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SALT & LIGHT

Contact: Ruth Marchetti, rmarchetti@dor.org, 585-546-7220 ext. 7099

ADVENT

Advent is a period of watchful waiting for the Christ Child to be born once again in the hearts of humankind. What a contrast to the usual frenzy that Christmas preparation brings when the miracle easily gets lost in the increasingly secularized commercial celebration. The world needs Advent. Advent is an invitation to live more consciously in this world so we don't miss the amazing gift of Jesus.

In our world of human-made comfort, it's easy to lose awareness of the beauty of the changing seasons and our own dependence on the natural world. Meat is neatly-wrapped packages from the grocery store, not the ultimate gift from a living breathing animal which may or may not have been treated humanely. Climate comfort is regulated by a thermostat to provide continuous heating and cooling. Spiders and pesty insects are eliminated with chemical sprays without regard to their place in nature's food chain. (See an ominous article from the New York Times, but maybe not right before bed:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/27/magazine/insect-apocalypse.html>.)

As people of faith, we live in hope that God intervenes in the world to lead us to solutions, but we need to be awake to see them. The shepherds were awake. The Magi were awake. Simeon and Anna were awake. Many were not. How can we use this Advent to quiet ourselves enough to be aware of how our life choices impact our precious earth for good or harm? It may be time to learn from indigenous people who still live with a close awareness of the earth's systems. Here is an Advent tool from Maryknoll: www.maryknollogc.org/article/journey-hope-advent-guide

SMALL GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Each year the Life Issues Office offers organizations the opportunity to apply for Consistent Life Ethic grants, around \$500, to support life-giving projects around the diocese. These include projects that protect life that is threatened by abortion, economic injustice, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, war, human trafficking, domestic violence, and any other form of violence. If you would like an application or have questions, please contact me at rmarchetti@cfcrochester.org or Suzanne Stack, Life Issues Coordinator, 328-3210 x1304, suzanne.stack@dor.org. **Applications must be completed and returned by December 15.**

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK

JANUARY 6-12

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week during the time our liturgical calendar reminds us of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt to protect Jesus from Herod's soldiers. This year's theme, "Building Communities of Welcome" reminds us that each of our families have a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another. Resources at <https://justiceformigrants.org/take-action/national-migration-week/>.

In this time of trauma for migrants throughout the world, please consider raising up our foundational belief that all humans should be treated with kindness and compassion. Plans are underway to invite the greater interfaith community to join us in this traditionally Catholic event.

CARAVAN & MIGRANT RESOURCES

Catholic service agencies along the U.S./Mexico border are engaging in daily humanitarian operations and need your help to support and provide for the migrants families being released by the Department of Homeland Security. Please see Justice for Immigrant's background on the caravan and learn how you can help: justiceformigrants.org/what-we-are-working-on/immigration/migrant-caravan-how-you-can-learn-more-act/

From Church World Services:

All people have the right to seek a safe place to call home, and seeking asylum is protected within U.S. and international law. Join faith leaders and communities across the country for a week of action as we stand in solidarity with the migrant caravan and all who seek refuge in the U.S. The "Love Knows No Borders" week of action begins **today**, Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day, and ends on Dec. 18, International Migrants' Day. For more information about the week of action go to <https://migrantjustice.afsc.org/>

"We need to strengthen our consciousness that we are one family. There are no borders nor political or social barriers that permit us to be isolated and it is because of this there is no place for the globalization of indifference."
Pope Francis, (*Laudato Si'*, 52)

FUN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

From Catholic Family Center:

Our micro enterprise, Healthy Sisters Soup and Bean works is in great need of volunteers to help pack soups for the holiday season. The program serves women in recovery and they desperately need volunteer support between now and Christmas to meet demand. We would like volunteers to serve in three hour blocks between 8 and 3 PM during the work week from now until right before Christmas. They can do this one time or as often as they would like.

The minimum age is 16 with an accompanying adult. The location is 500 Lee Rd, Rochester NY 14606. Program contacts are Ken Zablony and Kathy Previte. They can be reached at 546-2784 during the hours above or at kzablony@cfcrochester.org or kprevite@cfcrochester.org. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for families, especially when teens need community service hours.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

From Partners in Restorative Practices (PIRI):
Overview of Restorative Practices: January 13, 2019, 5:30-7:30pm. Free and Open to the Public.
Location: Small World Books, 425 North St., Rochester. This workshop provides an introduction to restorative practices and their uses within schools, communities, and the criminal justice system.

HOLIDAY EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Friday, December 14, 2018 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Holiday Talking Circle. Hosted by M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence; LOCATION: M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, 929 S. Plymouth Avenue, Rochester, New York 14608. Are the holidays challenging for you? Perhaps you feel stressed, discouraged, overwhelmed, or sad? For the 8th year, we're hosting a space that welcomes holiday blues, grumpiness, and everything else! Come experience a loving and supportive space for however you may be feeling about this season. To register, email chyna@gandhiinstitute.org; <https://www.facebook.com/events/264152080939865/>

SIMPLE LIVING CHRISTMAS

To access a recording of the Catholic Climate Covenant's one-hour webinar, "[Living Simply-Living Faithfully](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/living-simply-living-faithfully)" go to <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/living-simply-living-faithfully?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=55c942d8-8346-4c28-864c-aa28479fc85f>

YOUTHBUILD OPEN HOUSE

This Thursday, December 13, from 3-6PM, Catholic Family Center's YouthBuild team is having an Open House at their new location on 121 Lincoln Avenue. YouthBuild, a program of the Rochester Workforce

Consortium, operated by Catholic Family Center, is a national program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth while assisting in the construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in their own communities. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to : sacquisto@cfcrochester.org or 585-546-720 x7312. For more information about our YouthBuild program, visit www.youthbuildroc.org

CREATION-CARE NEWS

Interested in bringing a hopeful program on climate change to your parish? The Pachamama Alliance is offering 2 Drawdown programs:

Reversing Global Warming: Introduction to Drawdown

In an inspiring and easily understandable format, using videos, slides and group discussion you will learn about the latest research on how we can reverse global warming.

Drawdown Solutions: Getting Into Action 4-session Workshop

This workshop provides an opportunity to join with others and discover your unique contribution to reversing global warming. Through videos, presentations, and group activities, we will explore and identify opportunities to move into action to expand the impact of the Drawdown solutions in our area.

Please contact *Sue Staropoli*, (585)586-4007, or suestar1@rochester.rr.com - 585-586-4007 (H), to explore and schedule possible dates for either course.

Repairing the Planet II—Hope Through Action

Climate change is upon us. We are continually reminded of this fact by news of hurricanes, floods, droughts, and fires, and by the resulting famines and migration. It is essential that we take action now to avert the worst outcomes that might occur. And we can make a difference. Come and learn from local environmental groups about actions all of us can take to reverse climate change and preserve a livable climate for our children. January 23, 2019, 7-9pm

Temple Brith Kodesh Atrium. 2131 Elmwood, Roch., NY
Sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women
What: Panel Discussion

Speaker 1: Norma Polizzi, local environmental lawyer and member of the Climate Reality Project. Norma will share with us information on the current state of the atmosphere and international efforts to work together.
Speaker 2: Sue Staropoli, Pachamama Alliance. Sue will introduce us to the Drawdown Project, a list of the 100 most effective changes we can make to reverse climate change.

Admission is \$5. Light refreshments will be served. A sign-language interpreter will be available if requested by January 9, 2019. Registration in advance is appreciated at www.ncjwgrs.org.