



Lent 2014

Office for Social Concerns

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Latest Updates



The Catholic Relief Services' 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. **Pray** together; **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@colldioc.org or the CRS website at www.crsricebowl.org.

Download the CRS Rice Bowl App



A new way to bring Lent to Life! Features include: Prayerful reflection for each day of Lent. Customizable tool to set Lenten sacrifice goal and track progress towards its achievement. Meatless recipes for Fridays during Lent. Stories and videos of people who benefit from prayers and almsgiving to CRS Rice Bowl. Available on Apple App Store and Google Play. www.crsricebowl.org/app

Lent

Prayer Fasting Almsgiving



Notre Dame Students take the Urban Plunge

Students from the University of Notre Dame participated in the 48-hour Urban Plunge immersion program in January. They volunteered at several Catholic charities and community agencies including Catholic Social Services' Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, pictured above. Sponsored annually by the Office for Social Concerns and the Notre Dame Club of Columbus.

Respect Life Conference is March 15 Featuring Dr. Marie Hilliard

Dr. Marie Hilliard, Director of Bioethics and Public Policy of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, is the featured speaker at the diocesan Respect Life Conference on Saturday, March 15, at Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway, Columbus.

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Dr. Marie Hilliard

Featured Speaker:

March 15

Respect Life Conference

Health care is undergoing a major transformation in our country and around the world. Does it advance or threaten the dignity of human life? Dr. Hilliard, a leading bioethicist, will speak on the current status of health care and religious liberty as well as hazards of public policy initiatives in end-of-life care (medical futility, rationing, and advanced directives).

In addition to Dr. Hilliard's presentations, participants

will learn about efforts around the diocese to promote the dignity of all human life in the areas of prayer, education, pastoral outreach, and advocacy. Meet others dedicated to building a culture of life at the very informative conference.

Conference runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mass at 9 a.m. Registration is \$20 which includes lunch. To register, please send a check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. For details, call (614) 241-2540 or email at socmailbox@colsdio.org. RSVP by March 11.

March is 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 society. For online resources, go to www.ncpd.org.

40 Days for Life is March 5 to April 13

Communities across the country will participate 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 abortion facilities. Participants are asked to volunteer and sign a statement of peace. For details about 40 Days for Life in the Columbus area, please visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

March 8 - Back In His Arms Again Ministry

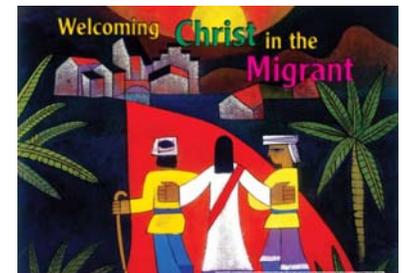
Believing that every life is precious and deserving of respect, the Back In His Arms Again Ministry serves families experiencing the loss of a child before or at birth through faith, prayer, education, compassion, and resources. Please join us for an evening to benefit the ministry on Saturday March 8, 2014, at 6pm, at the Immaculate Conception Marion Center, 414 East North Broadway, Columbus, OH 43214. Call 614-241-2540 for more details or to make reservations - \$20/person. RSVP by March 5th.

Join us in Prayer for Immigration Reform March 24 – Parroquia Santa Cruz

All are welcome to stand in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters as they strive for a better life. Join us in Prayer for Immigration Reform on Monday, March 24, 2014, 7 p.m., at Parroquia Santa Cruz, 143 E. Patterson Ave, Columbus. Our Catholic bishops remind us that now is the time for our nation to enact comprehensive immigration reform. For more information,

contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or Catholic Latino Ministry at (614) 262-7992. For more information

about Church teaching on immigration, visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org.



CCHD Grant Applications Sought Deadline is March 31

CCHD 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. Completed applications are due by close of business on Monday, March 31, 2014. For application, go to www.colsdio.org/Offices/SocialConcerns/OfficeforPrograms/CatholicCampaignForHumanDevelopment.aspx

April is Autism Awareness Month

The prevalence of autism is an increasing reality in the parishes and schools of the Catholic Church in the United States. The National Catholic Partnership on Disability produced many helpful resources for observing April as Autism Awareness Month in addition to an extensive listing of autism-specific resources for use by parishes, schools, and families, www.ncpd.org/ministries-programs/specific/autism.

Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross is April 18

Join hundreds of Catholics from around the diocese. The many facets of faith and justice will be the focus of the annual Walking Stations of the Cross. The walk begins opening prayer at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus, at 8 a.m., Friday, April 18. Participants stop at locations in downtown Columbus to reflect on Jesus Christ's suffering and crucifixion linked to a current area of social concern. For details the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (614) 241-2565. Open to all ages.

St. Vincent Family Center Corcoran Awards is May 13

The annual Corcoran Awards will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at noon. The event

celebrates community leaders who are making outstanding contributions in the areas of service. The awards will be presented during the annual luncheon honoring the recipients. Individual tickets and tables can be purchased in advance. (614) 414-5417 or www.svfc.org/events/corcoran-awards.

