.**  
Shannon Dee Williams

**How to be Anti-Racist**, Ibram X Kendi

**America's Original Sin, Racism, Whit Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America**, Jim Wallis

**Understanding & Combatting Racism, My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist**, Bill Wynne

Books can be signed out of the Justice Office.