



THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

Please forward to:

Pastors, Associate Pastors, Deacons, Liturgy Teams, Pro-Life Committees, Social Ministry/ Social Concerns Committees, Religious Education and Youth Ministry Leaders, and other Parish Leadership Groups

Four or five times each year, the calendar offers us a month with FIVE Sundays. Our newly formed Archdiocesan **Global Solidarity Team** has decided to take advantage of these “extra” Sundays, by focusing on a particular social justice issue quarterly, when they occur. Our own “Catholic Social Teaching” will provide the grounding for each issue that is addressed.

The Global Solidarity Team

*of the Office of Catholic Social Justice Ministry, Archdiocese of Hartford,
Cordially invites your parish to participate in the first*

Fifth Sunday Global Solidarity Project

January 29, 2012

The team has chosen the issue of “**Human Trafficking**” as our first focus issue for several reasons. The guest speaker at the OCSJM Annual Dinner in October, 2011 painted a compelling picture of the crisis that Human Trafficking has become, both internationally and in the US. It is not surprising that Human Trafficking was a major concern for Pope John Paul II, and it continues to be so for Pope Benedict XVI, the US Catholic Bishops, members of various Catholic coalitions against human trafficking, and for President Obama, who has declared this month of January to be “Human Trafficking Prevention Month.”

What is Human Trafficking? *It is the exploitation of a person through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.*

In this liturgical season of “Ordinary Time,” the issue of Human Trafficking is anything but “ordinary.” And yet, as horrible as it is, it is more prevalent than many of us might imagine, even here in the United States.

Approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. 14,500-17,500 individuals are trafficked into the US each year. (Department of State Statistics) It is estimated that world-wide, as of 2009, profits from human trafficking were at \$32 billion, and they continue to grow.

Enclosed/attached you will find: suggested prayers, bulletin quotes, a bulletin insert/handout, and web links to Church teaching and resources. We invite you to share the packet with the leaders and committees in your parish, and to make this information available to your parish community.

Many thanks for anything you can do to raise awareness of this important human rights issue. Please feel free to contact OCSJM for more information or assistance at (203) 777-7279.

Sincerely,

The Archdiocesan Global Solidarity Team

Mary O’Brien, Coordinator of the OCSJM Global Solidarity Initiative

