

You are receiving this email because of your interest in the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

April 2018

Para español haga [clic aqui](#)

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

CALENDAR

April

April 15 - 2pm
Mass for persecuted Christians. St. Mary Church, 5 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven

April 17, 21 and 26
Parish Ambassador Corps Info events.
[Register here.](#)

April 22-Earth Day

April 26 - 6pm
Naugatuck Valley Project - Keeping Waterbury Hospital community based. St. John Episcopal Church on the Green, Waterbury CT

May 15 7-8:30pm
Common Ground, Holy Ground-Interreligious Dialogue Event
Beth David Synagogue

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Like us on Facebook](#)

From the Director

The past month has been a flurry of activity. In Connecticut several bills which would have a direct impact on human dignity, been heard by committees. Some such as the Assisted Suicide Bill, died in committee. Others, such as an increase in wages for workers who care for elderly and disabled state residents in their homes, did pass.

Our CCHD funded groups have been very active at the Capitol. Members of Keep the Promise have been sharing their personal experiences on mental health and care concerns. As part of the Statewide Home Healthcare Justice Coalition, we worked with Naugatuck Valley Project and the Brazilian Worker Center to protect the CT Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights.

Two casino bills have made it out of committee. Bill 5306 would authorize a study be done on the social and economic costs to Casinos in CT. Bill 5305 is an Act concerning a request for proposal to develop another casino in CT. The [CT Catholic Public Affairs Conference](#) offers a [Statement Opposing Casino Gambling](#). The Legislative Session ends on May 9, 2018. There is still time to make your voice heard.

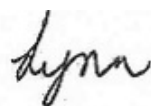
As the U.S. Bishops state in "Faithful Citizenship", "The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith. It is a basic part of the mission we have received from Jesus Christ..."

In Faith,

FOLLOW US ON 

View our videos on 

VISIT OUR
[WEBSITE](#)



Lynn Campbell, Executive Director

Happy Easter



A Personal Invitation from Archbishop Leonard P. Blair

"Come pray with us for our persecuted brothers and sisters in the Middle East"

**Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 2:00pm
Saint Mary Church
5 Hillhouse Ave, New Haven CT**

Archbishop Blair will be the principal celebrant for this Mass in prayerful solidarity with persecuted Christians in the Middle East. Bishop Bawai Soro, of the Chaldean Eparchy of Mar Addai of Toronto, will concelebrate and deliver the homily.

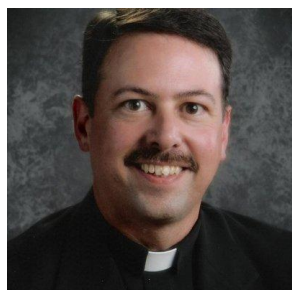


Save the Date

ANNUAL BISHOP PETER ROSAZZA SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

"Rooted in Faith: Bringing Social Justice Home"

June 9, 2018 8:00am to 3:30pm
St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield CT



Our Closing Keynote Speaker will be **Fr. Stephen Sledesky**. Pastor of St. George Church, Guilford. Fr. Sledesky's talk will be: "Home is Where the Heart Is". Jesus calls us to continual conversion, to 'change our hearts' and inspire others to change as well. The world needs that change, but the world is so big! Fr. Sledesky will encourage us to start at home, grow our own hearts, our families' hearts, our parishes' hearts, and our towns' hearts ... to reflect Jesus' call.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Jubilee for Justice



This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our office in 1968! We are commemorating this milestone as the "**Jubilee for Justice**". Throughout the year, we will be highlighting some of our activities through newsletter articles, photos, and video. We invite you to participate in "**50 Acts of Justice**," and encourage you to be a part of this celebration by sharing stories from your own parish social ministries.

This month we are featuring Claire Dalidowitz. Claire served two terms on our Board of Directors and is also a past president. She is a parishioner at St. Josephine Bakhita Church in Rocky Hill. Claire shares her memories of working with us at a time when we were undergoing strategic planning, taking on a new mission, vision, and name for the Archdiocese. Watch her reflection [here](#).

WELCOME !!



We would like to welcome and introduce you to new board member Jennifer O'Neill. Jennifer is currently the Director of Confirmation, Youth Ministry and Adult Faith Formation at St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough and a third year student in the Catholic Biblical Studies program. *"I have been working with teens for the past ten years at St. John Fisher. I have a strong commitment not only to social justice issues but to exposing the teens I work alongside to the various organizations that serve our most vulnerable, including the Catholic Worker House, House of Bread, South Park Shelter and Immacare shelter"*. Jennifer was born in

Massachusetts and attended Wheaton College. She currently live with her husband, Tom in Marlborough, Connecticut. They are the proud parents of three daughters, Elizabeth, Caroline and Victoria, and rescue dog, Harmony. Welcome Jennifer!

CRS Parish Ambassador Corps-Ministros de la Solidaridad

We are excited to launch CRS Parish Ambassador Corps in our Archdiocese. Are you interested in becoming part of a nationwide CRS-ambassador community?

