Who We Are—What We Do

We are an office of the Archdiocese, founded in 1968, providing leadership development, education and faith formation, rooted in Catholic social teaching. Our efforts work to enhance the quality of life within parishes by concretely addressing the needs of the poor and vulnerable through parish-based outreach. We work closely with pastors, deacons, parish leaders and volunteers to build the capacity of our Archdiocesan community to act in meaningful ways to recognize the rights and dignity of all people.

OCSJM Board of Directors 2017

Katie Byrnes — President
Gail Thibaudau Bellucci - Vice President
Louis Terzo — Secretary
Deacon Edwin Lopez — Treasurer
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Barbara Carpenter
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Rev. Thomas Shepard
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Philip Walker, Esq.

OCSJM Staff 2017

Lynn Campbell — Executive Director
Agnes Dann—Administrative Assistant
Arturo Iriarte — Parish Social Ministry Coordinator
Patrick Laorden — Parish Social Ministry Coordinator

Volunteer Leaders

Cathy Elia—Cooperative Parish Sharing Committee Chair
Ana Landskron—Hispanic Community Core Leader
Mary O’Brien — CRS Fair Trade Ambassador
Deacon Tom Breen—CRS Global Fellow
Deacon Don Smith—CRS Global Fellow

2017 Statement of Activities

Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017

Donations, Program Revenue and Other Income

Unrestricted Donations  $210,260
Archbishop’s Annual Appeal $146,305
Associates for Justice  $63,955
Restricted Donations  $352,537
Burial Fund  $20,000
CCHD  $240,824
CPS  $91,712
Program Revenue  $126,500
Other Income  $7,107
TOTAL  $696,404

Disbursements, Expenses and Reserves

Grant Disbursements  $395,206
Program Expenses  $238,633
Admin Expenses  $114,642
Change in Revenue  -$52,077
TOTAL  $696,404

2017 National Grant Awardees
Naugatuck Valley Project

2017 Local Grant Awardees
Keep the Promise
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, New Haven

2017 Special Thanks for Financial Support

Individual Support through our Associates for Justice Campaign: $63,955.00—includes 128 individuals (28 priests) and 2 parishes.

AND TO THESE CORPORATE SPONSORS:

Catholic Relief Services
St. Francis Hospital
Webster Bank
Coney, Scully and Dowling

16 Parishes supported us by purchasing 1 or more tables at our Annual Dinner

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One could say 2017 was a whirlwind of activity in many respects. Within the office, we filled our vacant Parish Social Ministry Coordinator position and were aided by three Univ. of St. Joseph interns. Volunteers came forth, eager to help us with our efforts to address disabili-
ties, immigration, migration, human trafficking, and environmental concerns.

Within the Archdiocese the implementation of parish restructuring took place. In our coun-
try and beyond we saw an unprecedented amount of hurricanes and other natural disas-
ters, and a growing culture of divisiveness.

During the year we used the power of storytelling to help bridge this divisiveness and promote justice. Workshops at our Annual Conference highlighted the stories of successful parish practices to build solidarity and break down divides. We shared the stories of the DREAMERS and families impacted by proposed changes to our immigration policies. Domestic workers and DACA students spoke in parish halls. We participated in the Catholic Relief Services Speaker Tour, bringing first-hand stories of the impact of CRS to our Catholic school students. At our Annual Dinner, Sr. Kathleen Erickson shared stories of immigrant women and children living in detention centers. Throughout the year we helped bring these stories to our legislators on behalf of the poor and vulnerable, advocating for justice.

This report shares some of the highlights of the year made possible by your support, prayers, and participation. We encourage you to stay connected with us through our monthly newsletter and regular Facebook posts. Thank you for being part of our shared story.

