

SALT & LIGHT

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LAUDATO SI WEEK MAY 16-24

Laudato Si week wraps up on May 24th. Pope Francis has asked the whole world to pray the same prayer at noon local time. Go to www.laudatosiweek.org to sign the pledge saying you will join in. Here is a copy of the prayer and I will attach the prayer card to this week's email.

*Loving God,
Creator of Heaven and Earth and all that is in them,
You created us in Your own image and made us stewards of all Your creation.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be nourished.*

*Open our minds and touch our hearts,
So that we may attend to your gift of creation.
Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.*

*Be present to those in need in these trying times,
Especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.
Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope and fraternity so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.*

*Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic,
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good.
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected and interdependent,
Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world.*

*Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,
we make this prayer through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF CFC

Please help CFC by contacting your elected officials urging them to put \$38.5 billion in the next stimulus package to provide emergency funds to substance use and mental health disorders service organizations. Funds are necessary to ensure the fiscal viability of service providers like CFC and to ensure access to critical community-based services at a time when substance abuse is spiking.

Email me for more details and a sample letter.

STAND UP FOR SISTERS

The border wall is now threatening a Catholic orphanage near the U.S.-Mexico border. The Department of Justice has filed an eminent-domain lawsuit against Sacred Heart Children's Home in Laredo, Texas, demanding access to the orphanage's land to conduct surveys for the wall.

As an attorney for the Texas Civil Rights Project told the *Laredo Morning Times*, the administration seems to be taking cruel advantage of the pandemic to speed up wall construction, since public demonstrations aren't possible during social distancing. Under eminent domain laws, the government must pay landowners a fair price -- yet the administration only wants to give the sisters a paltry \$100 to let its construction teams parade around their land.

This orphanage has been run for more than 100 years by the Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Poor. As these sisters fight back in court, let's show them that they are not alone, and submit 10,000 signatures demanding the DOJ drop this outrageous lawsuit.

The petition states:

Dear Attorney General Barr and Acting CBP Commissioner Mark Morgan,

As Christians, we call on the U.S. Department of Justice to immediately drop its eminent-domain lawsuit against the Sacred Heart Children's Home in Laredo, Texas. The sisters of the Servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Poor provide a vital service to their community. The presence of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Border Wall Program Management Office would inevitably disrupt that service and the children and families who depend on it. No wall is worth this negative impact!

Sign the Petition Here:

act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/border_orphanage/



The Office of Life issues is hosting a free webinar on Fertility Awareness Base Methods (FABM). This is a great opportunity to update your knowledge and learn more about FABM. Please share widely. Registration is required. You will be prompted to enter your name and email to register. [Register Here](#)

JOIN US!

Update your knowledge and learn about healthy, holistic, and scientifically proven fertility awareness options.

The Office of Life Issues Presents:

Free Virtual Workshop
Fertility Awareness Base Methods FABM

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 30TH

TIME: 10AM

Panelists:

Anne Olek RN, MSN, FNP-BC, CFCP, CFCE

Alexandra Andrews RN, FCPI

Bernadette Palermo PA-C, FCPI

Angela Kristan MD, NFPMC

Registration is free:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dRcf5aSbSuq-ZK2SEdqSRg

Visit Office of Life Issues: Liferoc.org



LIST OF ONLINE MASSES

The Catholic Courier has compiled a list of places to watch/live stream masses. Find it here:

<https://catholiccourier.com/articles/list-of-parishes-with-live-streams-available>. To receive notifications of the livestreams and facilitate viewing, subscribe to the *Courier's* YouTube channel (youtube.com/catholiccourier).

JOIN US FOR A FREE JUST FAITH MINI-PROGRAM

In our first week of these reflections, we met virtually group wants to continue to explore what contemplation looks like at this time through the practice centering prayer. We will be practicing this as a group a second time this week which will be led by Dr. Joseph Kelly. **We will be doing a contemplative practice, followed by a reflection. If you'd like to join our next meeting will be Tuesday May 26th from 11:00-11:45am.**

If you are interested in reflections based more on justice topics, we will be starting those the following week (June 2nd). If you are hoping to attend either of these sessions, please contact me so I can give you the Zoom sign-in information. **Contact me at mebenhoe@cfcrochester.org to sign-up** or with any questions.



CENSUS REMINDER

If you haven't responded to the Census yet, you should have received a paper copy in the mail last week. You can fill this out and return it or you can go online or call to submit your household's information. Go to www.2020census.gov to fill it out online or call [844-330-2020](tel:844-330-2020) to do it over the phone.

Did you Know?

The Census recently released a new, powerful and informational video explaining how their numbers will help our nation as we come out of the Covid-19 pandemic. Check it out here: <https://youtu.be/gmJDTsrCa0c>

NEED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT?

If you experiencing emotional distress related to the COVID-19 pandemic, crisis counselors are available 24/7, 365 days a year.

**Call 1-800-985-5990
or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746.**



If you are in crisis or or thinking about suicide, get connected to a local crisis center and get in touch with someone immediately.

**Call 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)
or text "MHA" to 741741.**