Inspired by Pope Francis, Catholics across the United States hunger for new ways to live their faith-to encounter and respond to excluded and suffering people around the world. A passion for mission inspires Catholics, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to put the teachings of the Church into practice by energizing their parish communities to have a global impact. To help Catholics answer this call, Catholic Relief Services has developed the CRS Parish Ambassador Corps.



This leadership development and spiritual formation opportunity offers hands-on training in skills for effective parish engagement. Learn more by [watching our video](#) and attending one of these informational events:

- Tuesday April 17, 7pm, St. Ann Church, Milford
- Saturday April 21, 9:30am, St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield

- Thursday April 26, 7pm, Holy Angels Church, Meriden

To register, please call us at 860-242-5573 or email patrick.laorden@aohct.org

Rice Bowl Grants Available



Thank you to all who participated in CRS Rice Bowl! Did you know that 25% of the funds remain in our Archdiocese? The money is distributed through mini grants for hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Several parishes use the funds to supplement their food pantries, parish gardens, or emergency food distribution. The Spiritual Care Department of St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury is using their grant to purchase grocery cards from the grocery store across the street from the hospital for distribution to those families who are in need of immediate hunger relief.

CRS Rice Bowl grant applications are available on [our website](#). The grant deadline has been extended. Contact us at 860-242-5573 for more information.

Earth Day 2018: Reduce Single-Use Plastic!

"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who came after us, to children who are now growing up" - (Laudato Si, no. 16)

Here are some great resources as you go about preparing for Earth Day on April 22nd and planning Care for Creation events.



- [OCSJM Pinterest Page](#) for ideas on how to share the message of Laudato Si' with youth and young adults
- [OCSJM Speaker's Bureau](#) to connect with individuals to speak on the theological, environmental, and practical dimensions of Laudato Si' at your parish
- [Liturgy, Prayer, and Spiritual](#) resources from the Global Catholic Climate Covenant to integrate Laudato Si' into the Mass and prayer services
- [Books](#) and [Videos](#) suggestions from the Global Catholic Climate Covenant and the Catholic Climate Covenant to engage Laudato Si' through group study and discussion

To stay up to date with current legislative issues on the environment, consider signing up for the [monthly newsletter from the Catholic Climate Covenant](#)!

Naugatuck Valley Project Event



**It is time to put the
"COMMUNITY"**

Back in Waterbury Hospital

Join the Naugatuck Valley Project in standing up for quality affordable hospital and medical care now and for years to come.

Thursday, April 26 - 6:00pm

St. John's Episcopal Church on the Green - Waterbury

Call the Naugatuck Valley Project at 203-574-2410 if you need childcare or a ride to the meeting

**Es la hora de volver a poner
a la "COMUNIDAD" en
Waterbury Hospital**

Ponte de pie con NVP para atención hospitalaria y médica que es excelente en calidad y asequible para todos ahora y en los años venideros.

El Jueves, 26 de Abril - 6:00pmM

St. John's Episcopal Church on the Green

llame al Naugatuck Valley Project al 203-574-2410 para cuidado de niños o transportación a

50 Acts of Justice

Brake the Cycle of Poverty - an OCSJM ministry team

Looking back at the last few years in commemoration of our 50th Jubilee, we'd like to share a memory from 2010. Each year, Brake the Cycle does an extensive bike ride throughout Connecticut, stopping at different parishes to educate others on poverty and engaging in different works of charity. Bishop Peter Rosazza joined the team at the finale of one of their rides.



Please continue sending any photos and stories to Patrick at Patrick.Laorden@aohct.org.

The Farm Bill 2018: Urgent Action Needed Now! Isidore and Maria, Patron Saints of Farmers - Feast Day, May 15th.



Every five years, Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill, a comprehensive piece of legislation that influences every aspect of the food and agricultural system of our nation. The current Farm Bill was signed into law in 2014, and will expire on September 30, 2018. In Congress, review and debate around the new Farm Bill has been ongoing for the last year or so in Committee. Draft language is expected to be completed sometime this Spring, followed by floor votes in the House and Senate before the September deadline.

Earlier this year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Rural Life, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul came together to compose a [letter to the members](#) of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, which highlighted priorities for U.S. food and agriculture policy to be included in the 2018 Farm Bill.

These organizations asked that the following be priorities of the 2018 Farm Bill: Domestic Hunger and Nutrition; International Food Security and Development; Subsidies that would include a Safety Net for Smaller-Scale Farmers; Rural Development; and Conservation. Catholic Rural Life reminds us that without our advocacy efforts, the Farm Bill is in danger of bending to corporate interests and "big ag" enthusiasts, usually to the detriment of the environment. We are called to "feed the world," and the Church blesses such a vocation. One in nine people around the world does not have enough to eat, which includes 15.6 million households in the United States. Please log onto the website of Catholics Confront Global Poverty, in order to forward an [action alert](#) to your members of Congress, and tell your representatives to protect access and funding for the essential programs of the Farm Bill 2018. Raise your voice to prevent and end hunger; or search Catholics Confront Global Poverty's Action Center.

