



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
Justice & Care for Creation Office
150 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618

No.507 May 8, 2024 hrockwell@ssjrochester.org (585) 641-8180

Everyday Peace Retreat

“Peace begins within each of us , and each of us has something to offer. Over the course of this day together, we will claim our gifts, acknowledge our needs, and explore the unique contribution each of us can make.”

Facilitated by: Sr. Barbara Lum, SSJ & Holly Rockwell

Where: Notre Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua, NY

When: Monday, May 20, 2024, 9 - 3

Fee: \$40.00

To Register, call (585) 394-5700



On Wednesday, May 22 at 7:00 pm, the BTS Center is offering a public conversation with renowned climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe, author of [Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World](#).

This promises to be an evening of thoughtful conversation about [Collective Honesty and Complicated Hope](#) with Dr. Hayhoe and an incredible panel of conversationalists.

Register Here: thebtscenter.org/collective-honesty-and-complicated-hope/

Prayer for Our Times

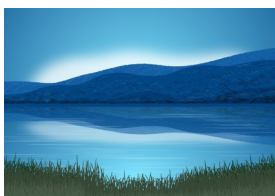
Join us in this monthly prayer for peace, healing, and reconciliation. All are welcome.

First Tuesday of the month

Next up—June 4 at 7:00 pm

With Rev. Tedd Pullano,

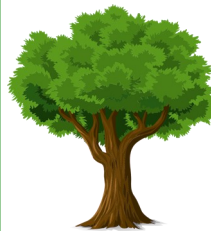
Associate Pastor for Outreach at Third Presbyterian Church



Celebrate Laudato Si Week

This year, [Laudato Si' Week](#) will take place from May 19-26. Dedicated to inspiring “a personal and cultural transformation in the midst of our ecological and climate crises,” the theme arises from a quote from Laudate Deum: “There are no lasting changes without cultural changes ... and there are no cultural changes without personal changes” (LD 70).

The Laudato Si movement offers a great resource for personal or group use. Find it here: laudatosimovement.org/news/seeds-of-hope-and-new-habits-for-laudato-si-week-2024/



The City of Rochester’s Forestry Division will be hosting a series of public meetings to present and gather public feedback on the recommendations contained in the [draft Urban Forest Master Plan Update](#). There are several dates and locations to choose from. Visit www.cityofrochester.gov/UrbanForestMasterPlan for details.

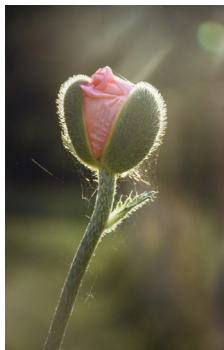


LET US ACT WITH HOPE: Planting Creation Care Teams

Two virtual evenings of focused presentations, reflection time, and opportunities to share ideas on how to start and maintain a Creation Care Team in your parish. Offered by the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Diocese of Syracuse. With: Fr. David McCallum, SJ; Paz Artaga Regan; Ron Russell; and Janet Broderick

May 16 and May 23 from 6:30pm – 8pm
To Register: www.rcdony.org/laudatosi

Happy Mother's Day from Julia Ward Howe!



"Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of tears!... We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm!

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Read her full Mother's Day Proclamation for Peace: peacealliance.org/history-of-mothers-day-as-a-day-of-peace-julia-ward-howe/

The war in Gaza is a catastrophe Hamas has committed horrific violence and in retaliating the Israeli army has also committed horrific violence. More than 32,000 Palestinians have been killed; 70% being women and children. 80% of the people in Gaza have been displaced. Food, water, and electricity have been cut off; starvation and disease are growing while hospitals come under attack. Violence in the West Bank is escalating. No one wins with these war dynamics.

For Mother's Day consider advocating for peace. Contact your Senators and Representative and the U.S. President to ask for an immediate and sustained ceasefire. Ask them to vote against sending more destructive weapons to Israel, and to support humanitarian assistance for Gaza as well as the release of all hostages. The [Franciscan Action Network](https://www.franciscanactionnetwork.org/) makes it easy.

Visit franciscanactionnetwork.salsalabs.org/CeasefireinMiddleEast/ to make your voice heard.

According to **Human Rights Watch**, a difficult-to-use US government mobile application, CBP One, is **all but mandatory** for people seeking asylum in the United States.

The report is based on interviews with 128 asylum seekers who were able to share information on the experiences of a total of 263 people, including family members and friends with whom they were traveling, as well as interviews with 13 shelter workers, eight migrant service providers, Mexican government officials, and human rights workers. US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) does not provide enough appointments through the app to meet the demand from asylum seekers each day causing delays and creating additional barriers, a process known as "digital metering."

Read the summary:

www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/01/us-digital-metering-system-exposes-migrants-harm

SSJ Website: www.ssjrochester.org

SSJ Brazil link: www.ssjrochester.com.br



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NUNS
AGAINST GUN
VIOLENCE

A coalition of Catholic Sisters and their allies, was founded in April 2023 to "affirm the value of human life through prayer,

education, and advocacy for common sense, evidence-based, gun violence prevention." Watch a recording of a conversation a webinar with gun violence activist Shane Claiborne and two women religious, Sr. Patricia Millen, OSF and Sr. Annette McDermott, SSJ.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jz7GvNbDus

Learn & Then, Do!

We are becoming more and more aware of the negative impacts of plastic pollution, on human health, and the planet. And it's everywhere. For example, The Alliance for the Great Lakes recently released their report which found that the overwhelming majority of great lakes litter is plastic greatlakes.org/2024/04/new-report-vast-majority-of-great-lakes-litter-is-plastic/



Concerned? [Beyond Plastics](https://www.beyondplastics.org/), whose mission is to end plastic pollution everywhere, puts out really good, science-based information sheets on a number of topics:

www.beyondplastics.org/learn

They are also offering new round of grassroots advocacy training soon. It's free, virtual, and designed to work with any schedule.

[Find out more.](#)

[Register.](#)

So far, there isn't a Beyond Plastics Action Group in Rochester. Maybe you'll be inspired!

www.beyondplastics.org/act.