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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

January 2023

Advancing Catholic social teaching by educating, preparing, and animating parishes to work for social justice

From the Director

Dear Friends,

In 2019, I had the opportunity to meet and hear from a bishop whose diocese lies on our southern border. Four years later his message remains relevant. He expressed concern that what the bishops have said is often politicalized, so I will not use his name. I would like to share some of this thoughts based upon his experience:

- “Stay in Mexico” policy – causing asylum seekers to experience more hardship; drug lords and traffickers can more easily prey on the asylum seekers.
- Migrants and refugees are all the world’s homeless.
- The right to protect the border is not an absolute right.
- Children have a right to have their case heard.
- In the face of the migrant we see the face of Christ.
- Studies have shown “enforcement only polices do not work.” Immigration laws must be coupled with humane policies.
- Language being used dehumanizes the immigrant – based on fear. Jesus said fear is useless. What is needed is love.
- Jesus said our language should reflect a God of love not a God of fear.
- No human being is “illegal”; they are without documents or papers.
- We can fix this – we put a man on the moon!

A wise man, this bishop! To learn about Catholic social teachings as related to migration and refugees visit the [Justice for Immigrants website](#). To aid the work of migrant ministry, consider supporting [Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley](#)

Peace,

Lynn Campbell



Break the Cycle of Poverty

Join the U.S. Bishops, the [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) (CCHD), and the Catholic community in the United States in taking up Pope Francis' challenge to live in solidarity with the poor! You can [sign up](#) to have daily reflections emailed to you during January, Poverty Awareness Month.

Facts to Ponder

- Federal Poverty Level Income for a Family of Two: \$23,803
- CT Poverty rate: 10%
- CT Overall Homelessness Population – Point-in-Time Count 2021: 2,594

A key element of breaking the cycle of poverty is empowering low-income and vulnerable communities to learn how to raise their own voices and practice self-determination. In Catholic social teaching subsidiarity is paired with solidarity. One way we practice solidarity is by supporting the work of CCHD-funded organizations that empower people of faith and good will to create social change. Find more information about **CCHD** in our Archdiocese on our [webpage](#).

[Visit the Poverty Awareness Month Webpage](#)

Did you know?

Children ages 0-12 that have no legal immigration status and household income does not exceed 323% of the Federal Poverty Level can apply for Husky Health?

Share the news! Downloadable handouts in English and Spanish are available on our [website](#)

Follow [Husky 4 Immigrants](#) Campaign to expand HUSKY to our whole immigrant community.



January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month



Learn What YOU can do to End Human Trafficking

We invite you to join us in commemorating National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month - decreed by Presidential Proclamation since 2010. We urge you to learn more and participate in the following anti-trafficking efforts.

- See the [Human Trafficking Section](#) of our website and watch our PowerPoint Presentation – then share the info through your social media outlets
- See the [Human Trafficking Section](#) of the Justice for Immigrants Website
- [Pray](#) to End Human Trafficking. Download one of our prayer resources.
- Contact our office to schedule an awareness presentation
- Include an intercession in your parish: *For an end to human trafficking, that the dignity of all of God's children will be protected.*

February 8th is the [Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita](#), who was enslaved and received her freedom with the support of the Cannossian Sisters. The Catholic Church has designated her Feast as [World day of Prayer, Reflection, and Action against Human Trafficking](#)

- Pray our [Novena](#) to St. Josephine Bakhita to end Human Trafficking
- Follow and share our [Novena YouTube videos](#): [OCSJM - YouTube](#)
- **Join us** at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 280 Brook St., Rocky Hill, on **Feb. 8, 7:00 PM** for an evening of prayer and reflection. All welcome!

[Download the Poster for this Event Here](#)

A Listening Church



Pope Francis recently called the church to a new [synodal process](#), one that invites all the People of God to walk together, side by side, along the same road towards renewal in the Spirit and the good of all people.

An essential part of this ongoing process is the active listening to those who have often been pushed to the margins of society, including those living in poverty and victims of injustice: "We must personally reach out to the peripheries, to those who have left the Church, those who rarely or never practice their faith, those who experience poverty or

marginalization, refugees, the excluded, the voiceless, etc." ([Vademecum no. 4.1](#))
(Something our CCHD groups do very well!)

Members of our nationally funded **Catholic Campaign for Human Development ("CCHD")** groups in CT were among those who had an opportunity to participate in this synod.

Prayerfully read and reflect on [CCHD's Synod report, Walking in Solidarity with those on the Margins](#), submitted as part of the Diocesan Stage of the 2021-2024 Synod. How will you continue to participate in the invitation to become a listening Church?

