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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

April 2019

Para español haga [clic aqui](#)

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

CALENDAR

April

April 27th 9-2pm
Environmental Justice
Conference, "The
Power of Positive
Change: Bringing
Laudato Si' to Life,"

St. James Church, Rocky
Hill. [Register here](#)

MAY

May 11th 1:30-4:00 pm
The Collaborative
Center for Justice 20th
Anniversary
Celebration.

Holy Family Retreat
Center, 303 Tunsix Rd.,
West Hartford

June

June 8th 8:00am-3:00
pm
10th Annual Bishop
Peter Rosazza Social
Justice Conference

Pastoral Center,
Bloomfield
[Register here](#)

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From the Director

Dear Friends,

I'm always amazed by the wonderful things that go on in parishes during Lent. Just this past weekend we brought Thomas Awiapo from Ghana to visit Catholic schools with a stop at Sacred Heart Church in Bloomfield to join parishioners for a simple supper. On Saturday St. John Fischer Parish held a Catholic Relief Services Helping Hands event, where over 150 volunteers of all ages packaged over 23,000 meals to be sent to Burkina Faso. Also on Saturday, Christ the Bread of Life Church held a parish retreat which included a Global Prayer Walk. These are just some examples of parishes connecting the local and global in ministry this Lent.

Charitable and justice activities provide an opportunity not only to help others, but also to reflect on our relationship with others and with God. Lent is a time to go deeper in our faith, and come out different than we started on Ash Wednesday. How can I be in a right relationship with the poor? How do I live a life-long love for Christ, who is present in everyone, and especially those who are most vulnerable?

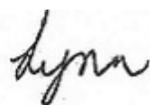
Let us pray for each other as we conclude this Lenten journey.

Wishing you a wonderful Easter,

FOLLOW US ON 

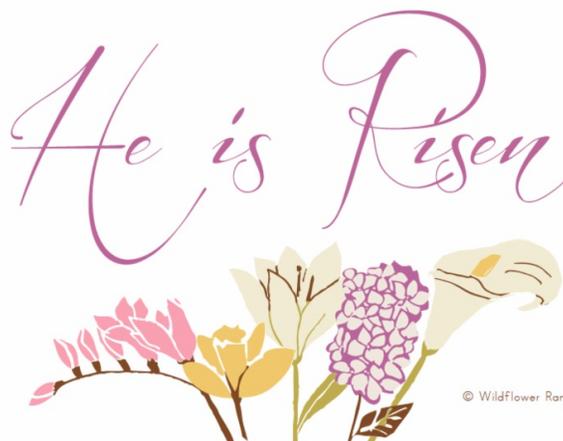
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Lynn Campbell, Executive Director

Blessed Easter



Meet New Board Member Sr. Mary Ellen Burns, ASCJ



Sr. Mary Ellen Burns is the Executive Director of Apostle Immigrant Services and a member of the Congregation of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. A native of Connecticut, she was a teacher for seven years before attending Yale Law School, from which she graduated in 1989. After graduation, she worked for 19 years in New York City, helping clients preserve their housing and public benefits. In 2008, she returned to Connecticut to become the first executive director of Apostle Immigrant Services in New Haven, which provides immigration legal services and educational support for immigrants and family members. She got to know OCSJM staff and programs when, from 2009 - 2016, both offices were located in the same building!

WELCOME Sr. Mary Ellen!

Help Bring Justice to Domestic Workers!

Contact Your Elected Officials to Support H.B. 6931

Connecticut needs a Domestic Workers Bill of Rights - to remove exclusions from Labor laws vested in slavery & Jim Crow and do right for over 40,000 workers in CT

H.B. 6931 modifies current wage laws:

- Allowing a person employed "in the domestic service in or about a private home" to be able to be paid minimum wage

- Requiring employers of domestic workers to provide a written job description
- Extending discrimination and harassment protections to all domestic workers
- Including domestic workers in the groups of workers who cannot be compelled to work 7 days per calendar week



Information on the bill can be found [here](#)
 Please call or send an email to your State Senator or Representative urging them to vote **"YES" on H.B. 6931**. Find your legislators [here](#)

Talking Points.

