

SALT & LIGHT

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- WARM COATS
- IMMIGRATION
- CLIMATE REFUGEE FILM

WINTER'S COMING

Catholic Family Center's main office is very conveniently located in the same block as the regional transit center. That makes us more accessible to people with limited transportation resources. Many of the people we serve rely on public transportation to get around and will be spending a good part of each day outside in the cold weather. We are asking for donations of new or gently used winter coats, hats, gloves and boots, all sizes, all genders. Donations may be dropped off at 87 N Clinton during business hours or contact Claudia Gill and she will pick them up. 262-7044. cgill@cfcrochester.org If there's space on Pleasant Street you can just put on your blinkers and run your donation into the front desk.

IMMIGRANT SCAPEGOATING

History shows that times of change or economic distress are ripe for extremist movements to exploit people's fears to gain power for themselves. It doesn't take long for people who descended from immigrants to turn against the newest wave of newcomers seeking a better life. Most of our ancestors came as impoverished people at a time when there were few restrictions on entry. Whether German, Polish, Irish or Italian, they were in turn scapegoated and treated as "other". But, of course, these uneducated poor, mostly Catholic immigrants worked hard at the jobs no one else wanted, educated their children, and within very few generations were producing doctors, lawyers and Supreme Court justices.

Now we see that same mean-spiritedness directed towards today's immigrants. It's evidenced in the fear-mongering we see on some news stations towards people so desperate that they are walking over a thousand miles with small children to request asylum in a country that is responding with armed troops. It's evidenced in the drastic reduction in the number of refugees being accepted and the threat to eliminate birthright citizenship. It's evidenced in the proposed change to housing immigrant children and families as well as to changes in the existing "public charge" rules.

What can we do?

Speak up for our Catholic values of compassion and respect for human life to friends, relatives, letters to the editor. Respond to requests for advocacy. Take the time to respond to proposed rule changes.

Some resources from Justice for Immigrants:

- FAQ on birthright citizenship: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/2016site/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Birthright-Citizenship-FAQ.pdf>
- Information about refugees: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/what-we-are-working-on/refugees/>
- Detention information: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/what-we-are-working-on/immigrant-detention/>
- Public Charge and other immigration issues: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/what-we-are-working-on/immigration/>

JUSTFAITH MIGRATION PROGRAM

JustFaith Ministries' 8-week program, Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey, invites participants to formulate a personal response to the 21st-century reality of migration inspired by their Christian beliefs. It explores some of the central questions related to the reality of migration on a global level and in the U.S. context. The sessions provide historical, biblical, and theological perspectives and suggest ways participants can take action in their own context. This program was developed in partnership with Maryknoll. Learn more at <https://justfaith.org/exploring-migration-faith-journey/>

You are invited to a screening of Anote's Ark on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, in Hubbell Auditorium in Hutchison Hall, 120 Trustee Rd, Univ. of Roch. Parking is available in Trustee Lot across the street. The film is about Anote Tong and how he worked to help his country of Kiribati to plan for a future in which they will have to leave their islands because of the impacts of climate change. It was an official selection at 2018 Sundance Film Festival. See a trailer at: www.anotesark.com

"Being a neighbor means bringing the newness of God into the lives of our brothers and sisters. It serves as an antidote to the temptation of easy answers and fast fixes. Let us ask ourselves whether, as Christians, we are capable of becoming neighbors, stepping out of our circles and embracing those who are not 'one of us,' those whom God ardently seeks. A temptation so often found in the Scriptures will always be there: the temptation to wash our hands."

- Pope Francis, Homily, October 28, 2018