The [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) is the national anti-poverty program of the Catholic Bishops in the United States.

Catholic Relief Services Caring for One Planet, One Family

This Fall, Catholic Relief Services has launched a new initiative called ["Caring for One Planet, One Family"](#) that integrates global solidarity and overcoming global poverty with integral ecology and climate awareness:



"Farmers are losing their harvests. Families are losing their homes. Entire communities are losing their land and being forced to find new places and new ways to live. **As climate change pushes millions of people into poverty, our faith calls us to push back.**

"Your voice — your talents and gifts — your prayers and support are needed to help our sisters and brothers vulnerable to climate change and, ultimately, to end global poverty."

[PLEDGE ONLINE to join this movement of people working together for transformative lasting change.](#) When you [SIGN UP](#), you will receive a free, downloadable [Prayer for Climate Change](#) so you can pray for our global family right away.

“The Church’s deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable. For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.” Deus Caritas Est, #25

Deus caritas est is the first encyclical written by Pope Benedict XV in 2005.



St. Martin de Porres Patron Saint of Social Justice

This month will see the start of a new column entitled “Saints and Social Justice” in which we will highlight the life and works of Saints who have had a notable impact on matters of social justice.

This month, as we also honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we recognize St. Martin de Porres, who is the patron saint of social justice, racial harmony and mixed-race people. Born in Lima Peru in 1579, de Porres eventually became the first black person to be canonized as a Saint.

The illegitimate child of a Spanish grandee (nobleman) and a black woman, St. Martin met with much disdain due to his birth and racial status. Despite the prejudice he endured, St. Martin devoted his life to the neediest of our society. At the young age of 15, St. Martin became a lay monastic (oblate) with the Dominicans, caring for the sick and infirmed. He later became a full brother within the order of the Dominicans.

St. Martin was known for his devotion to caring for the sick and the poor of all races, eventually opening a hospital and orphanage. Slavery, a common practice in many countries during that period saw countless enslaved Africans arrive in Lima. St. Martin worked tirelessly to help those sent against their will adapt and adjust to their new lives. He was also recognized for his compassion and caring for animals.

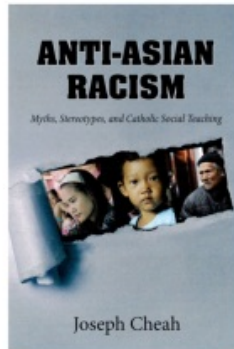
St. Martin passed away in 1639. He was credited with numerous miracles of healing within the community he served. He was beatified in 1837 by Pope Gregory XVI and canonized in 1962 by Pope John XXIII. Despite being born into a world of hate and prejudice, he instead chose to view all as children of God, offering love to those in most need.

To you Saint Martin de Porres we prayerfully lift up our hearts filled with serene confidence and devotion. Mindful of your unbounded and helpful charity to all levels of society and also of your meekness and humility of heart, we offer our petitions to you. Pour out upon our families the precious gifts of your solicitous and generous intercession; show to the people of every race and every color the paths of unity and of justice; implore from our Father in heaven the coming of his kingdom, so that through mutual benevolence in God, men may increase the fruits of grace and merit the rewards of eternal life. Amen

*The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry
of the Archdiocese of Hartford presents*

*Anti-Asian Racism:
Myths, Stereotypes, and Catholic
Social Teaching*

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM via Zoom



*Join us for A Conversation with
the author:
Rev. Joseph Cheah, OSM*

Registration is free but required

To Register go to catholicsocialjustice.org



*If you wish to purchase the book contact
Orbis Books, 1-800-258-5838 and mention
the promotion code "MAD"*

Financial Assistance to Enhance Parish Social Ministry

Hunger Relief - Parish Grants



Is your parish food bank running low? Is your parish making meals for a shelter? Thanks to the generous participation in Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program, we have funds available for immediate release. Twenty-five percent of CRS Rice Bowl funds stays in the Archdiocese to be

used for hunger and poverty alleviation programs. The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry distributes the funds in the form of a grant. Applications and instructions are available for download at: <http://www.catholicsocialjustice.org/catholic-relief-services.html> or call the Office for assistance, (860) 242-5573.

Social Justice and Racial Justice Capacity Building Grants

Designed to empower the parish's efforts to educate and raise awareness of social concerns and strengthen their resolve to work for justice. Sample projects include:

- Purchase of liturgical art to feature Black Catholics and greater cultural diversity
- Film or book discussions with a social justice theme
- Speaker series with a social justice theme
- Establishing a Care for Creation Team and enhancing parish sustainability practices

Grant materials are available at: [Grants \(catholic-social-justice.org\)](https://catholic-social-justice.org) For additional information contact [Lynn Campbell](#). Grants in the range of \$250 - \$5,000 will be available to parishes on a rolling basis until the funding depletes.

