



“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
Justice & Care for Creation Office
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For Earth Month Talk About Climate Change!

This month Citizens’ Climate Lobby is asking us to have lots of conversations about climate change; the goal is **25,000!** “More than 70% of Americans are worried about climate change. But most of us still avoid discussing it because we feel like it’s too political, too doom and gloom, or too overwhelming. But we can’t solve a problem if we don’t talk about it. So let’s talk.”

For tips on how to have these conversations, go to:

community.citizensclimate.org/climate-conversations

Or download this guide from Science Moms: <https://sciencemoms.com/how-to-talk-about-climate-science.com/how-to-talk-about-climate-change>

What is Rewilding, Anyway?

Rewilding is a (relatively) new approach to returning ecosystems to a more natural - or wilder - state. The idea is to get out of the way and let nature take over to create more biodiverse areas. Keystone species, those beings who have a large impact on an ecosystem, are often re-introduced. Fragmented habitats are reconnected creating wildlife corridors. Some remarkable transformations have taken place.

To find out more, watch “For More Wonder, Rewild the World” with George Monbiot: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rZzHkpyPkc;

or “Rewilding the Northeast,” www.youtube.com/watch?

How to **BE** an Antiracist.

On April 23 at 6:00 pm, the Justice & Care for Creation Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph will host W.E. (Bill) Wynne, author of “Understanding & Combating Racism: My Path From Oblivious American to Evolving Activist,” speaking on how to be an antiracist.

At the SSJ Motherhouse, 150 French Rd. in the Great Room.

This event is free and open to all.

Find out more about Bill at: www.wewynneauthor.com



All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis

I loved this collection of 60 essays by women, edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine Wilkinson. The related “All We Can Save Project” is well worth checking out. It’s a more hopeful approach than most, but it’s a “muscular hope.”

www.allwecansave.earth/

Listen to an interview with Ayana Elizabeth Johnson on **On Being with Krista Tippett** entitled: [What if We Get This Right?](https://onbeing.org/programs/ayana-elizabeth-johnson-what-if-we-get-this-right/) She offers a perspective that really shifts your thinking. onbeing.org/programs/ayana-elizabeth-johnson-what-if-we-get-this-right/

Another hopeful read: **Not the End of the World: How We Can Be the First Generation to Build a Sustainable Planet**, by Hannah Ritchie



Did you know?

The monarch butterfly population in the U.S. has declined by more than 80% since the 1980's—mostly due to the loss of the monarch's only caterpillar host plant—the milkweed. Less milkweed = fewer monarchs.

Planting milkweed provides the habitat these beauties need. There are 12 native species to choose from. I have common milkweed in my yard and can vouch for the prettiness of the flowers and the sweetness of the fragrance they give off. Plus butterflies and lots of other happy pollinators!

Learn more at nwf.org/milkweeds

SSJ Website: www.ssjirochester.org

SSJ Brazil link: www.ssjirochester.com.br



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Trying to start a green team in your congregation? Could your green team use a boost?

You're invited to a vegan luncheon hosted by Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA). Bring your questions, your success stories, and your challenges and connect with others engaged in this important work.

When: Sunday, April 14 at 1:00 pm

Where: Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave. (Enter through door F, nearest the rear parking lot.)

RSVP: For more information and to reserve a place please contact Deborah Kornfeld at gkornfeld@gmail.com or 585-269-8526.



Rochester Voter Alliance (RVA) Needs Volunteers!

RVA is a non-partisan group of volunteers who work in low-registration areas of the county to make more people aware of their rights and registered to vote. They are now gearing up for the 2024 campaign to register new voters. The campaign will begin on July 15th and run through October 18th.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this important effort, please contact Judy Schwartz at: 585.442.5111 or judyschwartz179@gmail.com.

Learn more: www.rochestervoteralliance.org/2024/

The Rochester Police Dept. has released the results of a Community Engagement Assessment

This Community Engagement Assessment was conducted at the request of RPD by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Project Safe Neighborhoods Training and Technical Assistance Program. The assessment reviewed the department's community engagement practices and addresses areas where improvement is needed.

To read the entire report: data-rpdny.opendata.arcgis.com/documents/rpdny::psp-community-engagement-assessment/

A Prayer from Bread for the World

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
Psalm 46:1-3

Let us pray.

O God,
Storms rise.
Wars rage.
Hunger spreads like wildfire.
Cooperation comes to a screeching halt.
And it seems that the world is crumbling around us.
But in the resurrection we are promised something new.
The sun is dark.
The curtain tears.
Evil seems to have won.
And yet death is overcome.
New life emerges from a tomb.
God we trust that in the crumbling
You have a plan for new life.
We have seen it again and again.
We believe. Help our unbelief.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen