



Lent 2013

Office for Social Concerns

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Latest Updates

CRS Rice Bowl: For Lent, For Life

“The Year of Faith” is an intentional time for Catholics to deepen our faith in Christ. This Lent, the invitation is to focus on how to enhance, renew, and develop our relationships with Jesus. The CRS Rice Bowl is a way to encounter Jesus through others, especially the most vulnerable around the world. Expressing love for those in need expands our hearts in hope. The CRS Rice Bowl is a Lenten faith formation program for use in parishes, schools, religious education programs and by families and individuals in the home. Using CRS Rice Bowl materials, participants prepare to celebrate Christ’s resurrection by reflecting and acting on His mission of Love for those in need. They **pray** together; give things up, or **fast**, in solidarity with those who hunger; **learn** about our global community and the challenges of hunger and poverty around the world; and **give** sacrificial donations to those in need. CRS Rice Bowl ensures that the Catholic community of the United States is present in nearly 100 countries worldwide, serving the poorest among us through Catholic Relief Services. For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns, 614-241-2540 or socmailbox@colsdio.org or the CRS website at www.crsricebowl.org.

40 Days for Life

The Greater Columbus community will be uniting with hundreds from all 50 states in the 40 Days for Life campaign. Faithful believers are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in America. This peaceful prayer vigil will take place at an abortion facility in Columbus between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace. For details, visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

Lent

Prayer Fasting Almsgiving



12th Station of the Cross at the Statehouse
Hundreds of Catholics from around the diocese will participate in the annual Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross.

February 27 – St. Vincent Family Center’s Corcoran Awards

St. Vincent Family Center’s Corcoran Awards will be held on Wednesday, February 27, 2013, at noon. The event celebrates community leaders who are making outstanding contributions in the areas of service for which the award’s namesake, Monsignor Lawrence Corcoran, is best known. St. Vincent Family Center honors three persons in the fields of Charity and Justice, Education and Behavioral Health, and Young Leadership. The awards will be presented during the

annual luncheon honoring the recipients. Individual tickets and tables can be purchased in advance by calling (614) 414-5417.

March – Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) facilitates the implementation of the *Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities* by calling for inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the church and the community. Visit www.ncpd.org for resources.

CCHD Grant Applications Sought

Catholic Campaign for Human Development funds are available for grass-roots, self-help community organizing and economic development projects designed and run by groups of low and moderate income people who want to take control of their lives and work to change conditions that cause poverty. The goal of the grants is to provide seed money to qualifying projects throughout the diocese. Applications are due by March 1, 2013. Local CCHD grant application materials are available online at

www.colsdioc.org/Offices/SocialConcerns,Officefor/Programs/CatholicCampaignForHumanDevelopment.aspx

March 16 – Catholic Advocacy Workshop

A Catholic Advocacy Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013, from 9:30 a.m. to Noon, at St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., Westerville. Mass begins at 8:30 a.m. Meet and dialogue with Catholic advocates from around the diocese; hear about state, federal, and international issues in the areas of health care, programs that protect the poor and vulnerable, immigration, education, and religious liberty; learn how to effectively lobby public officials; and schedule legislative advocacy appointments. Your voice is needed. The workshop is sponsored by the diocesan Office for Social Concerns and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Voice of the Poor.

Registration is free and open to all. To RSVP call (614) 241-2540 or email socmailbox@colsdioc.org.

March 29 – Good Friday – Walking Stations of the Cross

The many facets of faith and justice will be the focus of the annual Walking Stations of the Cross. The walk begins with an opening prayer at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus, at 8 a.m., Friday, March 29, 2013. Participants will stop at locations in downtown Columbus to recognize Jesus Christ's suffering and crucifixion as well as reflect on a current area of social concern. For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (614) 241-2565.

April 26 – J.O.I.N. BiblioBenefit

J.O.I.N. BiblioBenefit is Friday, April 26, 2013, at St. Andrew Church, Nugent Hall, 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus. The Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs' annual BiblioBenefit fundraising event helps support their mission to provide emergency aid to the poor with food, clothing, prescriptions,

transportation, utilities, and referral information. For more information go to www.join.colsdioc.org or contact J.O.I.N. at (614) 241-2530.

