



# “Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph  
Justice & Peace Office  
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## **A Circle of Protection - Why We**

**Need to Protect the Poor** On Wednesday, September 21, evangelist, Jim Wallis of Sojourners spoke to an interfaith audience at Asbury United Methodist Church in Rochester.

The subject of talk was the deepening crisis in our country and around the globe regarding the poor. Jim noted that Washington's dysfunction is causing greater and greater harm to those who are least able to cope with cuts in government spending for so called 'entitlement programs' that benefit the poor. Trying to balance the federal budget with cuts to Medicaid, food stamps, housing subsidies and other programs that provide direct assistance will only drive the poor deeper and deeper into poverty.

Church leaders from all denominations have joined together in signing *A Circle of Protection*, a statement on why we need to protect programs for the poor. The introduction states that "We look at every budget proposal from the bottom up—how it treats those Jesus called "the least of these." (Matthew 25:45) They do not have powerful lobbies, but they have the most compelling claim on our consciences and common resources."

The call to the Christian community is to help the poor to be heard. To read the statement and see the leaders who signed it: [www.circleofprotection.us](http://www.circleofprotection.us) (Ctrl & Click or copy & paste in your browser)

## **Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 is up for Renewal**

**ACTION NEEDED!** This year funding for TVPA must be reauthorized. HR 2830 Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2011 was introduced in the Senate in the 112th Congress by Senators Schumer and Gillibrand under S1301.

This bill (HR 2830 ) was introduced in the House by Rep. Christopher Smith (R-NJ). It has 10 co-sponsors so far and more are needed. Rep. Louise Slaughter has co-sponsored in the past and hopefully will sign on again.

**It is important for all of us to contact our Representatives to ask for co-sponsorship as the funding will run out soon. This legislation authorizes service to victims of human trafficking. Historically it has provided shelter and support services to victims in the United States - particularly non-citizens.**

### **Please contact the legislator in your Congressional District:**

- **Provide your name and address if necessary.**
- **Refer to the bill number (HR 2830)**
- **Ask the legislator to sign on as a co-sponsor**
- **Note that this legislation should address the prevalence of child sex trafficking and make efforts to reduce the demand for services.**

The previous legislation was the *William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (H.R. 7311)*

**You may call either the local or Washington office of your legislator.**

## NETWORK ISSUES THE 'FIGHTING POVERTY WITH FAITH' CHALLENGE

Interfaith groups are joining together during the week of October 27 - November 6 to plan activities which challenge us to educate ourselves and advocate for others. Suggested activities include the *foodstamp challenge*.

**Try living on a foodstamp budget for a week.** According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is responsible for administering the Food Stamp Program, the nationwide average weekly benefit in FY 2010 was \$31.50 – this translates to \$4.50 per day, or \$1.50 per meal. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**Plan an Oxfam Hunger Banquet** Guests draw tickets at random that assign them each to either a high-, middle-, or low income group—based on the latest statistics about the number of people living in poverty in the United States. Each income level receives a corresponding meal: The 20 percent in the high-income group are served a sumptuous, healthy meal; the 40 percent in the middle-income group eat a simple meal of spaghetti and soda; and the 40 percent in the low-income group help themselves to small portions of white bread and water.

### To register and get materials:

[Fighting Poverty with Faith](#) (Copy & paste in your browser)

<http://fightingpovertywithfaith.com>

### Coming Events:

**Sunday, Oct. 2 - Open House at Gandhi Institute new location**

**Tuesday, Oct. 4 - Prayer for Our Times, SSJ Motherhouse, 7 p.m.**

**Wed., Oct. 5, "Gasland & discussion on hydrofracking, 4pm AL II, Motherhouse**

**Thurs., Oct. 6 Paul Finkelman lectures**

**Information with this attachment!**

You can Find *Just Us* on the SSJ Website [www.ssjrochester.org/](http://www.ssjrochester.org/) and links to Facebook!



Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/SistersofSaintJosephofRochester](https://www.facebook.com/SistersofSaintJosephofRochester)



### Protect Lives – Preserve Poverty-Focused International Assistance

What's the issue? More than 12 million of our brothers and sisters in East Africa—more than the entire population of the state of Ohio—face malnutrition and starvation in the midst

of the region's worst drought in decades. Meanwhile, Congress is gearing up to debate how to deal with our nation's deficits, with some proposals drastically cutting international and domestic assistance to people in dire need such as those in East Africa. [Contact your members of Congress now](#) or visit Catholics Confront Global Poverty Action Center: <http://actioncenter.crs.org>.

### Pray-Act for the DREAM

Thousands of hard working young people who were brought to the United States as children want to go to college and live the American Dream, but can instead be detained and deported to countries they've never known.

**The DREAM Act** could stop the injustice by giving students who have grown up and graduated from high school in the United States the opportunity to earn legal status through higher education or military service. **President Obama** also has the executive authority to protect vulnerable populations including DREAM Act eligible students and parents of citizen children from unwarranted detention.

[Send a postcard to President Obama.](#) Ctrl & Click. If this doesn't work, go the Justice for Immigrants website.