

SALT & LIGHT

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HEAR THE CRY OF THE POOR

Hearing the Cry of the Poor

In a world that seems to value wealth and celebrity and disdain the poor and vulnerable, Pope Francis calls us to mark the second World Day of the Poor by hearing the cry of the poor. "No one should feel excluded from the Father's love, especially in a world that often presents wealth as the highest goal and encourages self-centeredness." The pope desires that we take the time to truly hear their cry and respond with compassion.

Catholic Relief Services has posted some helpful resources, including a link to Pope Francis' message at <https://www.crs.org/get-involved/learn/resource-center/world-day-poor-resources>.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) always carries wonderful poverty resources on their Poverty USA site. In this diocese, we hold our CCHD collection in September, but most will hold it on the World Day of the Poor, so they have homily helps and other liturgical resources that could be adapted for local use. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/poverty/upload/world-day-of-poor-2018-pastoral-aid.pdf>

Cafod (the equivalent of Catholic Charities in England and Wales) has more resources including a video: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/World-Day-of-the-Poor>

The USCCB Department of Justice and Human Development has a new video on the Two Feet of Social Justice. It would be suitable for the Day of the Poor or for social ministry development: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iqA4fTn6ro&t=3s>

A Prayer for the Second World Day of the Poor

"This poor one cried out and the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him."

—Psalms 34: 7

Loving God,

You hear the cry of each of your children,

and especially those who are poor and suffering.

We pray that we too might hear the cries of people in need:

The family crying out for food ...

The migrant child crying out for his mother ...

The youth crying out for education ...

The farmer crying out for rains for his harvest

The trafficked and abused, crying out for freedom ...

All of who are poor and vulnerable, crying out for help ...

Lord, open our hearts

that we may hear the cries of the poor as you do

and respond as your hands and feet on earth.

In your name we pray,

Amen

A Prayer for Families to Stay Together

Dear God, Our Father,

As we remember the World Day of the Poor,

We pray for our family and for all families who experience poverty around the world.

When we eat, we thank you for our meal,

And we remember families who do not have enough food.

We do not waste what we have, and we share our food with others.

When we play, we thank you for the gift of free time and safety,

And we pray especially for all the children around the world who are not able to play freely.

When we pray, we thank you for our family,

And we pray for all families around the world who live in poverty.

May you be with them, and help our family to always remember to reach out to them.

Amen

"To hear their [the poor] voice, what we need is the silence of people who are prepared to listen. If we speak too much ourselves, we will be unable to hear them. At times I fear that many initiatives, meritorious and necessary in themselves, are meant more to satisfy those who undertake them than to respond to the real cry of the poor. When this is the case, the cry of the poor resounds, but our reaction is inconsistent and we become unable to empathize with their condition. We are so trapped in a culture that induces us to look in the mirror and pamper ourselves, that we think that an altruistic gesture is enough, without the need to get directly involved. Pope Francis, World Day of the Poor Message 2018

DOING EVERYTHING

Do you ever feel overwhelmed by all the ways we're called to do justice? Just in these fall months, Pope Francis has called us to mark the Season of Creation, to Share the Journey with our immigrant brothers and sisters, and now to mark the World Day of the Poor. On top of that Rochester's interfaith community asks us to celebrate the Children's Interfaith Weekend. All that on top of the many ways we minister weekly in our parishes.

Don't despair! You can't do everything, but we can all choose something to do in a big way and we can use our bulletins, prayers of the faithful and social media to let parishioners know that living justly matters and is how we model our lives after Jesus. For example, in the busyness of October, many parishes choose not to participate in the Children's Weekend. But please consider at least supporting the efforts through social media, including a prayer of the faithful for children this coming weekend, and posting a link to the online advocacy letter. See the next article for details.

CHILDREN'S WEEKEND

From Brigit Hurley:

Planning to participate in the Children's Interfaith Weekend but haven't registered yet? Take a minute and [click here](#) to do it now. If you want to participate but aren't able to do so next weekend, you can honor children any weekend through November 18th.

For people who will not have the opportunity to sign the paper version of the letter in their congregation, there is an online version now available. Access the letter by clicking [here](#), and this will lead to a page where you can enter your address and click "Take Action" to send the letter via email to Governor Cuomo, NYS SED Commissioner Elia and NYS Dept. of Health Commissioner Zucker. If you want to include this online advocacy letter into an online newsletter or website, copy and paste this link: <https://thechildrensagenda.salsalabs.org/Developmentalservices/trtoGovOct2018copy1>.

All resources can be found at [the interfaith page of TCA's website](#).

If you have any questions or know someone who should be getting these emails, please feel free to contact me at bhurley@thechildrensagenda.org or (585) 256-2620 ext. 2602.

If any links don't work, find it all at www.thechildrensagenda.org/initiatives/interfaith-collaborative

SUPPORT YOUNG ACTIVISTS

On October 29th, 2018, 21 youth will give science its day in court. In their landmark lawsuit, *Juliana vs US*, the youth allege that the federal government has knowingly violated our constitutional right to a stable climate, asking them to create and implement a National Climate Recovery Plan. These bold young plaintiffs need your help! Voice your support for their lawsuit at our local rally, organized by the Rochester Youth Climate Leaders and Brighton High School's Climate Club.

When: Monday, October 29th, from 3:30 - 4:30pm.

Where: The Federal Building (100 State Street).

Why: To show the federal court system that America cares about our climate.

RADICAL HOPE

Sunday, November 4, 2:00-5:00 PM, at 1010 East Ave. (the red brick building immediately west of Asbury United Methodist Church). **"Radical Hope: Reversing Global Warming,"** presented by Rochester Pachamama Alliance's Seeds of Hope and Drawdown Ambassadors. We will learn how to embody radical hope in the face of the climate crisis; activate our deep connection with the earth; explore the four levels of action we can take to reverse global warming; share, learn and collaborate about Project Drawdown's climate solutions; and unleash our collective potential to generate the hope we yearn for. Please bring a small snack to share. RSVP is requested but not required: <https://connect.pachamama.org/node/1445>

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Concerned about climate change but not sure what to do? The Rochester People's Climate Coalition is holding a strategic planning day to strategize how to be most effective. It's a whole day's commitment, but plans are in the works to include a breakout group on faith-based work. If you're interested, let me know and I'll send details when I have them.

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 27, 8:30am-5:00pm

WHERE: The Harley School, 1981 Clover St, Rochester, NY 14618

TO REGISTER: tinyurl.com/RPCCworkshop, by **Oct. 15** if at all possible

Workshop Highlights will include:

Systems Analysis Case Study – PUSH Buffalo

Mobilization & Power Mapping- What and How?

Practice on real, local climate issues

The target audience for this workshop is the leaders of our local climate movement, and your colleagues who'd like to get more involved. To get the most out of this event, we recommend that each organization send 2-3