Blessings,

Lynn Campbell
Executive Director

Kathleen Byrnes
President, Board of Directors

Our Mission

The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry advances Catholic Social Teaching by educating and preparing parishes to work for social justice.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
Share the Journey
Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry
of The Archdiocese of Hartford

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

SPECIAL THANKS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Helping People Help Themselves

2017 National Grant Awardees
Naugatuck Valley Project

2017 Local Grant Awardees
Keep the Promise
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, New Haven

Our Vision

Social justice ministry will be INTEGRAL in the life of every Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Hartford

Here is what you are accomplishing with your support . . .
In 2017…
- People informed through our newsletter: 1,961
- Followed us on Facebook: 246
- Provided assistance through consultations, presentations and workshops: 4,968

People touched by our programs: 7175

Conference Calls Us to Action
Our 8th Annual Social Justice Conference brought together over 200 individuals from across the diocese and beyond. Each year we attract new attendees, and this year was no exception. Sr. Ruth Rosenbaum, founder and executive director of the Center for Reflection, Education and Action, offered a keynote which helped us further explore “Laudato Si’”. She shared her expertise on the impact of our purchasing power, and helped us recognize the power we have through our beliefs, voice, and actions.

There was energy in the air throughout the day. New relationships developed. Leadership skills were honed. Information shared. Participants left energized by Fr. Joseph Donnelly’s keynote: “What’s a Believer to do?” He spoke of the U.S. Bishops’ Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish which states: “We cannot be called truly “Catholic” unless we hear and heed the Church’s call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace.”

The conference could not happen without the support of so many volunteers who help plan the workshops, set the theme, identify speakers, and make sure everything runs smoothly the day of. We are blessed to have so many workers in the vineyard!

Acting on Immigration Concerns
In 2017 we saw an upswing in the number of families expressing their fears related to immigration. Our immigration team became vital in the dispensation of information to parishioners regarding legislative changes. Through individual consultations and several workshops we explained the changes in the DACA program, reminding people how to protect themselves, and providing reassurance to families affected by the changes. We saw several cases of deportations within the archdiocese and helped parishes assist the affected families.

Anti-immigration sentiments were also seen in the workplace. We responded to a situation from a parishioner in Meriden who lost her job assignment because she was not born in the United States. At a farm in Wallingford workers lost pay if they left the fields to use restroom facilities. We connected them with the Ecuadorian Consulate and one of our volunteer lawyers and informed them of their rights and helped address the fear of losing their job if they speak up.

Anti-immigration sentiment also reared its ugly head within CT’s General Assembly. Our immigration team discovered several bills aimed at undocumented immigrants. One such bill, would have repealed the statute allowing motor vehicle operators’ license for driving purposes only. We convened our allies from organizations and parishes to inform them of this bill and collect over 560 testimonies, and attend the public hearing. The bill died in committee. This experience involved developing the leadership skills of parishioners, helping them to connect their faith with action and teaching them organizing skills to effect change. We are grateful for the opportunities to speak in parishes, such as St. George in Guilford and St. Patrick in Collinsville, where parishioners want to better understand our Church teaching on immigration.

In 2017. . .
People touched by our programs
7175

Pope Francis is calling us to share a journey with our neighbors. Catholic Relief Services helped us do just that.

We participated in a CRS Speaker tour, bringing Cecilia Suarez Mexico native and member of CRS Mexico to visit two Catholic High Schools, the Hispanic Catechist Encuentro, and two parishes. Through her talk, she helped the students and parishioners encounter hope for the poor and vulnerable. CRS’s work improves the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations through peace-building, human rights and community development.

Mexico is one of over 100 countries where CRS works on behalf of the U.S. Catholic Church. Your Lenten sacrifices through CRS Rice Bowl makes their work possible. Thank you!

In Solidarity with Domestic Workers
Connecticut’s population is aging at an increasingly rapid rate. But the supply of homecare workers remains well below what is needed to enable this growing population to age with dignity, largely because the poor pay, lack of benefits, onerous working conditions, and lack of training lead to a 50%-60% annual turnover within this sector in our state.

In response, The Naugatuck Valley Project (NVP) and the Brazilian Worker Center, both Catholic Campaign for Human Development funded groups, created a CT statewide Home Healthcare effort to win better home healthcare for seniors through better home healthcare jobs. We, along with the CT Catholic Conference, have been actively engaged in a statewide effort. Together we are building power and support to address the needed expansions and enforcement for new protections through a full Domestic Worker Bill of Rights.

In Catholic teaching, work has an inherent dignity because work helps us not only to meet our needs and provide for our families, but also to contribute to the common good. People need work not only to pay bills, but also to express their human dignity and to enrich and strengthen the larger community (Guadium et Spes, no. 34). If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected — the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative (Sharing Catholic Teaching, USCCB, 1999).