



May

May 1 was International Workers' Day. Our e-letter this month reminds us that workers continue to struggle for a living wage in our state and nation.

May 21-28 is **Laudato Si Week** celebrating Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on Care for Our Common Home. We are reminded that each of us has a part in preserving our earth. For information, see the web-site:

[https://
laudatosiweek.org/
events/](https://laudatosiweek.org/events/) (Copy & paste in browser.)

We can also look at local opportunities for recycling and more provided by Monroe County.

www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark



“Just Us”

Sisters of St. Joseph Justice & Peace Office
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NYS Budget Finally Passes—What is Included? What is Not?

NYS Worker Justice Center reported on bills it had advocated for. The **Unemployment Bridge Program** did not make it into this year's state budget, but the Fund Excluded Workers Coalition successfully built momentum around this cause and ensured that excluded workers were included in conversations about the need to modernize our unemployment social safety net. The coalition also shifted public perception on who excluded workers are, highlighting that our current UI system excludes freelance & self-employed workers, formerly incarcerated workers, immigrants without work authorization, and cash earners.

Raise Up NY Coalition continued to push for the **Raise the Wage Act**, which sought to increase the statewide minimum wage to \$21.25 by 2027 and index yearly increases thereafter. Unfortunately, the framework that made it into the final budget provides a meager increase to \$17/hour by 2026 in NYC, Westchester, and Long Island, with Upstate communities reaching \$17/hour by 2028, followed by limited indexing. We, alongside our partners in the Raise Up NY coalition – including small businesses, unions, and community organizations – are disappointed by these insufficient raises. The deal doesn't go nearly far enough to lift working New Yorkers out of poverty.

Finally, this year's budget included a historic \$63 million in funding for immigration legal and essential services. This is an important victory for the CARE for Immigrant Families Coalition, who pushed for \$120 million in legal services funding as well as the guaranteed right to counsel for immigrants facing deportation in New York State. The **Access to Representation Act** providing this right to counsel was not included in the state budget, but the CARE for Immigrant Families Coalition will continue to push until this legislation is passed.

Emma Kreyche, Director of Advocacy, Outreach & Education
<http://www.wjcnyc.org/>

A prayer for a living wage

Living God, we confess that we have not fully accepted the challenge of seeking Your justice in the world. We define justice in ways that preserve our own self-interest, forgetting that Your justice may call us to great sacrifice.

We pray for workers whose wages are so low that they face terrible choices between paying the rent and feeding their families.

R. *God of Compassion, hear our prayer.*

We pray that the courageous cries of workers for justice will be heard by their employers, by the community, and by our government.

R. *God of Compassion, hear our prayer.*

We pray for employers in our city, that they will accept their responsibility to pay their workers enough to live.

R. *God of Compassion, hear our prayer*

We pray for companies that abuse the dignity of their workers and refuse to see their employees as brothers and sisters.

R. *God of Compassion, hear our prayer.*

We pray for all the citizens of our community, that we will hold our government and businesses in our community accountable for the ways they treat their workers.

R. *God of Compassion, hear our prayer.*

Hear now O God the prayers that we lift aloud or in silence to you.

Amen

—Rebekah Jordan, via socialjusticeresource-center.org

U.S. Catholic <editors@uscatholic.org>

The minimum wage in the Rochester area is \$12.50/hr. Compare the Cost of Living in Rochester with what a living wage should be.

https://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/city/new_york/rochester

<https://www.bankrate.com/real-estate/cost-of-living-calculator/>

A Living Wage for a Single Adult is \$17.25/hr.

A family of 2 working adults & 2 children is \$26.85

SSJ Website www.ssjrochester.org/ SSJ

Website

Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/SistersofSaintJosephofRochester



(CTRL & Clic)Brazil link: Copy & Paste:

<http://www.isjrochester.com.br>

Rochester Area Interfaith Climate

Summit—Sunday, May 7, Temple Br'ith Kodesh

The RAICA Annual Summit is returning. Please join us for an opportunity to connect with others in the Rochester Area Community, share best practices, get support and connect with local resources and experts.

This summit will help congregations and individuals navigate the new world of sustainable choices. The summit will commence with words of inspiration given by Muhammed Rashid, Reverend Myra Brown and Rabbi Peter Stein. A keynote address will be given by Abigail McHugh-Grifa of the Climate Solutions Accelerator. Workshops will cover solar panels, geothermal heating and cooling installations, congregational and household composting, energy audits, sustainable landscaping, youth action, and climate justice advocacy. In addition, there will be representatives of a myriad of environmental organizations and services.

<https://www.raica.net/event-details/raica-2023-interfaith-climate-action-summit-time-for-action-greening-our-congregations-and-our-congregants>



May 7 - 13 is designed to promote the benefits of composting and compost for effective resource management, soil health and plant growth.

There are many benefits to using compost in lawns and gardens, including maintaining healthy plant growth, improving soil structure, and less watering, among others!

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Did you know that compost made from Monroe County leaves and yard waste is available free

