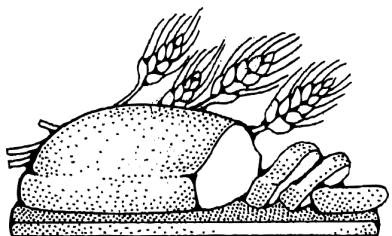




“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
Justice & Care for Creation Office
150 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618

No.500 November 6, 2023 hrockwell@ssjrochester.org (585) 641-8180



Bread for the World Offering of Letters

One in ten people around the world goes to bed hungry at night. As people of faith, we are called to care for those experiencing hunger and poverty. Prayer is important, and so are food cupboards. But we also need changes in our public policy so that more people get proper nutrition.

This November, we are participating in a Bread for the World Offering of Letters. You are invited to write to Congress in support of the Farm Bill, domestic nutrition programs and critical international food assistance programs. Then all of the letters will be gathered and sent together amplifying their impact. Bread for the World provides support, information, and letter templates. The latter materials are attached. Printed copies will be available in the hall outside the Great Room beginning next week.

And then, because it's easier to take part if we do it together, every day between November 13 - 17, I will be in the Great Room from 12:15 to 1:00 pm. Stop by to write your letter, pick up materials, ask questions, or just to chat! Drop off your completed letters by Friday, November 17 and they will be included in the offering.

Tutors Needed!

[Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services](#) and the Warner School of Education at the U of R have partnered to create a fantastic program—refugees receive tutoring in English at their workplaces and are paid to attend! The curriculum was designed by students in the Warner School; volunteer tutors meet with the learners. Refugee Resettlement has the opportunity to offer this program at a new workplace: [Special Touch Bakery](#), a ministry of the School of the Holy Childhood. But they need more volunteer tutors. If you're interested call Natalia at (516) 325-4703 or Ahmad at (585) 405-1251. Be sure to mention that you'd like to find out about tutoring at Special Touch.

Responsible Consumption

Yes, it's here again—the seasonal reminder about shopping locally and ethically. There are 2 local stores I want to highlight. Both are woman-owned and offer eco-friendly ethically sourced products. Stores like these make shopping a little easier because they have vetted what they sell so you don't have to.

In Fairport: What's Good—Shop & Refill With Purpose, 114 Fairport Village Landing. Offering eco-friendly and socially responsible household essentials and gifts — at fair prices. Visit, or order on-line at: <https://shopwhatsgood.com/>

In the City: Marilla's Mindful Supplies, a Geneva-based zero-plastics store that has opened a new location at 661 South Ave. You can also order on-line. <https://marillas.com/>

And While We're Talking About Debt Forgiveness . . .

At present, when a public creditor forgives debt, private creditors aren't obligated to do the same. As a result, debt-burdened nations end up using public funds freed up by debt relief to pay private creditors. Doesn't seem right, does it?

[The New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crisis Protection Act](#) would require these private creditors to participate in debt relief initiatives at the same level as the U.S. government.

Why will a New York State Law help? Because New York State Law governs most of the developing world's debt contracts. If you'd like to find out more, Jubilee USA has prepared a great resource: [Frequently Asked Questions: The New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act \(jubileeusa.org\)](#)

Praised be

Living God,
have mercy on us,
for the times we
forget
that we belong to
each other.



You call us to be still,
to hear the whisper of our Sister Wind,
to feel the radiance of our Brother Sun,
and to be nourished by our Mother Earth.

Renew us in your healing love.
Inspire us to water the earth,
and nurture one another,
so all may flourish.

Together, as one family,
may we always sing your praise.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Prayer: Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD

SSJ Website: www.ssjrochester.org

SSJ Brazil link: www.isjrochester.com.br



[Find us on Facebook](#)

Laudate Deum—What's Next?

Laudato Deum is an urgent cry for action on the climate crisis. (For a good summary of the exhortation, check out [Infographic---EN---Laudate-Deum.jpg](#))

While Pope Francis calls all of us to action, he especially calls out leaders gathering this December in the United Arab Emirates to attend the next round of UN negotiations (COP28). He writes, "We must move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes."

Governments are finalizing their COP28 negotiating positions right now which means that now is the time to advocate for creation. It's hard to know where to begin, but the Laudato Si Action Platform offers a useful [advocacy toolkit](#) with some good ideas. (<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/app/uploads/2023/11/laudate-deum-advocacy-towards-cop28.pdf>)

Because many developing countries are so burdened by debt they don't have the funds necessary to address climate change, one way to advocate is to ask President Biden to promote debt forgiveness at COP28. Sign on to The Catholic Climate Covenant letter [here](#).

Prayer For Our Times Returns

I've missed it. I bet many of you have, too!

**First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm
Beginning Tuesday, December 5**

Join us for 30 minutes or so of prayer and reflection centered on what is happening in the world. Let's pause, pray and reflect together.