



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
Justice & Peace Office

150 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618

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ptierney@ssjrochester.org

(585) 641-8180

Ash Wednesday Reflections

Each year the beginning of Lent calls us to reflect a bit on our lives, what is important, what will we sacrifice or what will we do throughout this season of repentance.

There are numerous resources to use during this Lenten Season.

Many websites offer daily reflections. If you have a favorite spiritual author, try googling to see if there is a reflection posted.

Lent can also be a time of “stretching a little” to read about other people, cultures, and needs of persons in our own communities. The extreme rhetoric which we hear about certain groups might cause us to wonder a bit and find out more about them: for example Who are the refugees? Who are these immigrants? What does it mean to be undocumented? What happens when we decide to “send people back” without due process of law?

There is an attachment from **Education for Justice**, a Fact Sheet, ***Shining the Light on Human Rights Abuses of Women.***, which I am enclosing with this newsletter. March is traditionally Women’s History Month and a time when the UN shines a light on human rights abuses of women in many countries of the world. Women in many parts of the world suffer abuse from domestic violence, human trafficking, childhood marriages, and rape. Perhaps we can pray especially for women during this month.

The prayer calendar of the first hundred days of the presidency from the first 2 weeks on March is also enclosed.

Remembering Berta Caceres—Environmental Activist, Martyr for the Earth, March 2, 2016



Berta Caceres, a well-known human rights and environmental advocate in Honduras and beyond, was assassinated in the late evening of March 2, 2016, at her home. Berta was a founder of COPINH, Council of Popular and Indigenous organizations, when she was a student activist in the 1993. She led the Lenca people in a years long protest against DESA, a company seeking to take the land of the Lenca people to build hydro-electric dams in the Gualcarque River. The company is a joint venture project between Chinese company [Sino-hydro](#), the [World Bank's International Finance Corporation](#), and Honduran company [Desarrollos Energético](#). The company broke international law by failing to consult the local people about the project. Berta’s name was on a hit list. The Honduran military harassed the protesters and killed one of the members of COPINH. The community received many death threats. Berta became a target. On the night of her assassination, a friend was staying over and witnessed the shooting. He himself was shot but lived to tell the story.

See our Root Causes Blog:

rootcausesdelegation.wordpress.com

Justice for Berta Website: www.BertaCaceres.org

Solidarity with Honduras Website:

<http://www.aquiabajo.com>

Watch and share the film *Guardian of the Rivers*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lwwe4MOGfmo>

News about Honduras: <http://radioprogressohn.net/>



Save Our Environment: African Palm Oil Trees

Palm oil is judged to be one of the worst foods for our planet. Palm oil fuels unprecedented large-scale deforestation, orangutan genocide, gross human rights, prostitution and labor violations, as well as global warming. Check the ingredients label before buying processed foods to make sure they are free of palm oil. For more information, visit saynotopalmoil.com
Mary Smith, SSJ Associate ; Global Environment Committee

Take Action!

The Organization ,+ Sum of Us, has an action against Pepsi and other mega-food companies for the destruction of the Leuser Ecosystem in Indonesia. Click here to watch the video and take action:

Statement copied from the Website:

“A field investigation by our partners at Rainforest Action Network uncovered the devastating clearance of already endangered forests in the Leuser Ecosystem. **The only place on earth where elephants, tigers, orangutans and rhinos live in the same forest, Leuser is considered one of the world’s top priority conservation areas.** It’s also the source of drinking water and livelihoods for millions of people in the Indonesian province of Aceh.

But Leuser’s critical importance is apparently of no concern to rogue palm oil producer PT. ABN. **The company has been illegally -- and rapidly -- turning low-land forests into palm oil plantations despite being ordered out by the Indonesian government.** So who has been buying PT. ABN’s conflict palm oil? Wilmar palm oil refineries, supplier of brands like PepsiCo, McDonald’s, and Nestlé.”

Look for the Labels in foods you buy!:

INGREDIENTS: Vegetable Oil, Vegetable Fat, Palm Kernel, Palm Kernel Oil, Palm Fruit Oil, Palmate, Palmitate, Palmolein, Glyceryl, Stearate, Stearic Acid, Elaeis Guineensis, Palmitic Acid, Palm Stearine, Palmitoyl Oxostearamide, Palmitoyl Tetrapeptide-3, Sodium Laureth Sulfate, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Sodium Kernelate, Sodium Palm Kernelate, Sodium Lauryl Lactylate/Sulphate, Hyrated Palm Glycerides, Etyl Palmitate, Octyl Palmitate, Palmityl Alcohol

From World Wildlife Federation

You can Find *Just Us* on the SSJ Website www.ssjrochester.org/ and links to Facebook!



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

Brazil link: Copy & Paste: <http://www.isjrochester.com.br>



The League of Women Voters invites you to join us for **History as an Argument for Voting**

Monday, February 27, at 7:00 P.M.
Asbury First United Methodist Church
1050 East Avenue, Rochester
Parking in rear/Handicapped Accessible

FEATURING

The Reverend Marvin McMickle, President and Professor at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School and Members of the Rochester Sisters of Saint Joseph who saved U.S. Representative John Lewis’s life on the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday in 1965
Click [here](#) to register or call (585) 262-3730



Shannon Lecture, Thursday, March 2, 2017: Fr. Gregory Boyle, SJ, is founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries, now the most successful gang intervention and rehabilitation reentry program in the world.

Gregory Boyle, SJ –Save the World or Savor It? Being Reached by the Widow, Orphan and Stranger, 7 pm Callahan Theater, Nazareth Arts Center, 4245 East Ave., Rochester

Friday, March 3, Tatoos on the Heart: A Conversation with Fr. Gregory Boyle, SJ, 1:30 pm, Linehan Chapel, Chapel, Golisano Academic Center