

SALT & LIGHT

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INTERFAITH CLIMATE SUMMIT

All who are concerned about the world we are passing on to our children and grandchildren, are invited to an Interfaith Climate Summit that will help translate anxiety into faithful, hope-inspiring action. On Sunday afternoon, May 19, you can join with people of all faiths in sharing prayers for God's Creation in different voices., then engage in workshops to learn about specific steps you can take as an individual, family or faith community to actively address climate change with faith, hope and love. Learn best practices for recycling, handling food waste, creating a community garden, making buildings more sustainable, and drawing down greenhouse gases. The summit will be held Sunday, May 19, at Greece Baptist Church, 1230 Long Pond Rd. (just north of W. Ridge Rd.), Rochester, NY 14626. Registration and tabling begin at 1:30 p.m., and the program is 2:00-5:00. The free event is sponsored by the Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action. Register at www.RAICA.net.

Now is the time for people of faith to rise to this global challenge together, lead by example, and become agents of hope that inspire others to follow.

BI-PARTISAN SOLUTIONS

You are invited to hear former Republican Congressman, Bob Inglis on "A Free Enterprise Solution to Climate Change". Keynote address, 6:00—7:30 pm April 17 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

This is a first-of-its-kind event in Rochester, as it will begin to bridge Republican/Democratic and liberal/conservative divides by showing that common ground can be found around climate change.

For more information about Bob's message and all of these ways to participate: see the [Registration page](#).

COMPASSION

Compassion: Muslim and Christian Perspectives

Both Christianity and Islam see compassion as an attribute of the Divine. Come to this session to learn what that means to people of each tradition. Learn skills that will leave you a more compassionate person and a better friend. The afternoon will be led by Kit Miller and her colleagues from the Gandhi Institute. March 31, 3:00 -5:00 pm at the Islamic Center of Rochester 727 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14620
More information: Nick Frega
nicholas.frega@dor.org or 585-328-3228 ext. 1287

UNPLANNED

Please join Feminists for Nonviolent Choices for a free private premier of the new movie "Unplanned". "Unplanned" presents the powerful story of former Planned Parenthood director Abby Johnson and her conversion to being a leading pro-life advocate. It also details the role 40 Days for Life played in that process. The movie hits theaters on March 29 but here in Rochester we will have two premier showings, one on March 25 at 7pm at the AMC Theater in Webster and the other on March 28 at 7 pm at the Regal Henrietta theater. The movie is rated R because it shows an abortion. There is no other violence, nudity or sexual content. Children 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult. No children under the age of 6 are allowed.

Admission to these premier events is free to anyone who pre-registers.

Free will donations will be taken at the theater with the proceeds going toward the purchase of a mobile ultrasound unit and to the Focus Pregnancy Help Center. To reserve your tickets, send an email to [in-fo@ffnvc.ccsend.com](mailto:info@ffnvc.ccsend.com) or text Rick Paoletti at (585) 489-9555 with the following information:

- Your name
- Your email address
- Your phone number
- The number of tickets you wish to reserve

The date / location of the showing you wish to attend.

URGENT ADVOCACY

In January 2019, the Department of Homeland Security issued new policy guidance for "Migrant Protection Protocols." On March 4, 2019, the Texas and Mexico Border bishops issued a statement voicing disagreement with the recent "Remain in Mexico" policy. Expressing their deep concern over the policy, the bishops noted: "We appeal to governments, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they not adopt policies that have the effect of increasing the suffering of the most vulnerable." On March 13th, Bishop Joe Vasquez of Austin, Texas, Chairman of USCCB Committee on Migration along with Sean Callahan CEO of Catholic Relief Services released a statement of solidarity with the Texas-Mexico Border bishops regarding the human consequences of this policy. To advocate go to <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/category/action-alerts/>

ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP

On April 12 and 13, 2019, Sister Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, Executive Director of Pax Christi USA, and Sister Anne-Louise Nadeau, Director of Programs of Pax Christi USA, will facilitate a two-day Anti-Racism workshop in Rochester for key leaders of religious, ministry and cultural communities in our area.

