



December 2014

# Office for Social Concerns

## *Catholic Diocese of Columbus*

# Latest Updates

### THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

The December 8<sup>th</sup> Night of Prayer for Life links the feast days of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the unborn. Catholics across the country will pray in unity in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Rosary, prayer to St. Michael, silent prayers and hymns. Prayer is encouraged from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., national hour of unity is 12 to 1 a.m.

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

This annual collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations including J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs), St. Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Francis Center, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the Catholic Charities collection this year. Look for the envelope in your parish giving envelope packet.

### JANUARY IS POVERTY IN AMERICA AWARENESS

**MONTH** More than 46 million Americans live in Poverty USA. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. Learn more about poverty in our country and its root causes. Get involved in the work to address it, visit [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

**WORD DAY OF PEACE** is January 1. The theme of Pope Francis' World Day of Peace Message is "Slaves No More, But Brothers and Sisters." In his message Pope Francis urges us to recognize the "equal dignity" of our brothers and sisters who are enslaved and exploited to work to end human trafficking, trade in migrants and prostitutes, slave labor, and the enslavement of women and children. The Holy Father's message and other supplementary materials are available at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

## Building Capacity for Global Solidarity



Catholic Relief Services staff present at a diocesan global solidarity workshop at Immaculate Conception, Columbus

The Office for Social Concerns recently sponsored a workshop on Building Capacity for Global Solidarity. Catholic Relief Services staff from the Chicago office presented a framework for ways a diocese can build greater capacity to reach out in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need around the world. Representatives from parishes and schools engaged in ministries of global solidarity shared their ideas and perspectives.

To learn more about diocesan efforts on global solidarity, contact diocesan CRS Director Erin Cordle at the Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or [socmailbox@colsdio.org](mailto:socmailbox@colsdio.org).

**NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK 2015** is January 4-10 with the theme, “We are One Family Under God,” which brings to mind the importance of family in our daily lives. This reminder is particularly important when dealing with the migration phenomenon, as family members are too often separated from one another. For online resources for parishes and schools, go to [www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week](http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

#### **NOTRE DAME ALUMNI URBAN PLUNGE RECEPTION**

Alumni of the University of Notre Dame are invited to the Urban Plunge reception on Friday, January 9, 2015. The reception marks the conclusion of the 48-hour Urban Plunge in Columbus for ND students. Students who participate in this inner-city immersion experience visit the homeless, feed the hungry, and volunteer at local Catholic charities. ND alumni and parents are invited to a 5:15 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus and reception following Mass at the Catholic Center, 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus. The Columbus Urban Plunge is an annual program coordinated by the diocesan Office for Social Concerns and the ND Alumni Club of Columbus. For details, call (614) 241-2540.

**STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE WEEK** is January 15-22. In 1994, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral letter entitled “Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action.” As a response to the pastoral letter, parishes and dioceses across the United States are called to focus on peacemaking and policy efforts against violence from January 15, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and January 22, the anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade decision legalizing the violence of abortion. To read the U.S. Bishops’ statement go to [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/violence/confronting-a-culture-of-violence-a-catholic-framework-for-action.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/violence/confronting-a-culture-of-violence-a-catholic-framework-for-action.cfm).

#### **JANUARY 22 – RESPECT LIFE MASS**

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN.** The annual Respect Life Mass will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrant. On this day of the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade, our diocese will join all dioceses of the United States in observing a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. All are invited to attend. For more information about the Church’s teaching on pro-life issues, visit the U.S. Bishops’ website at [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

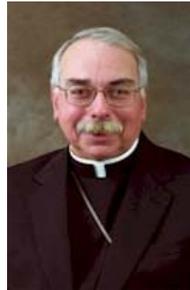
**ROE REMEMBRANCE AT STATEHOUSE** Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Roe Remembrance event on Thursday, January 22, at the Ohio Statehouse. The hour-long program will start at noon indoors in the Statehouse Atrium. Due to Statehouse security restrictions, no signs or banners are permitted inside of the Statehouse. For additional information, please visit Greater Columbus Right to Life online at [www.gctrl.org](http://www.gctrl.org).



