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SALT & LIGHT

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HUMAN DIGNITY

"Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same." Luke 6:31-33

Jesus was speaking to that very human tendency to care about those whose lives are intertwined with our own. But to be a follower of Jesus means that our love must be bigger. We are called to love as God loves, seeing all of humanity as our brothers and sisters—the embodiment of Jesus among us. That demands more of us than we can probably achieve in this lifetime—even the great saints seemed to miss the mark sometimes. But that doesn't excuse us from a lifetime of trying.

The key principal of Catholic social teaching is that, because they are created in the image of God, all humans have dignity and deserve to be treated as children of God. The consistent application of this very basic belief drives our outreach wherever human life is threatened.

Because we are human, our feelings towards others are often influenced by people whose opinions we value. But as Christians, there can be no difference in the value of the life of an unborn child, that child's mother, a prisoner on death row, a family crossing our southern border to find safety and a better life, a subsistence farmer struggling to survive the droughts, floods and rising sea waters caused by climate change, a Yemeni child killed by weapons our country has sold to Saudi Arabia, an African American still struggling against the oppression of racism, or a young undocumented farmworker who puts food on our tables, but lives in fear and isolation. Our hearts need to be big enough for all even when we don't have easy answers for the political dilemmas their struggles present.

Many of these humans are not visible to us in our daily lives, but Jesus' words are a reminder that love cannot be tied to family or social groups or even national boundaries. Who will you love today? Who will be harmed by our inability to see as Jesus did?

LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL

Kids at Catholic Family Center Need Your Help

Case managers estimate we will need to provide school supplies and backpacks to over 500 kids in our emergency shelters and other CFC programs this fall. Can you help by donating backpacks and school supplies?

Visit the Rochester City School District website (www.rcsdk12.org/domain/11120) for a list of supplies by grade and look out for the back to school sales.

Donations are needed by mid-August.



Contact Claudia Gill, cgill@cfcrochester.org with questions or call 262-7044.

GOOD NEWS FOR FARMWORKERS

In February, 10,339 Catholics across the 12-counties of the Diocese of Rochester signed petitions or postcards in support of the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act (S2837/A2750), which would end the exclusion of farmworkers from basic labor rights afforded to other workers in our state, including overtime pay, a guaranteed day of rest per week and the protections when bargaining collectively. Yesterday the New York State Senate passed the legislation which had already been passed by the Assembly. As of today, Governor Cuomo has not signed the bill, but he has promised to do so.

Rural and Migrant Ministry has long been in the lead for farmworker advocacy. Here's what they have to say:

"The Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act has many provisions that improve the lives of farmworkers. Most notable... is the codifying into law a process that protects them while bargaining collectively. There is also for the first time, overtime pay, which will begin at sixty hours. In turn, there is a pathway to forty hours. It will be up to a Wage Board (made up of a Farm Bureau member, a member of the AFL-CIO, and an appointee of the Commissioner of Labor,) to determine whether this pathway is possible. There is a voluntary Day of Rest, though if a worker works on their day of rest, they must be paid overtime. There is now the requirement of Disability Insurance and several other provisions. In light of farmworkers being completely excluded previously, Rural & Migrant Ministry celebrates that farmworkers are no longer excluded, and we believe they are on the pathway to equality."

ST. ANNE NOVENA 2019

St. Anne's annual novena, including evening prayer and a talk, will be held at 7PM each evening, July 17-25. Mass will be held on July 26, the Feast of Ss. Anne and Joachim, at 7PM. St. Anne Church is located at 1600 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester, NY. This year, the theme of the novena will be *The Challenge and Spirituality of Catholic Social Teaching* in memory of Dr. Marvin Mich.

Wed, July 17—What is Catholic Social Teaching?
 Thurs., July 18—Community, Family and Participation.
 Fri., July 19—The Dignity of Work and Workers' Rights.
 Saturday, July 20—Solidarity: War and Peace.
 Sunday, July 21—The Preferential Option for the Poor.
 Monday, July 22—Rights and Responsibilities.
 Tues., July 23—Human Dignity: From Conception to Natural Death.
 Wed, July 24—God's Gift of Creation.
 Thurs., July 25—Human Dignity: Racism.
 Friday, July 26—Mass of Ss. Anne and Joachim.