J.O.I.N. Bibliobenefit is May 16

J.O.I.N.'s Bibliobenefit is Friday, May 16, 2014, 7 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, Nugent Hall, 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus. The Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs' annual fundraising event helps support their mission to provide for emergency material needs. Registration for the fundraiser is \$50. Please send check payable to J.O.I.N. c/o Bibliobenefit, 578 E. Main St., Columbus, OH 43215. For more information call (614) 241-2530.

Catholic Social Services Service Saturday is May 17

Love thy Neighbor. Lend a Hand. Join CSS to help older and disabled Franklin county residents in need of help with a small home repair, painting, yard work or special project on Saturday, May 17. Volunteer or make a donation and make a real difference. RSVP by April 28, contact Peggy Sirbaugh at psirbaugh@colscss.org or call 614-857-1251.

Resources

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

Lent

Prayer Fasting Almsgiving

Lent 2014: Give Up, Take Up, Lift Up!

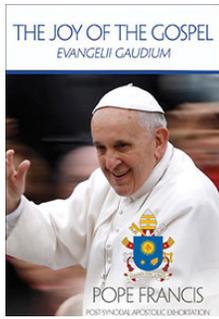
Visit this online resource developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The website includes prayers, Lent calendar, videos, and much more. www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/lent/index.cfm

Lenten Calendar by the Office of Divine Worship

The diocesan Office of Divine Worship produced a Lenten calendar. It's available online at www.colldioc.org/Portals/0/Departments/DIVW/Lent%202014-NEW.pdf

Pope Francis' Lenten Message

The theme of Pope Francis' Lenten Message is based on the scripture passage, "He became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich (cf. 2 Cor 8:9)." www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20131226_messaggio-quaresima2014_en.html



The Joy of the Gospel

The season of Lent is a good opportunity to read Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). It's central theme is the proclamation of the Gospel in the contemporary world. It's beautifully written and very challenging for us all. Chapter 4 of the message is centered on the social dimension of evangelization with topics of inclusion of the poor in society, the common good, peace, and social dialogue as a contribution to peace. Please take a moment to read this important message from the Holy Father.

www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.html

Help Spread Francis' Message of Hope - Pope Francis Quote Compilation

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops continues to compile quotes by Pope Francis from speeches, messages, homilies, and audiences related to charity and justice.

English: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/upload/pope-francis-quotes.pdf

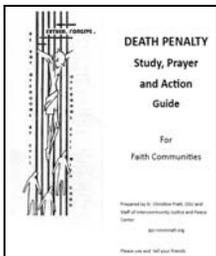
Spanish: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/upload/citas-seleccionadas-del-papa-francisco-por-tema.pdf



One Human Family, Food for All

In December, Pope Francis helped launch a “wave of prayer” and a worldwide movement with Caritas International to respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our midst by praying and acting to end hunger. Pope Francis challenges Catholics and all people to go beyond the boundaries of their own lives and encounter the poor and marginalized.

Turn awareness into action., <http://food.caritas.org>.



Death Penalty: Study, Prayer, and Action Guide

This simple resource provides scripture readings, quotes for reflection, intercessory prayers, and suggested action steps to advance our Church's call to end the use of the death penalty.

Developed by the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center in Cincinnati. Go to <http://ijpc-cincinnati.org/Study%20Prayer%20Action%20Guide>.

Care for Creation: April 22 is Earth Day

Take the St. Francis Pledge

Join Catholics taking action in our families, parishes, schools and communities to reduce our carbon footprint, care for “the least of these” (Mt 25) and raise our voice on behalf of creation and the poor. Take the Catholic Climate Covenant's St. Francis Pledge to do your part, visit www.catholicclimatecovenant.org.

Also visit the **Melting Ice, Mending Creation: a Catholic Approach to Climate Change** webpage for parish and school resources. <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/feast-of-st-francis-2013>

Fate of Mountain Glaciers in the Anthropocene

Read this stunning report by the Working Group Commissioned by the Pontifical Academy of the Sciences about climate change.

http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Pontifical-Academy-of-Sciences_Glacier_Report_050511_final.pdf



Care for Creation Website: Catholic Conference of Ohio

The Catholic Conference of Ohio's *Care for Creation* webpage on environmental justice provides resources for families, parishes, schools and other institutions. Go to www.ohiocathconf.org/home_frameset.htm.

RecycleForce Columbus – Recycle Used Electronics

Consider hosting a recycling drive for used electronics. RecycleForce Columbus is an electronics recycling organization in the Columbus area that provides a pathway for formerly incarcerated men and women to successfully reintegrate into the workforce and become responsible and productive community members. RecycleForce Columbus offers short-term job placement in comprehensive, environmentally sound and secure end-of-life electronics processing. RecycleForce Columbus will collect unwanted consumer and business electronic products and equipment at or nearing the end of their useful life. If your parish would like to host a recycling drive, call (614) 261-6161 or visit www.recycleforcecolumbus.org for more information on how to donate.



RecycleForce Drive

Church of the Resurrection, New Albany, hosted a very successful RecycleForce drive in January. Truck loads of recycled electronics!

Action Alerts

For current action alerts visit www.socialconcerns.colsdioc.org.

CRS – Global Emergencies Update

2014 begins with unfolding crises across three continents. Whether the disasters are rooted in civil strife or natural disasters, millions of innocent people in South Sudan, the Philippines, Central African Republic and Syria have found their lives in turmoil. Your Catholic Relief Services teams and local partners are on the ground providing vital assistance in these four countries. For more information, contact the diocesan CRS director, Erin Cordle, at 614-241-2540 or socmailbox@colsdioc.org, or go to the CRS website at <http://crs.org/>.

Farm Bill Passes Congress – Thank you for your advocacy!

After a couple of years being overdue, Congress finally passed the Farm Bill. USCCB and other Catholic partners (Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, etc.) are both pleased and disappointed about the final measure. The Farm Bill is a very important piece of legislation dealing with farming, rural communities, food & nutrition programs (SNAP – Food Stamps, etc) and overseas food assistance. Below is a quote by Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami, chair of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development about the final compromise:

"While we are disappointed that the final compromise continues to call disproportionately for sacrifices from hungry and poor people in this country and around the world, especially when large industrial agricultural operations continue to receive unnecessary subsidies, we are glad to see support will continue for domestic and international nutrition and development aid, rural development and conservation." To read more, go to <http://www.usccb.org/news/2014/14-027.cfm>.

Urge Support for the Health Care Conscience Rights Act

Please urge members of Congress to support the Health Care Conscience Rights Act, HR 940 & S 1204. The government must not force Americans to violate their religious and moral beliefs on respect for life when they provide health care or purchase health coverage. For details and action, visit the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment's Action Center at www.nchla.org/actiondisplay.asp?ID=292.

Immigration Reform: It looks very challenging at this point, but not impossible. Your advocacy is needed.

Immigration reform is stalled in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Catholic community continues to work towards reform of a broken immigration system to one that protects human dignity and the nation at the same time. Now is the time to enact comprehensive immigration reform. For advocacy resources, visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org. Call, write, or visit your Congressional leaders today! Call 1-855-589-5698 to connect with your member of Congress.



Troubled Execution Due to Ohio's New Lethal Injection Procedure

Dennis McGuire, Preble County, was executed in Ohio on January 16, 2014 for the death of Joy Stewart. His execution used a two drug mix that had never before been tried. This execution procedure resulted in Mr. McGuire gasping for air and choking for at least ten minutes. He was pronounced dead at 10: 53 am. The drug injection started at 10: 29 am. Fr. Lawrence Hummer, spiritual advisor to Dennis McGuire and pastor of St. Mary Church in Chillicothe, was very troubled with the execution procedure and wrote a powerful reflection of the situation. To read his reflection and more information on the Church's teaching against the use of the death penalty, go to www.ohiocathconf.org/1/DP/deathpenalty.htm.

Ohioans to Stop Executions has called for a moratorium on Ohio executions www.otse.org. It also launched an Ohio Clemency Campaign for Arthur Tyler scheduled for an execution on May 28, 2014, see <http://action.otse.org/page/speakout/clemency-for-arthur-tyler>. Ohio House Bill 385, a bill to abolish the death penalty in Ohio, had sponsor testimony in January. Contact the governor and state legislators and urge them to end the use of executions in Ohio.



Ohio Legislative Overview

Read a legislative overview by the Catholic Conference of Ohio's Associate Director, Jim Tobin. *2014: A Time to Reflect, Renew, and Advocate*, www.ohiocathconf.org/N/times14article.pdf. For the latest state legislative action alerts, go to www.ohiocathconf.org.

Message to Congress

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

International: Promoting Peace through Negotiations and Development and Humanitarian Assistance

- Negotiations with Iran – Call for dialogue and a joint solution.
- Negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians – Find a just and lasting solution to conflict.
- U.S. Poverty-focused International Assistance – An essential tool to promote human life and dignity.

Domestic: Moving from Poverty to Flourishing

- Public policy decisions must protect the poor and vulnerable: create adequate jobs with just wages, safe and affordable housing, and fight hunger.
- Criminal Justice Reform: Support the Second Chance Act (S. 1690, HR 3465)
- Finish the Job on Comprehensive Immigration Reform.
- Use our Nation's Resources to Support Life: No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (HR 7, S. 956).

For more details, visit www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/catholic-social-ministry-gathering/upload/2014-message-to-congress.pdf or go to www.usccb.org/jphd.

Receive Action Alerts via Email. Join the 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.colsdio.org.