**SPIRIT OF HOPE GALA** of Catholic Social Services will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2015, 6:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. The annual event benefits Catholic Social Services’ fourteen programs designed to strengthen individuals and families, provide crisis relief, and help seniors age with grace and independence in the 23 counties of Central and Southern Ohio. To purchase tickets, visit <http://colscss.org/event-registration/?ee=17> or call (614) 221-5891.

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL MINISTRY GATHERING** held on February 7-10, 2015, in Washington, D.C. is the annual meeting of social justice ministry leaders from Catholic organizations, dioceses, parishes, and schools throughout the nation. The meeting includes inspiring prayer and worship, speakers, and social ministry strategy sessions. Participants are briefed on priority justice and peace issues and deliver the Catholic message of concern for the poor and vulnerable to members of Congress on Capitol Hill. For more information, visit [www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/catholic-social-ministry-gathering](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/catholic-social-ministry-gathering) or contact diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

**CRS RICE BOWL** Catholic Relief Services' 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. 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 CRS. For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or [socmailbox@colsdio.org](mailto:socmailbox@colsdio.org) or visit the CRS website at [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org).



**RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE**

The diocesan Respect Life Conference is Saturday, March 7, 2015, at Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway, Columbus. The featured speaker is the Most Rev. Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus. Other speakers will cover

the spectrum of care and concern promoting the dignity of human life. Mass 9 a.m. Conference 10 a.m. to 3 p.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](mailto:socmailbox@colsdio.org).

**GOOD FRIDAY WALKING STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Many facets of faith and justice will be the focus of the annual Walking Stations of the Cross. The walk begins with opening prayer at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus, at 8 a.m., Friday April 3, 2015. Hundreds of participants from across the diocese will process to locations throughout downtown Columbus to recognize Jesus Christ's suffering and crucifixion as well as to reflect on current areas of social concern. Open to all ages. 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.

**DIOCESAN SENIOR CITIZENS DAY CELEBRATION –**

**JUNE 2** St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville. More information to come. Please mark your calendar for this annual event.

**Resources**

For additional resources visit <http://socialconcerns.colsdio.org>.

**ADVENT: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD** Advent is here! Make it a spirit-filled season with USCCB's family calendar and other online resources. Visit [www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cfm).



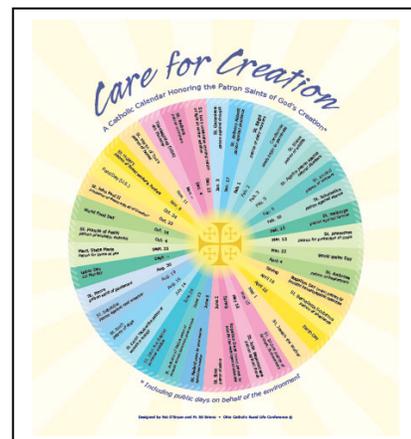
**FAIR TRADE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Who knew creating new opportunities for disadvantaged producers abroad could be as easy as shopping? Just as Catholic Relief Services responds in other countries to ease poverty, hunger and injustice, here at home CRS works to transform the world through tangible acts of solidarity. CRS Fair Trade Program creates opportunities for you to bring the values of our faith to bear in the marketplace and to make consumer choices that help lift our brothers and sisters around the world out of poverty. CRS works with fair trade partners to bring fair trade handcrafts, coffee, and chocolate to thousands of communities across the United States. Order gifts online, [www.crsfairtrade.org/crafts](http://www.crsfairtrade.org/crafts). Contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns to link with a CRS Fair Trade

Ambassador at (614) 241-2540 or [socmailbox@colsdio.org](mailto:socmailbox@colsdio.org).

