Catholic Family Center

July 2, 2019

SALT & LIGHT

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TIME TO GATHER

Summer is vacation time, but if you're in town, please plan to come to one of our upcoming gatherings where in addition to gathering information you'll get a chance to welcome Marcus and say "happy retirement" to Ruth.

On Tuesday, July 16, there will be two opportunities to hear an overview of next year's Diocesan Public Policy agenda, and enjoy some social time with Marcus, Ruth and other parish and social ministry leaders. You are welcome to come either from 2—3:30 PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, or 7—8:30 PM at St. John of Rochester, 8 Wickford Way. An RSVP would be helpful so that we have enough cookies.

The public policy committee recently agreed on this agenda:

Petition Issue – Physician-Assisted Suicide (2nd weekend in February)

Education Issues:
-**Addiction** – focusing on the dangers and reasons for using addictive substances and and the ways parishes can support people in addiction recovery. (Fall 2019)
-**Schools** – inclusion of Catholic and other private and religious schools in New York State in funding for energy efficient improvements and critical capital in order to reduce their carbon footprints (Budget season)
-**Faithful Citizenship** – Encouraging Catholic participation in the political process in conjunction with the U.S. Bishops' rerelease of their Faithful Citizenship document. (Spring 2020 through Fall 2020)

CREATION CARE MEETING

On July 11, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Parish Creation-Care groups will meet at St. Anne's Church, 1600 Mt. Hope Ave. We'll have a guest speaker from the newly-formed Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action group who will update us on the many resources available on the raica.net website as well as opportunities to engage with other faith communities in our area who are working to increase awareness about the climate crisis.

Again, there will be some social time during the last half hour of our meeting.

EXPLORING MIGRATION

Many parishes in our diocese have participated in JustFaith programs. Their full program provides a transformative experience for small groups within a parish. In addition, they offer several theme-based shorter programs for parish study. An especially timely offering is JustFaith Ministries' 8-week program, Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey. The sessions provide historical, biblical, and theological perspectives and suggest ways participants can take action in their own context."

To learn more and register visit:
https://justfaith.org/exploring-migration-faith-journey/

To learn more about all programs go to https://justfaith.org/programs/

Other questions? Contact Ruth at rmarchetti@cfcrochester.org

OPPORTUNITY FOR REFUGEES

Are you a refugee **who has been in this country for less than 5 years** and looking for some job skills training? Would you like some training to improve your abilities? Do you want to get an education? Do you want to make more money? Catholic Family Center may be able to help you with the Refugee Career Pathways program (RCP). This program was developed to create career options for refugees in three targeted industries; Hospitality (including Culinary), Healthcare and Advanced Manufacturing. The program also allows you to get a training certificate or college degree or even your GED. You will work with a Career Counselor who will assist you to find and register for a training program, provide you with basic employment skills training and even provide up to $2500 in educational assistance funds. If you would like additional information please contact Scott Jones at 585-546-7220 ext. 7320

JULY 4TH MASS FOR PEACE

The usual Thursday 6:30 PM Mass at St. Joe's House of Hospitality will be celebrated at the Kenneth B. Keating Federal Building. 100 State St, Rochester, on July 4th at 6:30 PM. Join in to pray for leaders around the world to seek peaceful, nonviolent solutions to conflict. Members of the House of Mercy Gospel Choir will lead in song. Blessed are the peacemakers…

DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING

July 30 is World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. Please pray to end the scourge of modern day slavery and go to www.unodc.org/endht/ to see what else you can do.

Oh God, we didn't see them.
But you did—

The hundreds and thousands of human beings
Trafficked each year to join the millions who are trapped
in modern-day slavery.
Under terrible conditions, they work in factories, plow fields,
harvest crops, work quarries, fill brothels, clean homes, and haul water.

Many are children with tiny fingers for weaving rugs and small shoulders for bearing rifles.
Their labor is forced, their bodies beaten, their faces hidden
from those who don't really want to see them.

But you see them all, God of the poor.
You hear their cry and you answer
by opening our eyes, and breaking our hearts
and loosening our tongues to insist:

No more. No more.
Amen

                        From Catholic Relief Services

RESOURCES FROM CRS

Join Catholic Relief Services has produced many wonderful social justice educational resources, including a succinct series of videos on the principles of Catholic social teaching. A handy resource page groups many materials by season for easy access by ministers and educators. See www.crs.org/resource-center/resources-ministry-through-year. Here's a glimpse of offerings for the next few months:
July
14 Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha: Reflection and education about why we care for creation

Time to prep for the school year. See our Catholic social teaching videos and lessons.

August
Advocacy August Recess: Set up a meeting with your member of Congress

September
2 Labor Day: Prayers and activities about the theme of work
5 Saint Mother Teresa feast day

CATHOLIC CLIMATE NEWS

Diocese of Rochester Parishes should be pleased that the energy supply agreement negotiated by the diocese provides them carbon-free electricity. This is especially important now that the atmospheric concentrations of CO_2 are higher than they have ever been since humans first existed. Read about a parish in Virginia that has gone even farther in reducing their carbon footprint: www.catholicvirginian.org/?p=10123&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=77b146ff-0a7a-441f-9807-24419ae73914

From the Catholic Climate Covenant:
Sr. Sheila Kinsey, a member of the Franciscan Sisters Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (FCJM), Brian Roewe, staff writer for National Catholic Reporter, and Jose Aguto, Catholic Climate Covenant's Associate Director, reported on how parishes, schools, colleges and universities, healthcare facilities, and religious communities have responded with faith, passion, and enormous creativity to the Pope's call to care for creation and care for the poor.

To watch the June 18th webinar and to access the PowerPoint slides go to https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=18.