May 11 – Respect Life Conference

The diocesan Respect Life Conference will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013, at St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Rd., Columbus. Featured speaker is Deacon James Keating, Ph.D. of Creighton University. Mass begins at 9 a.m. Conference is from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$15 which includes lunch. To register, please send a check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio. For details, call (614) 241-2540 or email at socmailbox@colsdioc.org.



Resources

For additional resources visit www.socialconcerns.colstdioc.org.



The Season of Lent

The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The key to fruitful observance of these practices is to recognize their link to baptismal renewal. We are called not just to abstain from sin during Lent, but to true conversion of our hearts and minds as followers of Christ. For a variety of suggestions and resources to support your Lenten practice, enhance your prayer, and embrace your baptismal commitment, visit the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Lent webpage at www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/lent.



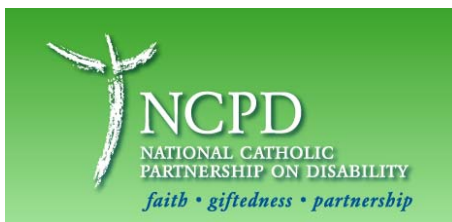
First American Freedom

The U.S. Catholic bishops continue to address serious concerns about threats to religious liberty and conscience protection. Recently, USCCB launched a new website at www.firstamericanfreedom.com. The latest updates, prayer resources, educational materials, and action alerts are available online www.socialconcerns.colstdioc.org.



Poverty USA

More than 46 million Americans live in Poverty USA. Americans families were having a difficult time making ends meet before the recession. With continuing unemployment and increasing costs of living, more and more families have to choose between necessities like health care, child care, and even food. Visit the Poverty USA website at www.povertyusa.org. To learn about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, contact the diocesan CCHD Director at (614) 241-2540 or socmailbox@colstdioc.org.



National Catholic Partnership on Disability

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability developed a ministry toolkit about a wide range of issues related to disability and the Church. The toolkit includes online webinars, articles, training guides, and other helpful resources. Visit NCPD's toolkit webpage at www.ncpd.org/toolkit.



Care for Creation

The Catholic Conference of Ohio has a new webpage on environmental justice entitled *Care for Creation*. It provides resources for families, parishes, schools, and other institutions. It includes perspectives on climate change, energy conservation, food & agriculture, hydraulic fracturing, fossil fuels, land use, and renewable energy. To view the resource, visit www.ohiocathconf.org/Envir/envir.htm.

Action Alerts

For current legislative action alerts visit www.socialconcerns.colodioc.org.

Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty

The U.S. Catholic Bishops have instituted a nationwide Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty. It is essentially a call to prayer, penance, and sacrifice for the sake of renewing a culture of life, marriage, and religious liberty in our country. For details, please visit www.usccb.org/life-marriage-liberty



Project Life and Liberty Nationwide Postcard Campaign

The diocese will participate in the recently launched USCCB “Project Life and Liberty” nationwide postcard campaign. Postcards will be distributed to parishes. Below is text of the postcard. For more information, visit www.nchla.org.

Project Life and Liberty Message to Congress:

Dear Senator/Representative:

The new Congress should come together to respect life and religious freedom. Please support and strengthen laws that (1) prevent federal funding and promotion of abortion, and (2) protect rights of conscience in health care. Government must not force Americans to violate their religious and moral beliefs on respect for life when they provide health care or sponsor or purchase health coverage. As your constituent, I would appreciate a written response telling me how you will vote on these matters.

Immigration Reform

Both Congress and the President have outlined a policy framework to address immigration reform. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has articulated that a reformed immigration system can protect human dignity and the nation at the same time. Now is the time to enact comprehensive immigration reform. USCCB’s Justice for Immigrants Campaign launched a nationwide e-postcard campaign. For details, visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org. Below is text of the e-postcard.



Justice for Immigrants Message to Congress:

Dear Senator/Representative:

I agree with the U.S. Catholic bishops that now is the time to pass just and compassionate immigration reform. I ask that in the 113th Congress you support immigration reform that

- Provides a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country;
- Preserves family unity as a corner-stone of our national immigration system;
- Provides legal paths for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States;
- Restores due process protections to our immigration enforcement policies;
- Addresses the root causes (push factors) of migration, such as persecution and economic disparity.

