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“Just Us”

News & Notes from Sisters of St. Joseph
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THE POPPY, A SYMBOL OF MEMORIAL DAY

The wearing of poppies in honor of America’s war dead is traditionally done on Memorial Day (not Veterans Day). The origin of the red poppy as a modern-day symbol of this day was actually the idea of an American woman, Miss Moina Michael. Read more about the [inspiration for the poppy](#).



In war-torn battlefields, the red field poppy (*papaver rhoeas*) was one of the first plants to grow. Its seeds scattered in the wind and sat dormant in the ground, only germinating when the ground is disturbed—as it was by the very brutal fighting during World War 1.

The practice of wearing of poppies was further inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields,” written in 1915 by Canadian soldier John McCrae. He saw the poppies in burials around his artillery position in Belgium.

Today, poppies are both the symbol of loss of life as a symbol of recovery and new life, especially in support of those servicemen who were damaged physically or emotionally.

Critical Issues Faced by Returning Veterans

There are an estimated 23.4 million veterans in the United States, and about 2.2 million military service members and 3.1 million immediate family members.

- 18.5% of service members returning from Iraq or Afghanistan have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression, and 19.5% report experiencing a traumatic brain injury (TBI) during deployment.

Returning Veterans...

- Approximately 50% of returning service members who need treatment for mental health conditions seek it, but only slightly more than half who receive treatment receive adequate care.
- The Army suicide rate reached an all-time high in 2012.
- In the 5 years from 2005 to 2009, more than 1,100 members of the Armed Forces took their own lives, an average of 1 suicide every 36 hours.
- According to an assessment by the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA), nearly 76,000 veterans experienced homelessness on a given night in 2009. Some 136,000 veterans spent at least one night in a shelter during that year.
- Mental and substance use disorders caused more hospitalizations among U.S. troops in 2009 than any other cause.
- A recent Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) report, [Twenty-one Percent of Veterans in Substance Abuse Treatment Were Homeless \(PDF | 488 KB\)](#) states that about 70% of homeless veterans also experience a substance use disorder.

These are a few of the statistics published on the website: <https://www.samhsa.gov/veterans-military-families>

War affects all populations: those who are victims, those who served, and those who are family members of victims and service personnel.

As we enjoy this Memorial Day Holiday, let us pray for all victims of war. Let us pray “War no more!”

Termination of TPS for Countries Facing Violence

The Catholic Immigration Network is reporting that members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is investigating the process used by the Trump Administration in terminating Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for the countries of Haiti, Honduras and El Salvador. There is evidence of strong and persistent warnings from State Department officials and diplomatic experts that terminating Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, for Haiti, El Salvador and Honduras would put lives at risk and harm U.S. interests.

Information published by CLINIC, Catholic Immigration Network details the irregularities in the process. To learn more:

https://cliniclegal.org/print/13824?utm_source=CLINIC%20Mail&utm_campaign=5b56a547c8-salvador_tps&utm_medium=

Why the Farm Bill Continues to be an Issue Last week the Farm Bill with its draconian requirements for persons to receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Program) & other benefits was defeated. This bill still needs to be re-worked and introduced again.

Facts about Poverty: 22.8 million Americans aged 18-64 live in poverty. 39% are disabled, in school or retired.

- 21.4% are disabled
- 11.8% are in school.
- 6.4% are retired.

Of the 61% who are employable, 63% work. 45.5% work full time. 17.4% work part-time; 37.2% are not working.

The Economic Policy Institute states that Poverty isn't the result of people refusing to work. It is driven by a safety net that is too stingy for those who can't work and by the lack of decent jobs for those who can.

(Figures from the Current Population Survey Annual Supplement in 2016.)

SSJ Website www.ssjrochester.org/ and links to Facebook!

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

National Gun Violence Day—June 1

Wear Orange—In Texas 10 students were killed. Students at Parkland, students in Texas, students around the country ask us to join with them on June 1 to wear orange.

“This year I will #WearOrange to honor Joaquin and Meadow, and every other person who has died or been wounded because of a horrific act of gun violence. I will Wear Orange to hold our leaders accountable. I will Wear Orange to create an orange wave of Americans to vote on the side of gun safety at the ballot box. orange wave of Americans to vote on the side of gun safety at the ballot box.”

Together, we have changed the face of the gun violence prevention movement and now I ask you to keep it up: Pledge to #WearOrange and turn America Orange at the ballot box.

PLEDGE TO #WEARORANGE AND VOTE ORANGE

Katie

Students Demand Action, Texas

Coming Events

Community Forum on the

Opioid Epidemic

Wednesday, May 30

7-8:30 PM

Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

150 French Road

Rochester, NY 14618

The event is co-sponsored by the Town of Pittsford, the Town of Brighton, and