CARING FOR THE LIFE OF THE EARTH AND ALL WHO LIVE ON IT

Four years after the publication of Pope Francis' beautiful encyclical on caring for creation, *Laudato Si'*, the California bishops have issued a Pastoral Statement calling for protection of our common home.

California is rich in natural beauty and resources. "Throughout its history, the rich, natural beauty of California has inspired countless people to approach the gift of creation with awe and wonder, raising voices of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father whose love is manifest in the magnificence around us." But California has suffered greatly from the results of the climate crisis, experiencing droughts, floods, mudslides, and terrible fires. The bishops should be commended for their strong support of *Laudato Si'*. You can read the statement at <https://www.cacatholic.org/common-home>.

"A significant development in this past year was the release of the 'Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels', by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). That Report clearly warns that effects on the climate will be catastrophic if we cross the threshold of 1.5°C outlined in the Paris Agreement goal. The Report warns, moreover, that only one decade or so remains in order to achieve this confinement of global warming. Faced with a climate emergency, we must take action accordingly, in order to avoid perpetrating a brutal act of injustice towards the poor and future generations." Pope Francis, June 14, 2019

INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING

Inspirational Pilgrims invites all to their latest journey to a Sacred Space. They request an email RSVP to vr1weareone@gmail.com

On Friday, June 28, 6:30 – 9:00 pm, Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Rd, Rochester, will host. Refreshments will be served and you also can bring refreshments to share.

MORE INTERFAITH WORK

Nazareth College, Hickey Center invites you, your family members and friends to register for any of the two workshops:

1. Global Citizenship Immersion: Building Skills and Knowledge for a Diverse World
August 5-9, 2019 at Nazareth College, Golisano Academic Center, Room 331 from 1:00PM-8:00PM.
*This week-long academic immersion program is **designed for students in grades 9 through 12 but open to college freshman also.** Concentrating on a youth interfaith encounter approach, the program includes seminars, interactive workshop sessions, group discussions, site visits to local places of worship, and community service. For details, please go to our website: <https://www2.naz.edu/interfaith/programs/workshops-training/next-generation/>*

2. Global Citizenship Immersion Certificate Workshop: Building Skills and Knowledge of our Diverse World

with Cultural and Spiritual Journeys for Experiential Learning (for K-12 teachers and other professionals)

August 5-9, 2019 at Nazareth College, Golisano Academic Center, Room 494, from 1:30PM-8:30PM. *This week long course is designed for K-12 teachers, business managers, religious leaders, and social workers for cultural and religious diversity training. This program will provide professionals, including teachers, with the necessary knowledge and skills in better understanding issues around race, gender, ethnicity, faith and cultures in our global world. This is a non-credit certificate course with site visits for experiential learning. For program details, see: <https://www2.naz.edu/interfaith/programs/workshops-training/train-trainers/>*

CONSISTENT LIFE

With his permission, I share Fr. Jim Hewes letter to Pres. Trump encouraging consistency in prolife policies: June 18, 2019

Dear President Trump,

I commend you for re-instating the "Mexico City Policy," so that the United States will no longer support the practice of the violence of abortion done to vulnerable pregnant women and innocent pre-born children in other countries, such as Yemen. In order to be consistent with this policy, I would urge you as our president, not to sell billions of dollars in arms to Saudi Arabia, so that these same vulnerable pregnant women and innocent pre-born children, will not be destroyed by the bombs and other arms the United States sells to Saudi Arabia. There are already horrific conditions of starving children in Yemen because of the violence and conflict in that country. They lack the basics of food, clean water and medical support. There are estimates of nearly a million -people facing an outbreak of cholera. The selling of arms will only add to this tragic situation. The alternative is to show the generosity of our government by sending humanitarian aid to help the civilian population of Yemen, as well as to help the millions of refugees fleeing the violence of Yemen into neighboring Djibouti.

I encourage the United States Government to use all its diplomatic pressure available on Saudi Arabia to prevent the further destruction on the civilian population of helpless women and children, both within the womb or outside the womb. Finally, I would request that the United States work with other countries to find a way for a cessation of the violence, as a step towards finding a more lasting peace.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter. Sincerely,

Rev. Jim Hewes

Green tip of the week: What saves energy in the kitchen? *Cooking with the lid on, *Steaming instead of boiling, *Using the microwave more than the stove or oven, *Baking several dishes at a time, *Using pots or pans that cover the whole burner, *Buying food in bulk, *Turning off the faucet to wash dishes, *Eating leftovers, *Composting.