I look forward to monitoring your public position on this vital issue to our nation. Our nation can no longer wait.

Farm Bill

Congress failed to pass a Farm Bill in 2012. Elements of the 2008 Farm Bill remains largely in effect through September 2013 due to an extension of Congress approved in early January. As discussions about the Farm Bill resume, below are key areas of concern as part of an overall message to Congress:

- Support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps) and emergency food assistance programs;
- Provide \$2.5 billion of food aid for hungry communities abroad in response to famine and disasters or other causes of food insecurity, and at least \$400 million of these funds to support development;
- Increase support, especially cash resources, to developing countries to assist them in increasing their investments in agricultural research, extension, rural infrastructure and market access for poor small farmers;
- Ensure that agriculture supports, including crop insurance subsidies, are targeted to owners of small and medium-sized farm and ranch operations by urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enforce and strengthen payment limitation provisions;
- Support initiatives and conservation programs that reward farmers and ranchers who practice responsible stewardship of their land and common waterways;
- Monitor USDA's implementation of provisions aimed at assisting beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; and
- Continue to review farm subsidy programs to eliminate practices that do not comply with international trade obligations and that disadvantage poor farmers in other countries.



For more information, including updates and alerts see the USCCB Farm Bill page at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/agriculture-nutrition-rural-issues/farm-bill.cfm or visit the National Catholic Rural Life Conference's Farm Bill page at www.ncrlc.com/news.aspx?ID=287.

Domestic and International Issues

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops urge action on a number of domestic and international issues which include conscience protection and religious freedom, domestic and international poverty assistance programs, and deficit reduction discussions. To view policy positions and action alerts, visit www.usccb.org/jphd.



Death Penalty in Ohio

The State of Ohio has scheduled executions through 2015. The Ohio Supreme Court's Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty continues to meet. Please pray for victims of violence, victims' families, death row inmates, and their families as well. Continue to urge the governor and members of the Ohio General Assembly to stop the use of the death penalty in our state. For more information on the Church's teaching on the death penalty, visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio's death penalty webpage at www.ohiocathconf.org/IDP/deathpenalty.htm.

Ohio Budget

On February 4, Governor Kasich released his proposed two-year state budget. The Ohio General Assembly will now work to pass a budget bill by the end of June. The Catholic Conference of Ohio will issue legislative action alerts related to the budget in the days to come. Your advocacy will be needed. Stay tuned. Visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio's website at www.ohiocathconf.org for updates.

The Catholic Conference of Ohio joins with the Catholic hospitals of Ohio in urging the state legislature to support Governor Kasich's plan to expand Medicaid coverage

Because of our concern for the poor and vulnerable, the Catholic Conference of Ohio joins with Ohio's Catholic hospitals to support Medicaid expansion in Ohio. Through the Affordable Care Act, this expansion will increase access to health care and health care coverage to hundreds of thousands uninsured eligible Ohioans who are below 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

With the understanding that the Federal government will assume 100 percent of the cost of covering newly eligible individuals for the first three years and will cover 90 percent of the costs thereafter, we urge the legislature, in the biennial budget, to support this expansion of Medicaid. Additionally, we encourage the State to safeguard the existing comprehensive benefits package for current Medicaid beneficiaries and maintain Medicaid provider reimbursements.

For details, visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio's website at www.ohiocathconf.org.



Information and Response Network

If you would like to receive legislative action alerts and upcoming events from the diocesan Office for Social Concerns via email, subscribe to the Information and Response Network. Please send an email to socmailbox@colsdio.org. Don't forget to visit our website at www.socialconcerns.coldsio.org.



Care Enough to Act

Pray • Volunteer • Donate
Support our Catholic Charities

Today offers an opportunity to rediscover in a personal way the call to love of neighbor, especially those in need. In addition to the parish based efforts and organizations that serve the poor and vulnerable, we have several diocesan sponsored agencies and organizations that respond to need and act in our name. Our diocesan Catholic Charities include Catholic Social Services, J.O.I.N., St. Francis Center in McArthur, St. Stephen's Community House, St. Vincent Family Centers, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Visit the website www.charities.coldsio.org for more information.