

SALT & LIGHT

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- SPEAKER
- FARMWORKER BILL
- LENT
- RESOURCES

FARMWORKER BILL SPEAKER

Would you like to have a better understanding of the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act and the issues that affect it? For many years Rural and Migrant Ministry (RMM) has taken the lead in advocating for this New York State Bill. On Thursday, February 7 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm, West Cosgrove of RMM's Liturgia Center in Lyons, Wayne County, will be available to give a brief review and answer your questions. Come to the Gathering Space at St. John of Rochester Church, 8 Wickford Way, Fairport. St. John's is just off Rte. 31 and close to the Pittsford exit of 490. Enter by the office (also near the church entrance.).

This gathering would be appropriate for parish staff and social ministers who want to have a good grasp of the issues before Public Policy weekend. Parishioners who would just like to know more are also welcome. RSVPs are helpful but not required.

MORE ON THE FARMWORKER BILL

Although Public Policy Weekend is scheduled for February 9/10, parishes are welcome to gather petitions anytime in February. We ask that parishes return the petitions along with 2 additional copies to regional Justice and Peace staff no later than March 6. In Monroe County they can be mailed or dropped off to the attention of Ruth Marchetti at Catholic Family Center, 87 N. Clinton Ave., Rochester 14604. If dropping off, there are temporary parking spots along Pleasant St. where you can put on your flashers and drop them off at the front desk. Please be sure they are labeled to my attention.



Find materials at <https://www.dor.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Policy-Weekend-packet-2019-farmworkers.pdf>. These include

1. Instructions on returning the completed petitions
2. Advice on effective ways to gather petition signatures
3. Petition and postcard - use either one
4. Bulletin insert on the bill
5. Bulletin announcements
6. Prayers of the Faithful
7. Pulpit Announcements
8. Information on the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act and answers to some questions about the bill

Passage of the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act would help to bring justice to a long-ignored population. In the words of the NYS Catholic Conference:

"There is no legitimate reason for treating farmworkers inequitably. They should be afforded the same rights, protections and benefits that other workers in New York State receive. It is unacceptable for farmworkers to be denied the basic labor, safety and health protections other workers enjoy. Farmworkers make a significant contribution to the production of agricultural products in this great state and are deserving of being treated with dignity."

PLANNING AHEAD FOR LENT

Faith communities all around the Rochester area are waking up to the reality of climate change and the spiritual blindness that brought our earth to the point of crisis. Caring for the gift of creation is fundamental for caring for the humans that depend on the earth for life. Consider encouraging parishioners to "give up" (reduce) carbon for Lent this year. There are many simple ways to do this through food, transportation and energy use choices. Each week could focus on one area or adapt the Unitarian Universalists' Carbon Footprint Game for your congregation or classroom. The goal is to cover a large, dark footprint with stickers that reflect reductions in carbon use. See <https://uucf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Carbon-Footprint-flyer-1.pdf>

CRS Rice Bowl participation reminds us of our human interdependence. Using the meatless meal recipes also help us reduce our impact on the earth. "Live simply so others may simply live."

"Saint Francis of Assisi bears witness to the need to respect all that God has created and as he created it, without manipulating and destroying creation; rather to help it grow, to become more beautiful and more like what God created it to be. And above all, Saint Francis witnesses to respect for everyone, he testifies that each of us is called to protect our neighbor, that the human person is at the center of creation, at the place where God – our creator – willed that we should be. Not at the mercy of the idols we have created!"

Pope Francis,
Homily at Assisi, 10/4/13

VENEZUELA

The current crisis in Venezuela is complicated by the United States long history of involvement, much of it negative, in Latin America. We can, however, be proud of the work of Catholic Relief Services throughout this region. CRS has prepared an "Emergency Factsheet on the escalating Venezuela crisis, with the latest insight from our CRS and partner teams responding in Venezuela and across the region." To read it go to <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ascde%3AUS%3A6771427b-da97-4196-8dcf-6730fc45dba3>

SHARE THE JOURNEY

Last year a coalition of U.S. Catholic organizations were encouraging us to "Share the Journey" with immigrants by participating in public pilgrimages. Now CRS and others are encouraging us to take part in Encounter Dinners as part of the Share the Journey Global Migration Campaign.

From CRS:

"Encounter Dinners are opportunities for people who were born in different places or who identify with different cultures to share a meal together and get to know one another. When we get to know immigrants, we learn not only about the struggles they have fled, but also about their hopes and dreams for a peaceful future. Many Americans believe that closing our doors to these innocent men, women and children is the way to protect our nation. Our experience shows that this is not the case, and we invite you to share in this journey."

Locally, a number of faith communities have already begun their own encounter dinners. A group from St. Joseph's in Penfield will be joining Our Lady of Guadalupe parishioners this Sunday for Mass and a meal. For several months, a local Lutheran church has been gathering small groups of resettled refugees and parishioners for a shared meal and conversation.

Learn more at www.sharejourney.org/encounter-dinner/

CARE FOR CREATION

Come and see a free viewing of *Symbiotic Earth*, a documentary following scientist Lynn Margulis as she explores how cooperation, rather than competition, supports evolution and life on earth. Tuesday, Feb 5 at Greece Baptist Church (1230 Long Pond Rd); or Wednesday, Feb 6 at Brighton Memorial Library. 6:30pm both nights.

PRAYER OF THE TABLE

Lord of life,
As we anticipate the feast before us
Let us first taste the sweetness of your love.
Help those who are here assembled
Remember that this bread and drink for which we thank you
Is only a shadow of your gracious love.
You feed our bodies with the fruits the land
But also you feed our spirits with joy,
Our hearts with goodness and hope,
Our souls with peace and mercy.
Let us partake of these
And all the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
And in so doing, let us always save some to share
With our brothers and sisters who still hunger,
And always make room at our tables
For those who still thirst.
Amen.

DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY FORUM

The Downtown Community Forum will sponsor a talk on "Listening for Opportunity: How the Voices of Rochester's Homeless Led to Social Entrepreneurship".

Nicholas Coulter, CEO of Person-Centered Housing Options, Inc will speak of his journey from providing outreach and case management to people who were homeless to running an organization that focuses on the Housing First concept—people who have housing are better able to address the other difficult issues in their lives.

Tuesday, February 5, 6:30 pm

The Dugan center, St. Mary's Church Downtown
15 St. Mary's Place, Rochester 14607

PRAY WITH BISHOP MATANO

From Carol Crossed:

There has been a lot of anger, a lot of sorrow and despair expressed over the past 3 days related to the passage of the NYS Reproductive Health Act. A time has been planned to pray and process our grief with Bishop Matano on Thursday, January 31, 12:15—1:15 pm

Mass and refection in the chapel
Rochester Roman Catholic Office,
1150 Buffalo Road

"For here on either side of the wall are God's children and no man-made barrier can obliterate that fact"
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr reflecting on the Berlin Wall, September 13, 1964.