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SALT & LIGHT

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VALUING EVERY LIFE

In yesterday's reading from the 15th chapter of John's gospel, Jesus' clear message to his friends is quite simple, "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." We know that this simple message comes with a very big caution, to love as Jesus did means to be willing to sacrifice all for the good of all. When religious and political leaders saw their power threatened by Jesus' message of love and compassion, they joined forces to execute him. True love is willing to sacrifice everything.

Thirty-six years ago, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, framed this love as the "consistent ethic of life" or the "seamless garment". He saw that when we tried to prioritize one group of human lives over another, we created a self-defeating framework that devalued all lives.

We humans have a tendency to want to fit in to social groups, which in recent years, often align along political divisions. Committing to value all lives ensures that we will be misfits; like Jesus, we will probably make everyone unhappy. Our progressive friends will be uncomfortable when we defend the humanity of a child before birth and our conservative friends will be challenged when we insist that those children receive all the supports they need to thrive after they're born. They'll all be uncomfortable when we challenge them to prioritize future generations by creating a healthy planet now.

God's grace and our own life experiences, will inspire our passions more strongly around different life issues. As Catholics we value all lives, born or unborn, young or old, free or in prison, regardless of gender, race, nationality or social standing. All are precious in God's eyes. Catholic social teaching calls us to see the world and each other through a Jesus lens. What could be more beautiful or more challenging?

INTERFAITH CLIMATE SUMMIT

The new Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action presents the First Annual Interfaith Climate Summit on Sunday, May 19 at the Greece Baptist Church 1230 Long Pond Rd. (just north of W. Ridge Rd.). Registration at 1:30 p.m., program 2:00-5:00 p.m. The event is free; childcare available with registration.

- ♦ Share in interfaith celebration of the gift of our Earth
- ♦ Learn current best practices for recycling, switching to renewable energy, making heating & cooling more sustainable, reducing and handling food waste, creating a community garden, educating and motivating for Earth care, and advocating for sustainable legislation. There will be a workshop by and for youth.

Please register in advance at [Home | Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action](#)

FAITH IN ACTION DINNER

28th Annual GRCC Faith in Action Banquet will be held this year on June 4 at the Burgundy Basin Inn. The focus of the banquet is the celebration of 100 years of ecumenical cooperation in Rochester. Sister Barbara Moore and Rev. Michael Ford are speaking about the centennial, and the late Marv Mich will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. It's a beautiful event honoring people of faith who try to put that faith into action. Find a form for tickets at qvalley.myworshiptimes22.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2019/04/15-2019-Faith-in-Action-APR.pdf

THE OPIOID CRISIS

The Opioid Crisis in Our Community: The Facts You Need to Know and How it Affects You
Monday, May 20th 7:00PM
Panel Presentation at St. Christopher's Church
3350 Union Street/Corner of Union St. & King Rd.

Presenters:

James Van Brederode – Chief of Police, Town of Gates
David Attridge – Executive Director of RecoveryNowNY
David Dunning – Supervisor for the Town of Chili
James Wesley – Retired Forensic Chemist Supervisor/
Monroe County Crime Lab
Mark Assini – Former Supervisor for the Town of Gates
Cathy Saresky – Vice President for Clinical Innovation for Catholic Family Center
Trillium Health will send a presenter who will speak on Narcan and offer free training.

There is no charge for this presentation. However, a free will offering will be gratefully accepted to assist the efforts of Gates to Recovery. This presentation includes true life stories and a graphic video and is not suitable for family members under the age of 12.

"Racism arises when—either consciously or unconsciously—a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard. When this conviction or attitude leads individuals or groups to exclude, ridicule, mistreat, or unjustly discriminate against persons on the basis of their race or ethnicity, it is sinful. Racist acts are sinful because they violate justice. They reveal a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of the persons offended, to recognize them as the neighbors Christ calls us to love (Mt 22:39).

Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love
The U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Racism

GETTING OUTSIDE

It's spring, so even if it's still raining, put on your gear if you're able, and appreciate the beauty. Here are some opportunities:

Composting and Worm Farming Friday, May 17, 6-8:30 PM Sanctuary at 301 Railroad Mills Rd., Victor 14564 Burroughs Audubon Nature Club.

www.facebook.com/banc.roc/ Learn how composting works. Linda Groves, a Master Gardener from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, will explain the process and share tips for how to do it better. She will also explain how to harness the power of worms to make compost for your garden! Her talk will be preceded by a potluck supper. Bring a place setting and a dish to pass.

