



Office for Social Concerns

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Mid December 2015

Latest Updates

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.

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. Visit www.povertyusa.org or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-2540.

WORD DAY OF PEACE is January 1. Pope Francis will issue his World Day of Peace Message in mid December. The theme for 2016 is "Overcome Indifference and Win Peace." 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 or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614-241-2540).

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK 2016 is January 3-9 with the theme, *A Stranger and You Welcomed Me*. This theme reminds us the call to welcome the stranger plays an important role in the lives of faithful Christians. Often unfamiliar with the local tongue of the new country, not to mention its customs, the migrant needs the support of local communities so that he or she can better adjust to new surroundings. Online resources for parishes and schools, go to www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-2540.

Laudato Si'

On Care for Our Common Home



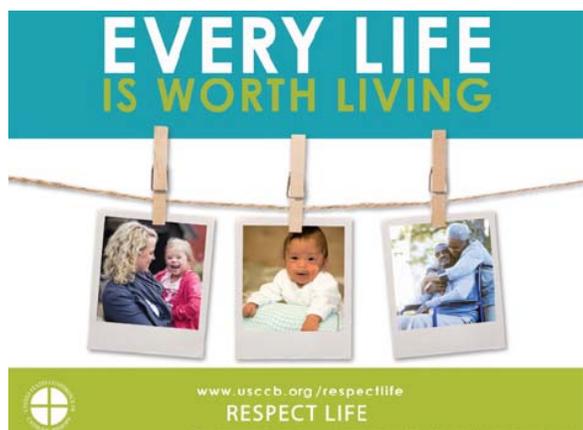
CARDINAL PETER TURKSON President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and lead consultant for Pope Francis in the development of *Laudato Si'*, visited Columbus for four days in the fall. He promoted the Holy Father's message to care for creation at The Ohio State University, St. Francis de Sales High School, St. Anthony Church, and the Catholic Conference of Ohio.

"I urgently appeal... for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si'

NOTRE DAME ALUMNI URBAN PLUNGE MASS & RECEPTION Alumni of the University of Notre Dame are invited to the Urban Plunge Mass & Reception on Friday, January 8, 2016. The Mass and reception mark the conclusion of the 48-hour Notre Dame Urban Plunge in Columbus. 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 Notre Dame Alumni Club of Columbus. For details, contact 614-241-2540 or socmailbox@colsdio.org.

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.



JANUARY 22 – RESPECT LIFE MASS - DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN The annual Respect Life Mass will be held on Friday, January 22, 2016, 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 or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-2540.

JANUARY 22 – ROE REMEMBRANCE AT OHIO STATEHOUSE (OUTDOORS)

Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor the 43rd Annual Roe Remembrance event on Friday, January 22, at the Ohio Statehouse. The hour-long program will begin at Noon and be held outdoors. 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.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL MINISTRY GATHERING held on January 23-26, 2016, 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 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 or visit the CRS website at www.crsricebowl.org.



Respect Life

RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

The diocesan Respect Life Conference is Saturday, March 5, 2016, at St. Joseph Church, 670 W. Main Street, Plain City. The theme is *Being Pro-Life in the Year of Mercy*. Keynote speaker is Fr. Kevin Lutz. Other speakers will cover the spectrum of care and concern promoting the dignity of human

life. 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.

SPIRIT OF HOPE GALA of Catholic Social Services will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus Museum of Art, 480 E. Broad Street, Columbus. 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, contact Mackenzie Burton at (614) 221-5891 or mburton@colscss.org, no later than February 20.

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, March 27, 2016. 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.

Resources

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

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis launched an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy for December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016. How can we show others the mercy of God? We say that God is compassionate, but we ignore the poor. We say that God loves us and has mercy on us, but we hold grudges against our friends. Our actions need to authentically reflect God's mercy. Click below to explore the different ways that you can live out that mercy every day! For resources, visit <http://www.migrate.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/upload/year-of-mercy-handout.pdf>

LAUDATO SI' ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Pope Francis invites every person on the planet to read his ecological encyclical *Laudato Si'*. He also urgently appeals "for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet."

To read *Laudato Si'*, visit www.usccb.org/environment. This website also includes videos, bulletin inserts, and a discussion guide. Lead a discussion in your parish or host a Feast of St. Francis program. Additional suggested actions are below:

- Pray in gratitude for the gifts of God's creation.
- Learn more about Catholic teaching and the environment.
www.usccb.org/environment

www.ohiocathconf.org

- Take the St. Francis Pledge to care for creation and the poor.
- Host a Catholic Climate Covenant Feast of St. Francis program.
- Start a Creation Care Team.
www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
- Participate in care for creation efforts at home, school, parish, and local community.
- Have a conversation with others about care for our common home.
- What changes will you make to shape the future?
<http://climate.nfcym.org>
- Visit Catholic Relief Services' Care for Creation resources.
- Be in solidarity with others around the world.
<http://www.crs.org/climate-change>
- Use your God-given gifts and talents and be creative!

