



Dear Sisters and Associates,

I hope this note finds you well!

As you may already know, February is Black History Month. Among other things, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is holding a concert, “Lift Every Voice: Reflections on Freedom through Words and Music” at Heinz Hall (600 Penn Ave. Pittsburgh) on **Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 8pm**. To purchase a ticket, please go to:

[https://pittsburghsymphony.org/production/67841/performance/67841/seat\\_selection](https://pittsburghsymphony.org/production/67841/performance/67841/seat_selection)

On **Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm**, Michael Eric Dyson will be speaking at the August Wilson Cultural Center in Pittsburgh (980 Liberty Ave.). To purchase a ticket, please go to:

<https://awc.culturaldistrict.org/production/66307/truthsayers-michael-eric-dyson>

On **Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-9:30pm** the Metro Urban Institute at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N. Highland Ave.) will be holding their Sixth Annual Community Conversation on Race and Faith. The evening will begin with a viewing of the documentary, “Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story”, followed by discussion. This event is free and open to the public.

Also at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light will be having their annual assembly on **Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:30pm-5pm**. The theme this year is “The Long Journey: From Extracting the Past to Cultivating a Future”. To register, please go to:

[https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50836/c/69/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event\\_KEY=11665](https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50836/c/69/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=11665)

On **Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-8:30pm**, City of Asylum in Pittsburgh (40 W. North Ave.) will be doing a free screening of the documentary film, “The Bail Trap”. It is estimated that at least 70 percent of people in jail are there for one reason: because they cannot afford to pay bail. People who are able to make bail are more likely to be able to keep their jobs, have adequate representation at trial, and have less disruption within their families. Money bail is one of the main causes of mass incarceration in the United States, yet few people know what the money bail system is, let alone understand how it all works or why it needs to end. It is definitely a topic worth studying.

The Audubon Society’s 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count will be held from Friday, **February 14<sup>th</sup>-Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**. Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded. The Great Backyard Bird Count helps to track bird populations and

changing migration patterns. For more information and to participate (even if you only have 15 minutes), please go to:

<https://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

The Muslim Association of Greater Pittsburgh (5725 N. Montour Rd. Gibsonia) is holding an open house on **Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4pm-6pm**. Space is limited, so an RSVP is required by February 18<sup>th</sup>. To RSVP, please contact Sadaf Mansoor at [sadafm@gmail.com](mailto:sadafm@gmail.com) or Sidra Khan at [sidra17@gmail.com](mailto:sidra17@gmail.com)

Duquesne University began their 2020 Human Rights Film Festival on January 29<sup>th</sup>. All films are free and open to the public and will be shown in College Hall Rms. 104 & 105 from 7pm-9pm. Try to catch one of the following films that will be shown in February:

**Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm:** *Parkland Rising* (2019) about the school shooting that took the lives of 17 people and suddenly changed the conversation about guns in America.

**Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm:** *The Unafraid* (2018) is a documentary that follows the personal lives of three DACA students in Georgia, a state that has banned them from attending their top state universities and disqualifies them from receiving in-state tuition at any other public college.

**Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm:** *Invisible Hand* (2018) focuses on the first community in the United States that attempted to defend an ecosystem in court by using Rights of Nature to stop a fracking waste injection well from being built in its watershed.

**Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm:** *The Silence of Others* (2019) reveals the epic struggle of victims of Spain's 40-year dictatorship under General Franco, who continue to seek justice to this day.

Speaking of human rights, Amnesty International's Write for Rights Campaign continues. This year's campaign focuses on youth who are experiencing human rights violations. I will have writing materials at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Congregational meeting for those who would like to participate. **If you would prefer to send a pre-written email, please go to:**

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/>

On **Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 6pm–7:30pm**, Monica Ruiz (Executive Director of Casa San José) will be discussing how the Latino community is being affected here in Pittsburgh by the outcomes of national immigration policy at the Discussion about Latinx Current Affairs at the Carriage House Main Lounge at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. Please consider attending.

Lastly (also speaking about human rights), from Catholic Mobilizing Network: there are two executions scheduled in the month of February:

\*Abel Ochoa is scheduled to be executed by the state of Texas on **Thursday, February 6th** for the murders of his wife, Cecelia; their daughters, Crystal and Ana; his father-in-law, Bartolo Alivizo; and his sister-in-law, Jacqueline Saleh. **Please email the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles at [bpp\\_clemency@tdcj.texas.gov](mailto:bpp_clemency@tdcj.texas.gov) or fax them at 512-467-0945 and ask them to halt this execution. In your letter, please include this information: full name: Abel Revill Ochoa; birth date: January 23, 1973; TDCJ#999450.**

\*Nicholas Todd Sutton is scheduled to be executed by the State of Tennessee on **Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**. He had killed Dorothy Sutton, John Large, Charles Almon, and Carl Isaac Estep. **Please contact Governor Bill Lee either by phone at 615 741- 2001 or via the internet contact form at: <https://www.tn.gov/governor/contact-us.html> and ask him to halt this execution.**

If you would prefer to send pre-written emails, please visit the Catholic Mobilizing Network's website—toward the bottom of their home page there are images of people who are scheduled to be executed. If you click on the image, it will lead you to a page where you can send a prewritten electronic message to the appropriate authorities on behalf of that person. Catholic Mobilizing Network's website is: [www.catholicmobilizing.org](http://www.catholicmobilizing.org)

I think that is all from me for now. Thank you, as always, for all that you do to promote the mission and ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph and CSJAs!

Love & Prayers,  
Kari