Pray

*" You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them.
That's how prayer works."*

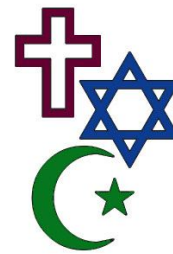
Pope Francis



Common Ground, Holy Ground - Interreligious Dialogue Event

Common Ground, Holy Ground - Interreligious Dialogue Event

Tuesday, May 15th
Beth David Synagogue, West Hartford
7:00-8:30 PM
Open to the Public



Join us for a continuation of the interreligious dialogue from Monday, March 19th. The evening dialogue will feature panelists from St. Thomas the Apostle in West Hartford, Beth David Synagogue in West Hartford, and the Farmington Valley American Muslim Center in Avon. We will continue exploring the common moral, spiritual, and sociocultural values found in Christianity, Islam, and Judaism and how these commonalities can help us foster peace and solidarity in our shared pursuit to live compassionately. For more information call Patrick Laorden at (860)-242-5573!

Rooting Youth Service Experience: A Practical Guide

Rooting Youth Service Experiences:
A Practical Guide



We are pleased to announce a new resource to help integrate social justice into youth service experiences! Our office, in collaboration with the Office for Education, Evangelization, and Catechesis, developed "Rooting Youth Service Experience: A Practical Guide" to aid parish catechetical leaders, Confirmation coordinators, Catholic school educators, youth ministers, and high school campus ministers to develop meaningful and comprehensive service experiences for youth. The document can be accessed [here](#). There will be three workshops to help supplement the resource on the following dates:

- Monday June 25, 2018 - St. Bartholomew Church, Manchester - 9:30am-12:00pm
- Saturday, June 30, 2018 - St. Ann Shrine, Waterbury - 10:00am-2:00pm
- Monday, August 20, 2018 - St. Thomas the Apostle, West Hartford - 6:00pm-8:30pm

To register for one of the workshops, click [here](#). We hope to provide you with practical guidance for planning and leading youth through meaningful serving learning experiences!

Book Review

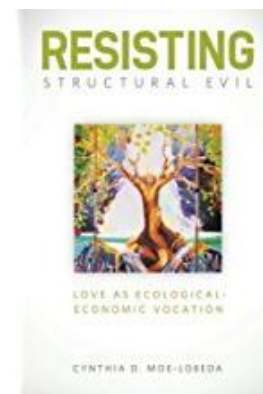
Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation

Reviewed by Lynn Campbell and Bishop Peter Rosazza

At our 2017 Annual Dinner in her keynote address Sr. Kathleen Erickson recommended the book "Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation", by Cynthia D. Moe-Lobeda. Bishop Rosazza and I followed her recommendation and read the book. We found the book to be full of wisdom and at the same time deeply challenging.

We all have complicity in structural injustice. We may not realize it, but when our eyes are opened, we become uncomfortable. It is not that we who are economically privileged do not care about the well-being of others. It is that we don't see that the abject poverty of many is connected to our overconsumption and to the public and corporate policies and practices that enable it. As Moe-Lobeda concludes, "If that link did not exist, then charitable relief and assistance would be adequate response to extreme poverty."

Written before Pope Francis' "Laudato Si", this book pulls together many of the elements Francis wants us to connect to live a moral and faith filled life. Our Christian faith demands that we look at the interconnections in our world between consumption and consumerism to ecological destruction and global poverty. We highly recommend this book. It's not a light read, but it is worth reading.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

According to the National Institute of Health, in a given year about one in four people have a diagnosable mental disorder, such as depression, bipolar disease, schizophrenia, among others. One in 17 people has a severe mental illness. These mental health challenges



encompass biological, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of the individuals affected. These challenges also impact the lives of the person's family. Due to the stigma associated with mental illness, people with mental illness and their families often feel isolated from their faith community and thus isolated from God. As a faith community, we are called to support individuals and their families through their time of crisis when the illness first occurs and in the ensuing life with and ongoing recovery from it. The spiritual dimension is critical to the recovery process. We can offer spiritual comfort and practical support of their physical needs. In justice, our advocacy is needed to address stigma and the resulting discrimination that can occur.

This article is sourced from the [National Catholic Partnership on Disability](#). Another great resource is the [Mental Health Ministry Support for Catholic Parishes](#).

Current Parish Social Ministry Resources

LINKS to assist you in helping our young people of faith bring their voice to gun violence

- Blog by D. Scott Miller: [Following Parkland - What's Next?](#)
- From the USCCB:
 - [Statement by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo](#), President of the SCCB, on the shooting in Parkland. (February 14, 2018)
 - [Domestic Justice and Education Chairmen Urge Concrete Actions to Address Scourge of Gun Violence](#) (March 5, 2018)
 - [Confronting A Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action](#) (Pastoral Message of the U.S. Catholic Bishops - 1994)
 - [Life and Dignity of the Human Person](#) (Short description of this Catholic social teaching along with a list of relevant Scripture passages and a "Tradition" section that explains this teaching.)
- From CRUX:
 - [U.S. bishops call for concrete action on crisis of gun violence in America](#)
- From the Ignatian Solidarity Network:
 - [In Response to the Act of Violence in Parkland, FL](#) (An extensive listing of resources on many aspects of this shooting and Catholic teaching and writing on it.)