Catholic Family Center

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Salt & Light

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Catholics Are Still IN

You have until June 8 to urge your parish to sign on to the Catholic Climate Declaration. The Catholic Climate Declaration (CCD) affirms the commitment of US Catholic institutions (e.g., parishes, dioceses, schools, college/universities, health care facilities, etc.) to stand by the Paris Agreement and help meet its goals. It expresses solidarity with the "We Are Still In" campaign that began after the United States withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord.

"[A]t its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both 'the human environment' and the natural environment. It is about our human stewardship of God's creation and our responsibility to those who come after us" (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good*, 2001).

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the solution. Read the Declaration at www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/catholic-climate-declaration

Book Launch

You are invited to celebrate the LAUNCH of John Strazzabosco's new book, *Ninety Feed Under*: *What Poverty Does to People.* There will be a brief talk from the author, John Strazzabosco, Sr. Janet Korn, RSM & Word And Deed Publishing Director of Acquisitions, Darrin Griffiths.

Friday, June 15th, 7-8PM at the Mercy Center
1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, NY 14610

There will be refreshments in the Mercy Center dining room.
Please RSVP to jstrazza@rochester.rr.com by Jun 11th.

*Books will be available for purchase by check. ($25.90)
John will be happy to sign copies of his book.
Book will be available soon on Amazon.

Immigrant Families

Anyone who has raised a child knows how harmful it would be to have children traumatically separated from their parents and then held in confinement until placed with new caregivers. Yet that is what is happening on our border in the name of deterring people seeking refuge from crossing. The U.S. Bishops immigration advocacy organization, Justice for Immigrants, reports that more than 700 children have been separated from their parents since October, 2017; over 100 of them are under age 4; some are infants or toddlers. The parents are incarcerated and often deported. The children are considered to be "unaccompanied" and are turned over to the Office of Refugee Resettlement. It can be very difficult for the parents to establish any kind of communication with their children. The impact of this trauma on children can have negative emotional consequences for the rest of their lives.

Please take a few minutes to email a note to Senators Schumer, www.schumer.senate.gov and Gillibrand, www.gillibrand.senate.gov/ (and Representatives Collins, Reed or Katko if you live in their districts) and President Trump, www.whitehouse.gov/contact/.
JFI suggests this wording:

Dear _____,
Children are vulnerable and should not be separated from their parents. The family is a foundational element of Catholic teaching and family unity is a cornerstone of our American immigration system.

Separating parents from their children will not deter families from seeking safety and security in the U.S. Such a policy will not cure the pervasive root causes of migration existing in the violent areas of Central America. Furthermore, a policy of separating families at the border will be extremely costly to the U.S. taxpayer, costing hundreds of dollars/night per family.

As a Catholic, I urge you to recognize the importance of family unity and use your oversight capabilities to:
(1) Tell DHS Not to Separate Families
(2) Prevent DHS from Receiving Funding for This Harmful and Costly Practice
(3) Propose More Humane Solutions, Such As Alternatives to Detention.
Thank you

Solitary Confinement=Torture

Most people who go to prison will some day be released to be reintegrated back into society. The time they spend in prison should help to prepare them to be good citizens and good neighbors. Solitary confinement, which is being used increasingly in prisons for long periods of time, does neither. Solitary confinement is torture. New Yorkers are spending years isolated in solitary. This is inhumane. A disproportionate number are prisoners of color.

Please contact Gov Cuomo to ask for an end to long-term solitary confinement in New York State.
http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6273/c/1653/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=26249

Roc the Walk

The Rochester People's Climate Coalition brings people together to work on issues affecting the environment, especially regarding Climate Change. These great coalition builders are finding the need for their first paid staff person so they're having their first major fundraiser and it's guaranteed to be fun. From RPCC:

Please join us -- get sponsors and walk the easy mile or form a team to multiply your fundraising.

Your fundraising will help RPCC meet its goal of carbon neutrality in the greater Rochester region by 2027. Bold goal? Sure is! But it's what we need, and we have the technology. We just need the will and the resources properly allocated. RPCC is attacking the problem in these four sectors: renewable energy transition, energy efficiency in buildings, transportation, and land use. Working together, we'll keep Rochester cool!

Sat. June 30th, 2018. Walk and music at 10:30am
Genesee Valley Park, 1000 E. River Rd, Rochester
- 1.0 mile nature walk around Red Creek Trail
Music by Ben Morey and the Eyes and more
- Fun activities for families and friends
- Water, bagels and fruit provided for all participants

For more info and to register, go to https://rocpcc.org/rocthewalk/

New ProLife Movement

America Magazine has a very thoughtful article on today's prolife movement. Go to https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/05/18/we-need-new-pro-life-movement-built-social-justice

Opiod Crisis

From St. Joseph's, Penfield:
The Opioid Crisis: Join us on June 14th at 7:00PM
Our Faith Calls us to Respond to Substance Use & Addiction

All are welcome to attend this panel and learning session. This session will be helpful to parents/caregivers, family members and friends who are affected by addiction or who simply want to learn more. Please consider attending if you have a loved one affected by addiction or have lost a loved one to addiction and persons currently experiencing concerns with their substance use. Please allow us the opportunity to support you on this difficult journey and begin the process of healing. We offer acceptance, compassion and a safe place to learn and understand more about this topic.

- *To be discussed*: prevention & wellness for our youth, hope and access to recovery sources, information/support for families affected by addiction and loss, personal shared experiences of community members affected by addiction or in recovery from a substance use disorder.
- Catholic Family Center representatives will provide support and guidance.
- Call the St. Joseph's parish office with concerns or questions.
- St. Joseph's Learning Center is Handicap accessible.

Please Join Us on June 14th at 7:00PM at St. Joseph's Parish's Learning Center
Please contact Deacon Duncan Harris for more information on this session
Duncan.Harris@sjcpenfield.com 585-586-8089 ext.113

Conflict

Partners in Restorative Justice is offering a talking circle on the "Many Faces of Conflict". Talking circles are wonderful experiences of listening and being heard. If you participate you will be invited to share stories of your experiences with conflict and navigating conflict. The event will be **6-8pm on June 11th**, and coffee and tea will be served. Please RSVP to ***Office@pirirochester.org***

Every threat to the family is a threat to society itself. The future of humanity, as Saint John Paul II often said, passes through the family (cf. Familiaris Consortio, 85). The future passes through the family. So protect your families! Protect your families! See in them your country's greatest treasure and nourish them always by prayer and the grace of the sacraments.

Pope Francis, 1/16/15