



September 2016

# Office for Social Concerns

## *Catholic Diocese of Columbus*

# Latest Updates

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF**

**CREATION – SEPTEMBER 1** This annual day, established by Pope Francis is an opportunity to pray, reflect and act to care for God's creation. For resources, visit [www.usccb.org/environment](http://www.usccb.org/environment).

**LABOR DAY STATEMENT.** USCCB's annual Labor Day Statement is available online. This year's focus is on the struggles of communities in the midst of elevated poverty rates, substance abuse, and family dissolution. It invites us to replace fear with a fuller vision, <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2016.cfm>.

**THE FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK** is scheduled for Saturday, September 24 at the St. Francis DeSales High School Stadium, 4212 Karl Road, Columbus. 9 a.m. to Noon. Walk in the shoes of the poor. Walkers are invited to walk the route as many times as they like. Money raised for the walk will support efforts of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Visit the SVPD website at [www.vincentianvoice.org](http://www.vincentianvoice.org).

### **DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

– **SEPTEMBER 9** In light of recent incidents of violence and racial tension in communities across the United States, USCCB has invited Catholics across the country to participate in a Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities on September 9, the feast of St. Peter Claver. For resources, visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

**EARTHKEEPING SUMMIT** September 24 presented by Ohio Interfaith Power and Light and The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources, <http://www.ohiopl.org/earthkeeping-summit-2016-2>

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** is September 28 to November 6. 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. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace. For details, visit [www.40daysforlife.com/columbus](http://www.40daysforlife.com/columbus).

**MOVED BY MERCY**

We are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us.

POPE FRANCIS

**RESPECT LIFE**  
WWW.USCCB.ORG/RESPECTLIFE

**“Moved by Mercy” is the theme of this year’s USCCB Respect Life Program in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. For program materials, visit [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).**

**OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH** and Sunday, October 2, is Respect Life Sunday. “Moved by Mercy” is the theme of this year’s Respect Life Program. Celebrate the gift of life in all its stages. For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540. Parish respect life packets that provide an overview of the pressing life issues of today are available online on the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ website at [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).

**BREAKFAST WITH THE BISHOP – CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES.** Save the date for Tuesday, October 4, 2016, 7:30 a.m. Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel, 50 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Columbus. Guest speaker is Robert Lupton, author of *Toxic Charity*. For registration and sponsorship information call 614-221-5891 or visit [www.colscss.org](http://www.colscss.org).

**MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK** First week of October. The NCPD Council on Mental Illness, an outreach program of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, is encouraging Catholic observance of the annual Mental Illness Awareness Week and the National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding. New resource *Mental Health: A Guide for Faith Leaders*, [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org).

**CONFERENCE: ENLIVENED BY LAUDATO SI': We Care for our Common Home. Our practical response to care for God's creation.** Saturday, October 8, 2016. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Calling for parish and school leaders, adults and youth to this informative day designed to provide practical ways to respond to Pope Francis' recent encyclical. Pope Francis is calling for dialogue and an ecological conversion to help shape the future. Sponsored by the Creation Care Team – Catholic Diocese of Columbus. Free event includes lunch. Registration deadline is September 30. To register visit <http://socialconcerns.colodioc.org> or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-2540 or [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org).

**JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY GATHERING** is Friday, October 21, 2016, at Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson, Ohio. Bishop Frederick F. Campbell will celebrate Mass at 6 p.m. and extend his sincere appreciation for all clergy and lay ministers in jail, prison, and reentry ministry. Attending priests are invited to concelebrate and deacons to assist. Dinner following mass. Guest speaker is Mike Davis, Religious Services Administrator and Chief of the Office of Offender Reentry & Enterprise Development for Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. Guest reflection from a returning citizen and as well as updates. Please RSVP by October 14 by contacting the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or email at [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org).

**ELECTION DAY** is Tuesday, November 8. "In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation." U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org). Visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio's website at [www.ohiocathconf.org](http://www.ohiocathconf.org) for issue positions. Please vote. Let your voice be heard!

**THE CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CCHD) COLLECTION** will be on the weekend of Sunday, November 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Help break the cycle of poverty. For more information about the CCHD, go online at [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

**THANKSGIVING DAY**, we pray and give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received. Also, please keep in your prayers the people who work hard to produce, prepare, transport, and sell the food we eat. To learn more about the Catholic Church and food issues, visit the Catholic Rural Life's website at <http://catholicrurallife.org>.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE** will be on December 8. 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., national hour of unity is 12 to 1 a.m.

**CHRISTMAS CATHOLIC CHARITIES 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.

## Year of Mercy Speaker Series

### Sunday, September 11 @ 12 noon

Forgiveness: Rachel Muha of "Run the Race Club" (coffee & donuts)

### Saturday, September 24 @ 10 am

Reconciliation: Fr. Wagner Reconciliation Day

### Monday, October 31 @ 9 am

Feeding/clothing the poor Lisa Keita of J.O.I.N. (tea & cookies)

### Saturday, December 3 @ 10 am

Bury the dead: (cocoa & cookies)

### St. Mary Magdalene Church

473 S. Roys Ave. Columbus, OH 43204

Cosponsored by The Catholic Foundation, St. Mary Magdalene Parish, and Office for Social Concerns.

## Resources

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

### WE ARE SALT AND LIGHT

We Are Salt and Light includes resources as a catalyst for both the New Evangelization and the continuing development of vibrant communities living the Gospel in the United States. This USCCB online resource provides a wealth of information on how to promote Catholic Social Teaching in parishes and schools.

