



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
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PRAYER

For all those who work to make society more just:

R. God, send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and renew.

For all those who work to end torture and cruelty:

R. God, send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and renew.

For all those who teach and practice nonviolence:

R. God, send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and renew.

For all civilian and military attorneys who work to protect the dignity of prisoners:

R. God, send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and renew.

For all those who speak truth to the powerful:

R. God, send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and renew.



Immigration Concerns

Legislation will be introduced in Congress when our legislators return from their Easter/Passover break. Senator Schumer is one of the “gang of eight” making recommendations for immigration reform..

Last week a delegation from the Greater Rochester Immigration Coalition visited Senator Schumer’s local office and spoke with his staff representative about our concerns.

Among them are :

- Increased Border Security when our northern border area is already saturated.
- Racial profiling and mistreatment of American citizens based on skin color.
- Adjustment of immigration quotas and change in H2A Visas so workers can be employed at more than one location by several employers.
- Family reunification- Allow family members visas instead of waiting in line.
- E) Grant DREAMERS a path to citizenship.

Actions You Can Take!

Tell Congress that family is important to the faith community, and our visa system should not be a zero-sum game. You can send an e-mail message to your members of Congress here: <http://capwiz.com/networklobby/issues/alert/?alertid=62518641>

Contact our NYS Senators’ local offices:
Senator Schumer—(585) -263-5866
Senator Gillibrand —(585) 263-6250



Human Trafficking Concerns Become A Focus of Local Groups

Feminists for Life and the Gandhi Institute recently sponsored presentations by Laura Lederer, J.D, on the issue of international trafficking of women and children. Dr. Lederer is currently President of Global Centurian, a new NGO dedicated to fighting world slavery and human trafficking.

On Saturday a special luncheon was held at the Susan B. Anthony House for representatives of groups that work with women and children who are at risk of sexual abuse and violence. Guest panelists included Dr. Lederer, Sue Thayer, former manager of a Planned Parenthood Clinic in Iowa and Jennifer Wolfley, an Associate Professor from RIT who works with women on the street.

We learned that trafficking isn't limited to foreign countries. It happens in our own neighborhoods. Most often prostitutes in our city neighborhoods came from families with a history of dysfunction and abuse, including sexual abuse of children. No one wakes up in the morning and decides to become a victim, but traffickers continue to look for vulnerable persons, especially adolescents who are alone or runaways.

As Sisters of St. Joseph we are deeply concerned about this issue and recently approved a public statement pledging to educate ourselves and to work with others to raise public awareness of the enormity of the problem.

We are hosting a gathering of persons and agency representatives interested in this topic at our Motherhouse on April 4 to see how we may work together on this important issue.

For more information contact

ptierney@ssjrochester.org

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(CTRL & Click)

Brazil link: Copy & Paste:<http://www.isjrochester.com.br>



Good Friday Stations of the Cross

GRCC-Faith In Action Network, the Episcopal Diocese and Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, the faith community of Upper Falls/Hudson Avenue and residents of the neighborhood announce the 5th Annual Ecumenical Good Friday Cross Walk for Solidarity and Justice.

This event is a solemn pilgrimage that will begin with a short prayer service 8:45 a.m. at First Genesis Baptist Church, 292 Hudson Avenue. At approximately 9:00 a.m. the walk will proceed with youth carrying the symbolic cross of Christ along the way of both violence and places where there is hope and rejuvenation. This year there are seven stops on the pilgrimage. Leaders will meditate and pray on the "seven last words of Christ," and how His ministry still speaks to the hearts of those who are suffering in our neighborhoods today.

The walk is approximately 1 ½ mile long. Those who cannot walk the whole distance may participate at the beginning or end of the walk, or any point along the way. For information and a map go to <http://grcc-fian.org/>

Wed., April 3 ROCLA—Barbara Deming will present the film "Why We Come" - "Por Que Venemos" at 7 pm., Downtown Presbyterian Church, 121 North Fitzhugh Street, Rochester. Barbara is with Rural and Migrant Ministries.