



December 2013

Office for Social Concerns

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Latest Updates

December 8 – Night of Prayer for Life

The 24th annual National Night of Prayer for Life will be on December 8, 2013. This night of prayer 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., a national hour of unity is 12 to 1 a.m.

December 25 – Christmas Catholic Charities Collection

The annual collection for diocesan Catholic Charities will be taken up on Christmas. This 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. For more about our diocesan sponsored charities, visit www.charities.colodioc.org.

January is Poverty in America Awareness Month

More than 46 million Americans live in Poverty USA. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) designated January as "Poverty in America Awareness Month." In January, we devote our efforts to heightening the nation's understanding of the scope of the problems of poverty and work to break the cycle. For more details, go to www.povertyusa.org.



Holy Hour for Immigration Reform

Hundreds of faithful from around the diocese gathered at two separate holy hours for immigration reform: St. Paul the Apostle Church in Westerville on October 1 (pictured above) and Christ the King Church in Columbus on November 20. At the conclusion of each holy hour participants walked in a candlelight procession to a shrine of Mary and a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, respectively, and sang serenades. After the final prayer, participants filled out postcards urging Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform. The holy hours were sponsored by the Catholic Latino Ministry Office and the Office for Social Concerns.

January 1 – World Day of Peace

Pope Francis has announced the theme for the annual World Day of Peace message set for January 1: "Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace." Pope Francis urges us to open our hearts in a new way to our brothers and sisters affected by poverty, hunger, conflicts, migrations, inequalities, pollution, underdevelopment, and injustice. When we break

free from indifference and see ourselves and members of one human family, we can truly “encounter” one another and build peace. To read the Holy Father's World Day of Peace Message and other supplementary materials, please visit 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.

January 5-11 – National Migration Week

National Migration Week 2014 will take place January 5-11 with the theme, “Out of the Darkness.” Migrants and particularly the most vulnerable migrants (children, the undocumented, refugees, and victims of human trafficking) often find themselves existing in a figurative darkness where their options remain limited and their abilities to live out their lives in its fullness severely restricted. Learn more about how to stand in solidarity with our migrant brothers and sisters. For online resources for parishes and schools, visit the U.S. Catholic Bishops' National Migration Week website at www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

January 11 – Urban Plunge Reception – University of Notre Dame Alumni

Alumni of the University of Notre Dame are invited to the Urban Plunge reception on Friday, January 10, 2014. 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 are invited to a 5:15 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral, 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.

January 15-22 – Stand Against Violence Week

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 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 learn more about diocesan efforts against domestic violence, gun violence, and other threats to the dignity of the human person, please contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

January 22 – Respect Life Mass Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Bishop Frederick Campbell will be the celebrant at a Respect Life Mass on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus. 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 or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.



January 22 – Rally for Life

The annual Rally for Life will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, noon, at the Statehouse west plaza, Columbus. The rally is open to all ages. For more information, contact Columbus Right to Life at (614) 445-8508.

January 25 – Catholic Social Services Spirit of Hope Gala

Catholic Social Services' annual Spirit of Hope Gala will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2014, at the Columbus Renaissance Hotel. The event runs from 6:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. This is a opportunity for a great night out for dining, dancing, and supporting the vital work of Catholic Social Services. For information, go to www.colsscs.org or call (614) 221-5891

February 2-5 – Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

The USCCB Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, held on February 2-5, 2014, in Washington, DC, is the annual meeting of social justice ministry leaders from Catholic organizations and dioceses throughout the nation. The meeting includes inspiring prayer and worship, speakers, and social ministry strategy sessions. In addition, participants receive detailed briefings on priority justice and peace issues. A highlight of the meeting is bringing a common Catholic message of concern for the poor and vulnerable to members of Congress on Capitol Hill. For more information, visit the USCCB Catholic Social Ministry website at www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/catholic-social-ministry-gathering or call the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

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 society. Visit www.ncpd.org for resources.

Lent – CRS Rice Bowl

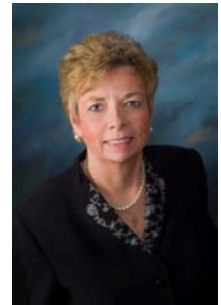
Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl is a Lenten faith formation program for use in parishes, schools, religious education programs and by families and

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. 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 CRS. For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or socmailbox@colsdio.org or the CRS website at www.crsricebowl.org.

March 15 – Respect Life Conference

The diocesan Respect Life Conference will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014, at Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway, Columbus. The featured speaker is Dr. Marie Hilliard, director of bioethics and public policy of the National Catholic Bioethics Center. 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. For details, call (614) 241-2540 or email at socmailbox@colsdio.org.



April 18 – 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 an opening prayer at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus, at 8 a.m., Friday, April 18, 2014. Hundreds of participants from across the diocese will stop at locations in downtown Columbus to recognize Jesus Christ's suffering and crucifixion as well as to reflect on current areas 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.

Resources

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



Pope Francis' The Joy of the Gospel

Pope Francis released an apostolic exhortation titled *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). Its 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



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-resources/advent/index.cfm. For a copy of an advent calendar produced by the diocesan Office of Divine Worship, go to

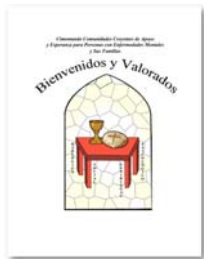
www.colldioc.org/Portals/0/Departments/DIVW/2013%20Advent%20Calendar.pdf.