[www.wearesaltandlight.org](http://www.wearesaltandlight.org)

### HOST A FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS PROGRAM IN YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL

The Feast of St. Francis Program honors the patron saint of those who promote ecology. This is the saint whom Pope

Francis took his name. The Feast of St. Francis is a great opportunity to reflect on our role in creation and encourage our neighbors to be better stewards. The guide includes: By hosting a Feast of St. Francis event, you help spark a passion for climate solutions in your community. Your work is vital and important. Everything is provided to host a successful program in your parish online. To learn more visit

[www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/act/feast\\_of\\_stfrancis](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/act/feast_of_stfrancis).

### JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is Dec. 8, 2015 to Nov. 20, 2016. A two page handout is available at

[www.usccb.org/jphd](http://www.usccb.org/jphd).

## Action Alerts

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

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



### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY – CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

#### Conscience Protection Act of 2016 (S. 304)

*Include in this year's must-pass appropriations package:* Passed the House in July 2016 with a bipartisan vote. This legislation makes it clearer sponsors or providers of health plans who do not include elective abortion cannot be discriminated against. The CPA protects health care providers from being forced to pay for or participate in abortions, and allow victims of discrimination a "right of action" to defend their rights in court. Government should not force hospitals, doctors, nurses and other providers to stop offering much-needed health care because they cannot in good conscience participate in destroying human life. USCCB Action Center <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/>

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

#### Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015

(H.R. 3226/S. 1968)

*Cosponsor and support passage.* This legislation would require companies to report publicly on their efforts to ensure their products are not the result of child or forced labor, slavery, or human trafficking. Catholics Confront Global Poverty <http://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org>

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE – RETURNING CITIZENS

#### The Sentencing Report Act (H.R. 3713)

#### The Corrections and Recidivism Reduction Act (H.R. 759)

#### Second Chance Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3406)

*Support passage:* Together, these bills would reduce harsh sentences, incentivize prison rehabilitation, ban shackling

of pregnant women in federal custody and expand opportunities for Americans returning home after incarceration. Inaction will harm children, families and communities across the country, the burden of over-incarceration is felt most by children with parents who are in prison or are labeled with a criminal record. USCCB Action Center <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now>

### IMMIGRATION REFORM – FAMILY DETENTION

#### End Family Detention of Immigrants

*Contact the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and ICE:* Stop detaining immigrant families in prison-like detention facilities located throughout the U.S. but primarily along the U.S.-Mexico border. Work to pass comprehensive immigration reform. USCCB Justice for Immigrants [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

### CLIMATE CHANGE & INTERNATIONAL

#### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

#### Green Climate Fund

*Support funding:* The Green Climate Fund is an international effort to help developing nations adapt to climate changes and mitigate their effects. Fully fund the President's \$500 million request as a down payment toward a \$3 billion pledge. Catholics Confront Global Poverty <http://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org>

**Contact Members of Congress Today!  
Make your voice heard.**



## Voter Registration Information

**Election Day:** Tuesday, November 8, 2016

**Deadline for Voter Registration:**

October 11, 2016

**Register to Vote:** Ohio Secretary of State –

[www.myohiovote.com](http://www.myohiovote.com)

## Faithful Citizenship Resources

### **Vatican** - Doctrinal Note

On Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life

[www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20021124\\_politica\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20021124_politica_en.html)

### **National** - Faithful Citizenship Website

[www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org)

This resource developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides a listing of Church teaching documents as well as resources for the following:

- Parishes & Schools
- Parish Social Concerns & Respect Life Committees
- Religious Educators
- Families & Youth
- Adult Faith Formation & Small Faith Community Sharing

### **U.S. Catholic Bishops' Statement**

*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States with Introductory Note*

[www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org)

**Full Statement** [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-title.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-title.cfm)

**Resources** found on Faithful Citizenship website

[www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org)

- **Summary Bulletin Insert Part 1 & 2**
- **Do's and Don'ts Guidelines During Election Season**
- Civil Dialogue Bulletin Insert
- Conscience Formation Bulletin Insert
- How to Contact Your Elected Officials Bulletin Insert
- Novena for Faithful Citizenship
- Liturgy and Prayer Suggestions
- Voter Education and Voter Registration
- Questions for Reflection and Discussion of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship
- Bulletin Announcements
- Political Activity Guidelines
- Tips for Conducting a Candidate Forum
- Adult Education and Small Faith Community Sharing
- Elementary, Jr. High, and High School Lesson Plans
- Religious Education & Youth Ministry Resources
- Videos on Faithful Citizenship

Always consult your pastor before engaging in Faithful Citizenship activities in the parish.

### **State** - Catholic Conference of Ohio

(CCO Elections webpage)

[www.ohiocathconf.org/Issues/category/election-issues](http://www.ohiocathconf.org/Issues/category/election-issues)

This site provides a comprehensive listing of state issues and voter questions.

Also visit a comprehensive listing of state issues on the CCO website at [www.ohiocathconf.org/Issues](http://www.ohiocathconf.org/Issues).

**Local** - "Meet the Candidates" Forums - The Office for Social Concerns is part of the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government. Want to know where the candidates stand on the issues? Ask them. The forums are non-partisan. For forum locations and dates, go to

[www.franklincountyconsortium.org](http://www.franklincountyconsortium.org).

**"In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation."**

- U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*