ELECTION 2016 - FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

The U.S. Catholic Bishops revised their statement on political responsibility for the 2016 election. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, is the U.S. Bishops' teaching document on the political responsibility

of Catholics. This statement represents guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. Pastors, lay and religious faithful, and all people of good will are urged to use this statement to help form their consciences; to teach those entrusted to their care; to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue; and to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching. To read the statement and for parish and school resources, visit <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship>

"Responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation."
-- *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*

STATEMENT ON PORNOGRAPHY – CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

The U.S. Catholic Bishops issued a new statement on pornography, *Create in Me a Clean Heart*. The statement provides basic catechesis on human sexuality and chastity, and explanation of why the production and usage of pornography is a sin, and overview of its effects in our society, a closer look at its effects on men, women, children, young people, marriages, and families, and a word of hope and encouragement to those who have been harmed by pornography use or in its production. The statement's main audiences are Catholic leaders and parents, but it is also intended to be helpful for those who struggle with pornography use and all people of goodwill who want to work together for a culture of purity and respect for all women and men. To read the text of *Create in Me a Clean Heart* along with other USCCB resources on pornography, visit <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/pornography/index.cfm>.

MY HOUSE COLUMBUS - LOCAL INITIATIVE ON PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION

My House is a local initiative that works on protection, support, and prevention. It is a valuable resource for the protection of families, an avenue of healing and support for those who have been harmed by pornography's destructive affects, and a deepening understanding of the beauty of our sexuality. For more information, visit www.myhousecolumbus.net or call the confidential hotline at 888-989-9886.

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES

Human Trafficking is modern day slavery. It's happening around the world, including Ohio. Take part in efforts to combat it.

USCCB Resources: www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program

Ohio Resources:

www.ohiocathconf.org/I/Trafficking/Trafficking.htm

For local resources contact the Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-240.

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.

GET THE CRS RICE BOWL APP

Read daily reflections, measure your Lenten sacrifices, get delicious recipes from around the world. Available at www.crsricebowl.org/app.

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.

Action Alerts

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

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



CARE FOR THE UNBORN Several prolife bills calling for a reduction of abortions will work their way through the Ohio General Assembly and Congress, including efforts to defund Planning Parenthood. For updates visit:

OHIO: www.ohiocathconf.org/I/AB/Abortion.htm

FEDERAL: www.nchla.org Congress failed to pass the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA) this year.

Please continue to contact your member of Congress ask urge them to enact conscience protections.

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS UPDATE. In response to the terrorist attacks in Paris, there is growing pushback not to welcome Syrian refugees into the United States. However USCCB's migration chair called for continued welcome and the urgency to work for peace,

www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-157.cfm. For talking points from USCCB Migration & Refugee Services about Syrian refugee resettlement in the wake of the Paris attacks, visit <http://files.ctctcdn.com/f9bc2f39201/810ce5c8-75b4-4967-8a0f-b6451b87a09b.pdf>.

For other information and resources visit:

CRS website: <http://www.crs.org/media-center/current-issues/syrian-refugees>,

USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/syrian-refugee-crisis.cfm>

or contact Erin Cordle, diocesan CRS director, at 614-241-2540, ecordle@colldioc.org, or socmailbox@colldioc.org for a list of ways to respond.

IMMIGRATION REFORM The immigration system is broken. Contact Congress and urge the enactment of just

immigration reform. Visit the USCCB's Justice for Immigrants Campaign website for the latest action alerts and education resources, www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

DEATH PENALTY It looks as though executions will not take place in Ohio in 2016 until the state finds a way to determine a new method of lethal injection. It is hoped for that the Ohio General Assembly will take up recommendations of the Ohio Supreme Court Death Penalty Task Force.

www.ohiocathconf.org/I/DP/deathpenalty.htm.

RETURNING CITIZENS Thank you for your advocacy efforts! The Ohio General Assembly passed the Fair Hiring Act which would help returning citizens in the job application process. There are many other legislative issues on criminal justice that need your advocacy, visit www.usccb.org/jphd.

CATHOLICS CONFRONT GLOBAL POVERTY Join Catholic Relief Services' CCFP and receive action alerts on important international humanitarian assistance. A current focus includes urging Congress to pass the Green Climate Fund. This fund will help developing countries to mitigate impacts of climate change. To join CCFP, visit

www.confrontglobalpoverty.org.



Receive action alerts and upcoming events via email, socmailbox@colldioc.org.

Help! Volunteers Needed & Services Available

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES needs volunteers for their Friendly Visitor Program (visiting senior citizens) and Our Lady of Guadalupe Center Food Pantry. CSS is also offering a Home-Based Maternal Counseling program in Franklin County helping mothers and their babies thrive. Call 614-221-5891 or visit www.colssc.org.

J.O.I.N. Needed: Volunteers and donations of personal care items, 614-241-2531 <http://join.colldioc.org>.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, Volunteers and donations needed at your parish, St. Lawrence Haven, Clothing Center, 614-241-2569, www.vincentianvoice.org

ST. FRANCIS CENTER IN VINTON COUNTY needs pasta for clients. Can you spare some? Contact: Lisa Keita at 740-596-5820, lkeita04@hotmail.com St. Francis Center, 108 W. Mill St., McArthur, OH 45651

ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY HOUSE Volunteers need for a variety of tasks. 614-295-6347 ext. 451 or www.saintstephensch.org/programs/volunteer

ST. VINCENT FAMILY CENTER Help make good kids better, 614-252-0731 ext. 1132 www.svfc.org/get-involved/volunteer