These grants are made possible through the generosity of our Associates for Justice donors who have given directly to the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry in support of its mission of advancing Catholic social teaching by educating, preparing and animating parishes to work for social justice.

Creation Care Teams – Time to get started!



The Catholic Church has spoken out about the need to care for our common home — God's creation — since Pope Paul VI in 1971. Pope Francis' recent encyclical *Laudato Si'* speaks of an added urgency to act now. The Vatican kicked off a seven-year plan in 2021 to mobilize efforts across Catholic organizations with its [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#).

It's time to take action together! A Creation Care Team is critical to supporting Pope Francis' Laudato Si' Action Platform.

The [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) is available to help you get started. We encourage you watch this [YouTube video](#). Paz Artaza-Regan, Catholic Climate Covenant Program Manager, discusses the many creation care resources available from the Covenant to help get a team started, including meeting materials and sustainable facility suggestions, as well as how to advocate for faith-informed climate policies. Creation Care Teams are designed for parishes, schools and religious communities to work as a group to address climate change.

On Care for Our Common Home - Laudato Si'



Have you seen *The Letter*? This documentary was produced in collaboration with the **Laudato Si' Movement** and tells the stories of five people, representing themes from Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

You are invited to [view the movie](#) (on YouTube) at your leisure and then join **Mercy by the Sea** for an online reflection and discussion on **Monday January 30, 2023, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM** The program will feature special guest **Dr. Lorna Gold**, who accompanied participants on their trip to the Vatican. Lorna Gold is also Chair of the Laudato Si' Movement which is behind the project. Register for this free, virtual program [here](#).

Veterans for Peace's (VFP) Golden Rule Sailboat in Connecticut Spring 2023 needs your help

Recent events in Ukraine and Russia point out the threatened use of nuclear weapons is no longer a deterrent to war, but a threat used by some to continue war.

The VFP Golden Rule sailboat will be arriving in the city of Bridgeport on May 31st, and will be stopping in New Haven, Hartford and New London before departing June 11th. Beginning in Minneapolis/St. Paul last September, Spring 2023 in Connecticut will mark the half way point in its 15 month, 11,000 mile journey stopping in over 100 port cities.

Through presentations and events by the crew of the Golden Rule, Connecticut citizens will have the opportunity to learn facts about nuclear weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and much more. This will help citizens carry the message of peace, trust and nonviolence to our politicians, and not one of fear, mistrust and violence. **Or as Bishop Rosazza said, quoting Pope Francis recently, "Peace and international stability are incompatible with attempts to build upon the fear of mutual destruction...."**

Members of VFP and supporters will give presentations to parishes, faith groups and schools covering the exciting history of the Golden Rule, that started in 1958 when it sailed to the Marshall Islands in an attempt to prevent nuclear testing, and how that same spirit of peace through action is alive today.

Before educational events can be made by the crew in the Spring, fund raisers and events need to be planned now.

Can you help?

Anything you wanted to know about the Golden Rule Project can be seen at <http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org/> including a link to the Facebook page showing day to day progress.

Please email or call Jack Wentland at jackwentland@gmail.com, 869-888-2502. Text message preferred.

Submitted by our friends at Veterans for Peace, CT

Light up the dark
END CHILD TRAFFICKING!

Save the Date!

THE ANTI CHILD TRAFFICKING FORUM
January 26, 2023, from 6:30-8 PM
At The Silas Deane Middle School
Wethersfield, CT
You can help. GET INVOLVED:

Listen and learn from panel of local experts on child trafficking. Children are being trafficked IN YOUR AREA - in your children's rooms, and on their phones!

Brought to you by:



LOVE146
END CHILD TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION



More Resources

Faith Matters: Reading the signs of the times and nuclear disarmament, Bishop Peter A. Rosazza, May 1, 2020

https://www.nhregister.com/religion/article/Faith-Matters-Reading-the-signs-of-the-times-and-15228985.php?fbclid=IwAR2uF1FuuFMYQWqWybgcHmWXXKryMjiclCcZH_OUnrT3M_1NBttuMLrVhOGk

[Local Pregnancy Centers - a list compiled by the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office](#)



VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#)

[DONATE HERE](#)

"Your support helps keep social ministry a vital part of the Archdiocese."

Visit our website