

SALT & LIGHT

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- CHURCHES TO REOPEN
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CHURCHES TO REOPEN!

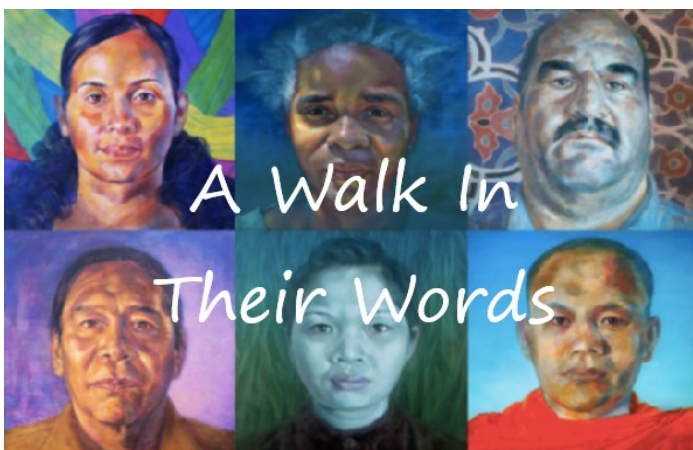
The Bishop praised the governor's decision to allow houses or worship to reopen at 25% of capacity. The Bishops of New York had been advocating to exempt churches from the rule limiting gatherings of more than 10 since most churches have capacities many times that.

Bishop Matano has published on the diocesan website instructions for parishes to prepare for the celebration of the sacraments, while taking all necessary precautions to reduce the risk of spreading the Covid-19. You can read about the diocese's response to Covid-19 at <https://www.dor.org/coronavirus-response/>.

As was written in the Bishop's June 6th response to the reopening he says, "we have published the instructions sent to our parishes so they can prepare for the celebration of the sacraments with more reasonable numbers of the faithful present, while taking all necessary precautions...It is apparent we can publicly worship together in church in a matter that is worthy of God and also prudent to manage the well-being of our brothers and sisters. This is what our parishes are able to do with twenty-five percent occupancy.

Due to the prevalence of the Coronavirus which remains in society, **the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday mass will remain until further notice.** I also recognize that for various circumstances, some parishes may not be able to immediately be able to begin Mass with the faithful present. I ask that you work cooperatively with the leadership at your parish who, together with many volunteers, are working so diligently to prepare for Mass with the faithful present."

Check out your parish's website to find out what is their reopening plan.



Artwork by Patrick Flores | patrickfloresart.com

A WALK IN THEIR WORDS

Join CFC for a **fun, impactful, VIRTUAL event on June 20** that will benefit agencies in Upstate NY that support refugee resettlement, including Catholic Family Center.

[A Walk in Their Words](#)

CFC joins The Center in Utica and presenting sponsors to invite you to join us in recognizing World Refugee Day on Saturday, June 20th, 2020. The Center has created a Virtual Run/Walk on behalf of refugee resettlement agencies across New York State to commemorate World Refugee Day 2020, raise awareness, and raise dollars. These agencies provide direct services to thousands of our most vulnerable, build community, support resiliency and honor the innate dignity of all human beings with their work every day.

Partner agencies include:

- The Center, Utica
- Catholic Charities of Buffalo
- Catholic Family Center, Rochester
- International Institute of Buffalo
- Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County
- Journey's End Refugee Services, Buffalo
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Observed every year, [World Refugee Day](#) provides an opportunity to honor the courage of refugees and recognize their resilience in building new lives in communities throughout the United States. A "Walk in Their Words" will provide participants the opportunity to listen to refugee and immigrant audio stories during the virtual walk/run and hear the personal experiences and journeys of individuals from many different regions of the world. All proceeds will support the partner agencies, who have all been impacted by recent funding cuts, as well as by the current COVID-19 health crisis.

Former refugees, including several who came to Rochester, NY, will also be sharing their stories with participants via audio files hosted in SoundCloud.

How you can join us

Those interested should visit www.awalkintheirwords.org for more info and to register for the event. For a \$30 donation, individuals can participate from anywhere!

- Walk or run on your treadmill
- Take a walk or run in your neighborhood
- Run in the park at a safe social distance

Receive a virtual gift bag with your registration! Please share with your communities and anyone you feel would be interested in joining us virtually on June 20 to support refugees in our community. We are looking forward to being with you then!