The workshop Building the Beloved Community: Racism and Beyond is a nine-hour training workshop. Sister Patricia and Sister Anne-Louise will help participants examine their own complicity in racism, talk about its history, and share methods for addressing this complex issue in our own communities.

The registration cost is \$25 per individual or a reduced rate for students of \$10, to help defray the cost of this event. However, inability to pay should not be an impediment to your participation.

For more information or to request financial assistance, please contact Nick Frega, Project Manager, Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at Nicholas.Frega@dor.org or 585-328-3228 ext. 1287 Or Carmen Z. Rollinson, Project Manager, Office of Cultural Ministries at Carmen.Rollinson@dor.org or 585-328-3228 ext. 1318

Friday, April 12, 2019 – 2:00 to 5:00 pm
Saturday, April 13, 2019 – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Attendees need to attend both days.
St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry
120 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618

GOD'S OWN JUNKYARD

Prof. Sandra Steingraber, Ithaca College Professor, ecologist and environmental activist, will be the featured speaker at the annual legislative briefing of Interfaith Impact of New York Sunday, March 17, 2:00-4:30 pm at Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue, Rochester. The program is entitled: "God's Own Junkyard: Environmental Stewardship in New York State 2019."

Professor Steingraber will be followed by a panel discussion of environmental legislation before the state legislature: The Rev. David Inglis, retired United Church of Christ minister, will speak on a theology of ecology; Harry Bronson, NYS Assemblyman from the 138th district, will provide an update on the legislative situation in Albany; and Hridesh Singh, a Brighton HS student, who will present a perspective from youth. A question and answer period will be followed by refreshments. No charge, but contributions welcome.

Questions? Richard S. Gilbert, 585-244-7403 or 738-8229

BORDER HELP NEEDED

Bishop Seitz of El Paso has appealed for assistance in responding to the overwhelming need at the border crossing in El Paso. Those who cross in the El Paso region are released into the care of various volunteer organizations who are operating shelters at churches and diocesan facilities. Lately those numbers have grown from an average of 300 a week to 300 a day and there are indications that number may grow even more in the weeks and months ahead, forcing the diocese to open more shelters. [Annunciation House](#) (the main diocesan shelter) has even rented several budget hotels to assure that no families will be left on the streets.

The diocese needs volunteers who are willing to stay for a **at least a week** serving in a wide range of capacities. Spanish language ability is a plus, but is not required. People are needed to do everything from cleaning, making contact with sponsor families, driving families to the bus station, to coordinating shelters. While transportation to El Paso would be the responsibility of the individual or sending agency, once there the diocese will provide housing and meals for the volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer you may fill out the form you will find at <https://annunciationhouse.org> under "contact form" or call Daron Mulligan, who helps schedule the shelter at the Diocesan Pastoral Center (215) 510-7128. For more information call the El Paso Diocesan Chancellor, Patricia Lopez at (915) 872-8400.

Sr. Janet Korn, who recently served two weeks in El Paso, says the work was intense but deeply rewarding

GUNS INTO PLOWSHARES

Shane Claiborne and Michael Martin will bring their "Beating Guns" tour to Rochester on Thursday, April 18. The 90 minute event at Greece Baptist Church (1230 Long Pond Rd.) will include music, art, and stories of people impacted by gun violence, culminating with an invitation for the audience to take the hammer and transform a gun into garden tools. There is no charge for admission, but people should register by going to: <https://www.beatingguns.com/tour> and clicking on the "April 18" date.

The events sponsors, Greece Baptist Church and the Mercy Spirituality Center are looking for churches willing to help by: providing volunteers (contact Steve Gretz revgretz@yahoo.com), Helping spread the word, and contributing toward the cost: We are looking for ten churches willing to contribute at least \$50 toward the cost of the event. Would you consider having your church be one? Make checks payable to Greece Baptist Church, and write "Beating Guns" on the memo line. 100% of what you give will go to Shane for the tour.