**CARE FOR CREATION CALENDAR**

The Ohio Catholic Rural Life Conference issued a Care for Creation Calendar which identifies various patron saints associated with aspects of stewardship of the God's creation. The calendar is available on the Catholic Conference of Ohio website, [www.ohiocathconf.org](http://www.ohiocathconf.org).



**OHIOANS TO STOP EXECUTIONS FAITH LEADER**

**INITIATIVE** OTSE launched a Faith Leader Initiative to mobilize the faith community to work together to end the use of the death penalty in Ohio. Sign up to receive updates and put our faith into action with their "To Do" list, [www.otse.org/faith-leader-initiative](http://www.otse.org/faith-leader-initiative)

**PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY RESOURCES**

Jumpstart your parish social ministry with these resources: USCCB's Communities of Salt and Light, Building Effective Parish Social Ministry Teams, and more. Visit [www.colsdioc.org/Offices/DeptforCatholicCharitiesSocialConcerns/SocialConcernsOfficefor/Programs/ParishSocialConcerns.aspx](http://www.colsdioc.org/Offices/DeptforCatholicCharitiesSocialConcerns/SocialConcernsOfficefor/Programs/ParishSocialConcerns.aspx) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 251-2540 or [socmailbox@colsdioc.org](mailto:socmailbox@colsdioc.org).

**Action Alerts**

For current action alerts visit <http://socialconcerns.colsdioc.org>.

**Add this to your  
To Do list.**

**URGE DEFEAT OF HB 663 – SECRETE EXECUTIONS**

**BILL** Contact your Ohio Senator today and urge defeat of HB 663. HB 663 seeks to *get around* the opposition that drug manufacturers have to the use of their life sustaining drugs in executions. This legislation would provide anonymity and immunity for compounding pharmacies to mix the drugs that the manufacturers do not want used in executions. Based upon conscience concerns and/or religious beliefs, manufacturers have entered into contracts that prohibit the use of their drugs for an execution. This bill includes language that would override such contracts.

**Message:** Recently Pope Francis reaffirmed the Catholic Church's opposition to the use of the death penalty. HB 663 highlights two more troubling aspects of the death penalty:

1. A move towards more secrecy in executions;
2. A move to void the conscience/religious objections that drug manufacturers have to the use of their life sustaining drugs in Ohio executions.

I urge you to vote no on HB 663.

**Contact Information:** Please link to [www.ohiosenate.gov/members/senate-directory](http://www.ohiosenate.gov/members/senate-directory).

For more information about the Church's teaching on the death penalty, visit [www.ohiocathconf.org/1/dp/deathpenalty.htm](http://www.ohiocathconf.org/1/dp/deathpenalty.htm)

**SUPPORT THE NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR**

**ABORTION ACT** Urge the U.S. Senate to support the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, S. 946. How you can advocate, go to USCCB Action Center at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/index.cfm). Scroll down to Action Central.

**IMMIGRATION REFORM** On November 20 President Obama announced administrative relief for nearly 5 million undocumented immigrants. In his executive action, the president addressed a new deferred action policy for parents, expansion of the DACA program, changes to federal immigration enforcement, and additional immigration executive actions. USCCB welcomes Obama Administration announcement of relief for immigrant families and cites urgent pastoral need for a more humane view of immigrants. USCCB press release, [www.usccb.org/news/2014/14-196.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/news/2014/14-196.cfm) Some members of Congress are positioning to find ways to cut funding for the implementation of these executive actions. The U.S. Bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign urges advocacy to Congress requesting not to limit the executive actions and pass comprehensive immigration reform. To contact Congress, call 1-855-589-5698 or visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

**IRAQ AND SYRIAN CRISIS & EBOLA CRISIS** Catholic Relief Services and partners are working to address these international crisis and more. For the latest news and how you can help, go to [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org).

**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@colsdioc.org](mailto:socmailbox@colsdioc.org). Don't forget to visit our website at <http://socialconcerns.colsdioc.org>.