CONVERSAION ABOUT RACISM

The topic for this week's virtual gathering is **Reckoning with Racial Injustice**. It's main reflection piece is on a piece by Bryan Stevenson (of *Just Mercy* fame).

When: Monday 10:30-11:30am via ZOOM

Contact me at mebenhoe@cfrochester.org to sign-up and I will get you the needed materials.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SEEK JUSTICE

Let us take a moment and pray for all of those who have been harmed physically and emotionally by the confrontations between protesters and police. Calls for change bring about huge emotions on both sides. This, sadly, has created situations where people have been harmed. Please keep them in your prayers.

Specifically, please keep Martin Gugino in your prayers. You may know him as the 75 year old protester who was knocked down by police in Buffalo and cracked his head open. Per Religion News Service is "a devout Catholic...who is a passionate advocate for multiple causes on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised. Gugino spent his retirement lending a hand to multiple causes, among them Black Lives Matter.

"Martin has a passion for social justice," said Mark Colville, who runs [Amistad Catholic Worker](#) in New Haven, Connecticut. "When he sees wrong he wants to be involved in making it right." reli-gionnews.com/2020/06/09/martin-gugino-is-a-catholic-peace-activist-not-a-antifa-provocateur-friends-say/

Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, apostolic administrator of the diocese of Buffalo also spoke out on his behalf saying, "We stand with all who demonstrate peacefully and speak out against abuse of power and injustice of every kind...We honor Mr. Gugino's witness and service to the Catholic Worker Movement."

Things change when people are willing to sacrifice themselves to make this change. Be aware of where the pushback is coming from and pray for everyone in our nation as we take a hard look at ourselves and our systems as we weed out the sin of racism.



NEW MATERIALS ON THE LIFEROC WEBSITE

The Office of Life Issues invites you to explore our [website pages](#):

Caring and End of Life <https://www.liferoc.org/need-support/end-of-life/>

The Caring and End of Life page offers resources for hospice and palliative care homes as well as other resources.

Medical Decisions page <https://www.liferoc.org/medical-decisions/>

The Medical Decisions page offers resources designed to explain the moral principles of Catholic teaching in end-of-life decision-making and outlines the options that exist in NY State for advanced care planning.

INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE, DIGNITY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Saturday, June 27th, 2020 1:00pm

Location:

First Church of God
334 Clarissa St. Rochester, NY

Sponsored by:

- ◇ Greater Rochester Community of Churches
- ◇ United Christian Leadership Ministry of WNY
- ◇ Spiritus Christi Anti-Racism Coalition
- ◇ Muhammad's Study Group of Rochester

For further Information Call (585) 454-0077 or Email uclmrochesterny@gmail.com

FOOD DRIVE TO SUPPORT MIGRANT FAMILIES

Food & Supply Drive to Support Migrant Families – Saturday, June 13

Sponsored by the Dept. of Pastoral Services

Please bring your donations to one of the drop off areas below:

9:00 am-12:00 pm: Church of St. John of Rochester (8 Wickford Way, Fairport NY)

1:00-4:00 pm: Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester Pastoral Center (1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester)

Our migrant brothers and sisters are struggling with few resources available to them. This collection for basic food and household items is one way we can provide support during this difficult time. Keeping in mind cultural needs, please consider helping with the specific items listed:

GROCERIES: Evaporated Carnation Milk, Dried Pinto Beans, Long-grain White Rice, Pasta for Soup (i.e., Barilla, Moderna), Maseca (specific Corn Flour), All-purpose Wheat Flour, All-purpose Flour, Mazola Oil, Canned Tuna, Cookies & Crackers, Potatoes, Nestle Chocolate Abuelita, Decaf & Regular Coffee (Instant, Ground), Sugar;

PERSONAL HYGIENE, LAUNDRY & CLEANING supplies; Walmart Gift Cards

Volunteers will be wearing a mask, gloves and practicing social distancing.

- Remember to wear a mask.
- Kindly stay in your vehicle, but please place your items where a volunteer can easily collect it; for instance, in the trunk of your vehicle.

Thank you for your generosity!

For more Information, please contact:

Carmen Rollinson Email: Carmen.Rollinson@dor.org

Few are guilty, but all are responsible.

- Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel