

# Justice, Peace and Life

December 2024



## *José y Maria (Joseph and Mary)– A Modern Day Nativity*

by Everett Patterson

Take a long look at this image. Reflect on the conditions the Word Made Flesh was born into, and how we as a country and as a Church welcome those in our own times for whom “there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst.”

Advent resources to prepare meaningfully for Christmas can be found [here](#).

“Into this world,  
this demented inn,  
in which there is absolutely  
no room for him at all,  
Christ comes uninvited.  
But because he cannot  
be at home in it,  
because he is out of place  
in it, and yet he must be in it,  
his place is with those others  
for whom there is no room.  
His place is with those who  
do not belong,  
who are rejected by power  
because they are regarded  
as weak,  
those who are discredited,  
who are denied the status of  
persons,  
tortured, exterminated.  
With those for whom  
there is no room,  
Christ is present in this world.  
He is mysteriously present  
in those for whom  
there seems to be nothing  
but the world at its worst.”

- Thomas Merton,  
Trappist monk and author

## Jubilee 2025: Announcing a Year of Favor from the Lord



From the Vatican's web site [www.iubilaeum2025.va](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va):

*"Jubilee" is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, ... the yobel, the ram's horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. ...[which] was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.*

In [SPES NON CONFUNDIT](#) (Hope Does Not Disappoint), Pope Francis' document declaring 2025 a Jubilee year, the Holy Father calls us to be signs of hope in these times, particularly to prisoners on death row and other incarcerated people, to migrants, to the young, and to the elderly.

One step we can take right now is to **speak out for the 40 men in our federal prison system condemned to death.** Catholic Mobilizing Network has an **online petition** at this [link](#) to ask President Biden to commute their sentences. In 2021, President Biden established a moratorium on federal executions. However, it's expected that will end with the next administration, and federal prisoners will again be put to death.

Please **urge President Biden to commute their sentences.** This is not the same as a presidential pardon. It would simply mean that their sentences would be reduced from capital punishment to life in prison.

After signing the petition, take the next step and call or email the White House at **202-456-1111** or [www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/write-or-call/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/write-or-call/)

**"Be one in demanding dignified conditions for those in prison, respect for their human rights and above all the abolition of the death penalty, a provision at odds with Christian faith and one that eliminates all hope of forgiveness and rehabilitation."**

**-Pope Francis**

**Hope Does Not Disappoint**

## Another Reason to Boycott Amazon! Use Your Money to Do Good!

**Buying Christmas presents on Amazon might be easy, but it comes with a high price.**

As noted in past newsletters, supporting Amazon means undercutting local businesses, funneling money to a billionaire instead of circulating it in your community, and enriching those who profit from unsafe working conditions, union busting, and poor wages.



**And here's another pro-life reason to spend your money elsewhere:**

Amazon reimburses expenses for employees who travel over 100 miles to obtain abortions.



**Use your money for good!** Along with shopping at local small businesses, take a look at the variety of ethically made food, clothing, accessories, and home goods at these sites: [mayaworks.org](http://mayaworks.org) [SERRV.org](http://SERRV.org) [fairindigo.com](http://fairindigo.com) [shop.ignatiansolidarity.net](http://shop.ignatiansolidarity.net) [greatergood.com](http://greatergood.com) [koinoniafarmstore.com](http://koinoniafarmstore.com) [giftswithhumanity.com](http://giftswithhumanity.com) and [Coffee Connection](#), a not-for-profit women-run enterprise in Rochester!



### Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:

**Monroe:** Marcus Ebenhoe 585-546-7220 ext. 6202; Marcus.Ebenhoe@fcscharities.org;

**Chemung/Schuylers/Tioga:** Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; Kathy.Dubel@dor.org

**Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Yates/Wayne:** Robert Vona 315-789-2235 ext. 112; Robert.Vona@dor.org

**Tompkins:** Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org

**Diocesan Coordinator of Life Issues:** Elizabeth Johnston 585-328-3228 ext. 1278; Elizabeth.Johnston@dor.org