Finding Migrants and Nesters Saturday, May 18, 7:30-9:30 AM Powder Mills Park fish hatchery parking lot on Park Rd., Pittsford 14534 Burroughs Audubon Nature Club www.facebook.com/banc.roc/ Blue-winged Warblers, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks, and Screech-owls are possible sightings on this early morning walk in the park as well as at the Burroughs Nature Club Sanctuary grounds. Birders Richard Ashworth (381-2189) and Tom and Jeanne Verhulst will lead.

The **Brighton Eco-Fair** alongside the Brighton Farmer's Market Sunday, June 16, 2019 9:00am to 1:00pm Brighton High School front lawn on S. Winton Road. Come enjoy Nonprofits, Green Vendors, Student Projects, Children's Activities, and a Silent Auction to benefit ColorBrightonGreen.org. Learn about recycling, green energy, water conservation, green products, and more!

•Recycle Your E-Waste for Free Public Sunday, June 30, 2019 at 10 AM – 4 PM Greenovation 1199 E Main St, Rochester, New York 14609. See below for items we can accept. Items do not have to be working. Whatever Greenovation can't use, we will recycle. Question? Ask here or call (585) 568-7308.

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES WORKSHOP
NCBI is presenting "Controversial Issues", a half-day workshop, on Thursday morning, June 13.
"Controversy is ever-present in our daily lives & affects us on all levels - local, regional & national. In this environment, we need to develop the skills to express our concerns, listen to all sides & re-frame the issues. This workshop will help us develop 6 essential skill sets to carry into our interactions, wherever we go." Learn more and register at ncbirochester.org/workshops/

POVERTY USA RESOURCES

Catholic Campaign for Human Development has two new resources on their PovertyUSA.org and PobrezaUSA.org sites. These are useful tools you can use to help Catholics encounter, learn and act to address poverty. Watch this [two-minute video](#) (also available in Spanish) to learn more about the reality of poverty

in the United States and find out how you can join the work to address its root causes. www.povertyusa.org/multimedia/poverty-usa

Take [Poverty USA's interactive quiz](#) to find out how much you know about poverty in the United States. Featuring both multiple choice and true-false questions, this quiz will help you to learn more about poverty in the U.S. and its impact on people across the country. <http://www.povertyusa.org/poverty-quiz>

FROM PARIS TO PITTSBURGH

Several parishes/congregations are hosting screenings of the National Geographic video, "**From Paris to Pittsburgh**". From coastal cities to America's heartland, Paris to Pittsburgh celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. You are invited to come and be encouraged by focusing on solutions.

St. Anne Social Hall, Tuesday, June 11th 7:00 to 9:00 pm

1600 Elmwood Ave, Rochester, NY 14620

[parking in the rear]

Screening followed by open comment and guided discussion. RSVP will help preparations: [defilippo-carol@gmail.com](mailto:defilippo.carol@gmail.com)

Peace of Christ Parish, Tues, May 28 at 7pm

Parish Conference Room at the St. Ambrose site, 25 Empire Blvd., Rochester 14609. Enter from the parking lot behind the church.

CLIMATE STRIKE

Some young people are so concerned about their future that they are participating in public climate strikes every Friday. The [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) invites us to publicly pray the Laudato Si' rosary at noon on May 24, the anniversary of Pope Francis' prophetic document on the environment. Find the rosary at docs.google.com/document/d/11mXpBP6C9QGdozt_UVqblZtD_f1d0m5mVHGjwc18RiE/edit and please let me know if your parish will participate.

STOP PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

From the NY State Catholic Conference:
Proponents of doctor-assisted suicide are pushing their agenda in states across the country, and New York is in their sights. This week they come to Albany as they seek to make it legal for terminally ill patients to receive life-ending drugs. These policies are dangerous for patients, caregivers, and vulnerable populations. Suicide is not medical care. Please tell your Senate and Assembly representatives that you oppose this deadly practice. Send an email message to your elected officials today.

Find this and other important action alerts at <https://www.nyscatholic.org/>