- Share your story of caring for a parent, child, neighbor - soon it will be us needing care!
- We stand in solidarity with the worker - we are concerned for the customer **and** the caregiver
- Explain the keynotes of the bill (as noted above)
- Ask: "Can we count on your vote for this bill?"

The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry is a member of the Connecticut Domestic Worker Justice Campaign, working with other organizations and faith communities. We believe good jobs yield great care.

Human Trafficking Task Force in Action!



On March 23, we joined members of The Underground CT and distributed Human Trafficking Hotline posters to businesses on the Berlin Turnpike. It's a way of educating businesses and helping them adhere to the new law.

Pursuant to Public Act 17-32, An Act Concerning Human Trafficking, the operator of any establishment that provides massage services for a fee, publicly or privately operated highway service plaza, hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging, public airport, acute care hospital emergency room, urgent care facility, station offering passenger rail service or passenger bus service, business that sells or offers for sale materials or promotes performances intended for an adult-only audience, employment agency, establishment that provides services performed by a nail technician, and each person who holds an on-premises

consumption permit for the retail sale of alcoholic liquor pursuant to title 30, shall post notice concerning services available to victims of human trafficking.

Contact [Lynn Campbell](#) if you are interested in organizing a group effort to distribute letters in your community.

Welcome new Catholic Relief Services Parish Ambassadors

Growing a Globally-Minded Community

We are pleased to welcome Our Lady of Mercy, Plainville and Ss. Isidore and Maria Glastonbury to our [Catholic Relief Services \(CRS\) Parish Ambassadors](#) community! Launched last October, the CRS Parish Ambassadors initiative is a growing movement across select dioceses in the U.S. to strengthen the Church's global



mission, offering leadership development and spiritual formation for the laity. On Saturday, April 6th, we hosted our Spring Retreat where current and new parish ambassadors connected. They shared their experiences starting global solidarity initiatives at their parish such as establishing a refugee outreach ministry, engaging the issue of human trafficking, and utilizing CRS programs such as Helping Hands (a meal-packing event to send food to countries faced with dire challenges of hunger). We are blessed with our twenty-eight commissioned parish ambassadors from fourteen parishes in our Archdiocese!

Join us



THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC
SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY
Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

**Tenth Annual Bishop Peter Rosazza
Social Justice Conference**
Saturday, June 8, 2019

Keynote Speaker:

Shawn Duncan from the Lupton Center

12 Workshop Topics
Networking and Conversation
Exhibitors from Across the Region
Prayer and Music
Workshops in English and Spanish
Catholic Mass

Dr. Shawn Duncan, Director of The Lupton Center, will offer a keynote to raise awareness of the need to change the existing "meeting basic needs" paradigm to one that is about seeking Shalom. Dr. Shawn Duncan is the Director of The Lupton Center, a training and consulting nonprofit in Atlanta that equips organizations to create real and lasting change in their community.

Participants can select 2 workshops offered by Shawn to continue the discussion. The first, **"Five Principles for Health and Effective Engagement"** addresses "what does the Reimagine Charity framework look like lived out?" This presentation continues the keynote address as Shawn walks us through the basic principles. The second workshop, **"Ready to Reimagine Charity"**, offers a deeper conversation about program effectiveness with practical next steps in how to change the paradigm.

The Lupton Center's years of experience is shared in the books "Charity Detox, What Charity would look like if we cared about results" and "Toxic Charity, How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help".

[Register Here](#)

Register Now - Laudato Si' Conference

Environmental Justice Conference

"The Power of Positive Change: Bringing Laudato Si' to Life"



Saturday, April 27, 2019, 9 AM - 2 PM
St. Josephine Bakhita Parish at St. James Church
767 Elm Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Come learn about pressing environmental issues and how to fulfill the call to Care for God's Creation! There will be two keynote speakers, Rev. Tom Carr from the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN) and Sr. Ruth Rosenbaum, TC, PhD from the Center for Reflection, Education, and Action (CREA). The day also includes four breakout sessions, exhibitors and lunch.