Fair Trade Gifts for Christmas

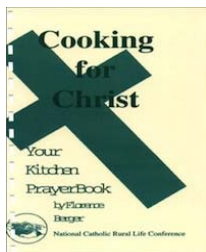
Who knew that creating new opportunities for disadvantaged producers abroad could be as easy as shopping? Just as Catholic Relief Services responds in other countries to ease poverty, hunger and injustice, here at home CRS works to transform the world through tangible acts of solidarity. The CRS Fair 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 in partnership with fair trade partners to bring fair trade handcrafts, coffee, and chocolate to thousands of communities across the United States. To order gifts online, go to

www.crsfairtrade.org/crafts.



Welcomed and Valued: Now in Spanish – Bienvenidos y Valorados Mental Illness Resource Manual

The Welcomed and Valued Resource Manual features 90+ pages of information, perspectives, and tools to assist in the ministry with people with mental illness. This excellent resource is now in Spanish. For these and other helpful resources, please visit the National Catholic Partnership on Disability's website at www.ncpd.org.



Cooking For Christ Cookbook

In recognition of National Catholic Rural Life Conference's 90th anniversary, they are updating their liturgically-based cookbook, *Cooking for Christ*. Originally published in 1949, this cook book combines a celebration of food, family, and faith in an informative way. NCRLC is looking for your favorite recipes to include in the new edition. If you wish to submit your favorite recipe or purchase the current cookbook, visit NCRLC website at www.ncrlc.com/news.aspx?ID=390.



Messages of Hope in a Broken Economy

A series of Messages of Hope from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development on poverty and the injustice in today's economy include an introductory message and messages on fair wages and economic security; immigration; nutrition and food security; and the environment. To access the reflections, go to www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/economic-justice-economy/hope-in-a-time-of-poverty.cfm. For supplemental resources, including Catholic Social Teaching Primers, discussion questions, prayers, articles, and a video, visit <http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm>.



Mount Carmel Church Partnerships – Health Ministry in the Parish

Mount Carmel Church Partnerships Program is a service within Mouth Carmel Health System that promotes physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness within the secure environment of one's faith community. Faith community health ministry teams are comprised of volunteers who have a special interest in helping the members of the parish and the community. By assessing the holistic health needs and developing interventions to meet those needs, the team provides leadership and guidance for the promotion of health and healing. For more information about starting a cooperative health ministry in the parish, contact Kate Whitman, RN, Manager of Mount Carmel Church Partnerships at (614) 546-4602 or kwhitman@mchs.com or visit www.mountcarmelhealth.com/hospital-programs/church-partnerships.html.



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 Kevin Helmuth at (614) 261-6161 or visit www.recycleforcecolumbus.org for more information on how to donate.



Care for Creation

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.

Action Alerts

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

Disaster Response in the Philippines

Please continue to support Catholic Relief Services with your prayers and donations. The timeliness of our response can mean the difference between life and death. A singular event like a typhoon, especially for those in impoverished parts of our world, can derail a family's stability, deplete a lifetime of savings and push them over poverty's edge. For larger communities, the devastation to infrastructure, economy and reserves can set back a generation. Catholic Relief Services has deployed its teams across the Philippines' most heavily affected areas to determine the most pressing needs and how best to help. Your continued support allows us to reach more people, more communities, with vital help now—and to stay with them for as long as it takes to achieve a full recovery. A little goes a long way and we need your help. 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/>.

Give to those in need this Christmas. Ways you can help.

People need your help today. They need the basics: food, clothing, personal hygiene products, and household items. Some children will go without Christmas gifts. Please support our diocesan sponsored Catholic charities. For a listing of needed items by agency go to www.charities.coltsdioc.org and click 2013 Christmas Help.

Support a Balanced Farm Bill

Urge your elected federal officials to oppose drastic cuts to hunger programs such as SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), emergency food assistance programs, and overseas food assistance aid; promote stewardship of creation; assist small family farmers; and help rural America thrive. To learn more and to act, go to www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/agriculture-nutrition-rural-issues/farm-bill.cfm.

Immigration Reform: Now is the time.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urges 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. Call, write, or visit your Congressional leaders today! Call 1-855-589-5698 to be connected with your member of Congress.



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.



Death Penalty in Ohio

The State of Ohio scheduled executions through 2015. Please pray for victims of violence, victims' families, death row inmates, and their families. Continue to urge the governor and members of the Ohio General Assembly to stop the use of the death penalty in our state. Prayer vigils take place on the High Street sidewalk near the Ohio Statehouse during each execution. You are welcome to join us in prayer. For more on the Church's teaching on the death penalty, go to www.ohiocathconf.org/1/DP/deathpenalty.htm.

International Issues

USCCB urges action on a number of international issues which include Palestinian Assistance/Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Conflict, HIV/AIDs, and Poverty-Focused Assistance. To view policy positions and action alerts, visit 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@coltsdioc.org. Don't forget to visit our website at www.socialconcerns.coltsdioc.org.