Register online at www.catholicsocialjustice.org

Registration Fee: \$30 - Please register by Monday, April 22, 2019

For more information contact: Patrick.Laorden@aohct.org (860)-242-5573

20th Anniversary Event for the Collaborative Center for Justice

"ADVOCACY: A MORAL AND COMPELLING CALL"



Saturday May 11, 2019
1:30 P.M.- 4:00 P.M.
Program followed by Reception
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
303 Tunxis Road
West Hartford, CT 06107

Keynote Speaker: Sister Simone Campbell, SSS

Executive Director, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice. Sister Simone Campbell is a religious leader and noted speaker with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. She is noted for organizing six cross-country "Nuns on the Bus" trips.

This event is open to the public and

All are welcome.

Seating is limited! RSVP is requested either by calling 860-692-3066 or [on-line](#).

Free will offering will benefit the Collaborative Center for Justice.

Sponsoring Congregations of the Collaborative Center for Justice are: Daughter of the Holy Spirit; Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception; Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery; Sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame; Sisters of Mercy, Northeast Community; Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur of the United States East-West Province

Job Opening

The Collaborative Center for Justice is hiring for full time Director position. The Center is sponsored by six Religious Congregations of Women Religious in Connecticut.

If interested please click on the [Job Description link](#)



A parish social ministry motivated by compassion

The compassion of Jesus At All Saint Parish in Waterbury.



Motivation is one of the most important things needed to get things accomplished. When it comes to sharing our faith and reaching out to others with the gospel, we asked ourselves when or how, can we find such self-motivation. What came to mind first is prayer. This is a good motivation starting point for all of us. Pray for the Lord's wisdom, and pray for those with whom we relate and finally pray for those we serve.

Three weeks ago I meet with Rev. Diego Jimenez, Pastor at All Saint Parish in Waterbury. We spoke about our office's (OCSJM) mission, ministry and parish support programs. It turned out to be a great conversation about his multicultural parish and his immigrant community instability situations. I asked how we could help. Father Diego said they needed direction on how to motivate the two cultures, how to build a relationship there and how can we help with some immigration issues.

The Lord always moves with compassion for all of us; we need to reach out together. We need to create a culture of encounter, and even more importantly encounter one another in the diverse body of Christ.

Father Diego felt that his Hispanic, undocumented community was scattered and weary. We offered training on leadership motivation in social ministry, Christian values based leadership, and the importance of one on one meetings.

We provided an introduction on how to connect our values to our ministries. How are our values in the church connected to issues of concerns? At the end we asked each parish leader to share what they believed the parish community's immediate needs were. The answers were; resources, counseling for youth, care for the elderly, job seeking, Job skills, etc. We look forward to working with the parish of All Saint in Waterbury

Lord, we hear the cry, we have the motivation. Father in Heaven help me to be motivated by a compassion for others. Just as you showed compassion towards me by saving me, I, in return want to show that compassion to others.

Submitted by Arturo Iriarte, Parish Social Justice Coordinator

Workers and Labor Unions

As we go to press with this newsletter, the United Food & Commercial Workers Union is striking against Stop and Shop. Workers have been working without a contract. Stop and Shop is looking to replace jobs with technology. Pope Francis addressed the challenges of technology in his Laudato Si' Encyclical where he cautioned that "technological progress should not replace human work, for this would be detrimental to humanity....Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs...To stop investing in people, in order to gain greater short-term financial gain, is bad business for society."



The U.S. Bishops in their Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship document state: "Catholic social teaching supports the rights of workers to choose whether to organize, join a union, and bargain collectively, and to exercise these rights without reprisal...Workers, owners, employers, and unions should work together to create decent jobs, build a more just economy, and advance the common good."

We encourage you to reflect upon our Church's teaching. How will you live out our belief that to honor human dignity we must honor the worker's right to provide for their family? How will you support the "right to work"? If solidarity binds us all together as members of a common family, how do we express that solidarity?

Share the Journey: I am Your Neighbor



Last month, we joined nearly eighty Confirmation students at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Manchester as they learned about global migration and its tie to scripture and Catholic social teaching. Students took part in an [activity](#) simulating the refugee crisis. They broke up into groups to take part in scenarios which highlighted different aspects of a refugee's journey. Naji, a teenager from Syria, told his story to about coming to the U.S. and his experience in high school. "

I may have different skin color and come from a different country, but I am your neighbor." The students were engaged in discussion with Naji and made a powerful act of solidarity by praying over him before sharing his story. The Share the Journey campaign has great resources on how parishioners can reach out to the refugee community, which can be found [here!](#)

Creating on the Margins - A Time to Heal Racism Announces Contest Winner

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the domestic anti-poverty program founded by U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1969. Every year, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in conjunction with dioceses across the nation sponsor the Creating on the Margins Contest for students in Grades 7-12. The purpose of the contest is to raise awareness about the root causes of poverty in the United States. This year's theme, "A Time to Heal Racism" asks students to learn about racism as a root cause of poverty, reflect about what they learned in the context of their Catholic faith, and respond by creating a piece of artwork and answering several essay questions, which they then use to teach others about what they learned.



In the Archdiocese of Hartford, the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry received 39 entries from two schools: St. Gabriel School in Windsor, CT and St. Christopher School, in East Hartford, CT. The entries were judged not only on artistic ability and essay responses but how well the artwork encompassed the spirit of CCHD - empowering people to come together to address racism as a root cause of poverty. The winner of this year's Creating on the Margins Contest - A Time to Heal Racism is a piece of artwork entitled "T-Pose Power" created by Johnathan Delskey and Alex Rivera from St. Gabriel School. They received a \$100 prize and will be entered into the National Creating on the Margins Contest with a grand prize of \$500 to the winning entry with a matching amount being awarded to a CCHD funded group within their diocese. An honorable mention award of \$50 gift card went to Juliana Carmon, also from St. Gabriel School, for her work entitled "Bus of Equality."

When asked what they learned about racism as a root cause of poverty, Johnathan said, "Minorities don't have the same opportunities that white people have and that keeps them from living in nicer places." In creating their work, Johnathan and Alex chose to include the t-pose as part of their work. "It's a popular thing with kids today and we used it to show unity," said Johnathan. "It's something kids know about, like the fist bump. It's also the position that Jesus was in when he was on the cross," Alex added.

Juliana said she learned about "segregation in the south where black people had to sit at the back of the bus. I was inspired by Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks." which led her to create "Bus of Equality."

To learn more about poverty in the United States and the mission of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, go to www.povertyusa.org or <http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/index.cfm>. To get involved locally, go to www.CatholicSocialJustice.org.

Human Trafficking

We updated our resource of [books and videos](#). The Archdiocese of New Orleans provided us with "Sorrowful Mysteries for Victims, Survivors, and Perpetrators of Human Trafficking", which is to be used with the Rosary. It can be found on [our website](#).

CRS RiceBowl

We created a twenty minute training resource. It provides a general overview of Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl, ways of fostering a deeper encounter and select resources to effectively promote Rice Bowl at your parish. We've created a self-paced guide that includes links to prayers, three short videos, and resources. These materials can be found on our website on the [Programs/Catholic Relief Services page](#).

Poverty

Check out our [list of local outreach](#) opportunities for Hartford, Waterbury, and New Haven vicariates.

Grant Resources

We offer grants to parishes working to alleviate hunger and poverty within the Archdiocese. Grants are made possible through Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl, where 25% of the funds collected are to remain in the Archdiocese. Applications are available on [our website](#) and are accepted on a rolling basis.

Prayer Resources

Start your meeting or gathering with prayer! [Catholic Relief Services](#) offers a free Pope Francis Quote book, prayers and general intercessions relating to current events and emergencies, and a host of other ministry tools for prayer, formation and action.