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# THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

**April 2022**

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

## From the Director

Dear friends,

Where do you find hope?

In the world of social justice ministry, it can be challenging to find hope. Climate change, war, poverty, violence, racism, assisted suicide legislation....the list goes on. Immigration reform appears off the books again. It's hard to listen to the news. As I write this, another mass shooting has occurred in our country, yet we are polarized on our ability to find means to curb violence.

During the month of April, I have the opportunity to visit with members of organizations funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. The resolve the members to bring justice and peace into their communities brings me hope. Their dedication to the development of leadership and respect for human dignity brings me hope.

As Lent draws to a close, and we move into the Easter Triduum this week, I ask you to consider, "Where do you find hope?"

I pray that you find hope and joy in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessings,



Lynn Campbell

## Catholic Relief Services - Resources on Ukraine



**Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the international aid and development agency of the U.S. Catholic Church.**

CRS is on the ground in Ukraine and the surrounding countries working with Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Poland, Caritas Romania and Caritas Moldova to respond to those

needs.

This very [short video](#) provides an update from CRS on Ukraine Refugee Response from Moldova Border.

Here's how you can help: <https://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine> .

Create your own fundraising page, and share it with your family, friends, and neighbors, by clicking on the "Register Now" button at the top of [this page](#).

Prayers of Intercession and Prayer for Peace for Ukraine, provided by [Catholic Agency for Overseas Development UK](#)

**CRS online Fact Sheet on Ukraine Conflict and How to Help:**  
[www.crs.org/media-center/current-issues/ukraine-conflict-facts-and-how-help](http://www.crs.org/media-center/current-issues/ukraine-conflict-facts-and-how-help)

**[Donate to help families affected in the Ukraine](#)**

## Environmental Justice Bills

There are just three and a half weeks until the end of the legislative session on Wednesday, May 4. There are several strong environmental bills that need your support. Please consider contacting your legislators today and ask them to support these bills. You can find bill information on the [Interreligious Eco-Justice Network website](#)

We would like to draw your attention to **H.B. 5039** which the interfaith community is supporting.

H.B. 5039 An Act Concerning Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Emission Standards would provide more stringent emissions standards for heavy-duty on-road engines and require manufacturers to produce increasing number of zero-emission trucks beginning in 2024. The bill will result in cleaner air and reduced carbon emissions.



“ The values of our faith call us to humility, sacrifice, and respect for life and the natural gifts God has provided to the rest of creation. We call for civil dialogue and prudent and constructive action to protect God’s precious gift of the atmosphere, with a sense of genuine solidarity and justice for all God’s children.”

*Global Climate Change: a Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good, 2001 statement of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*

[FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR HERE](#)

## Is Your Home Someone's Workplace?

Join Hand in Hand and domestic worker organizations for a workshop to learn about the responsibilities that you have as an employer of a nanny, house cleaner, or home

attendant in Connecticut! In this workshop, you'll learn about the history of domestic work, policy protections for workers and employers alike, and the simple ways you can implement this policy to make your home a safe, healthy, and legal workplace. This event will be in English with simultaneous translation in Spanish. Closed Captions will be available.

## My Home Is Someone's Workplace Tuesday, April 19, 2022 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM ET

Free but registration is required. Register at:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/zSjKQXTIGEGumYo-EgaloA2?ms=ctdwc>

"If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected." (USCCB, Sharing Catholic Social Teaching)

## Pope Francis, the Climate Crisis, and Racial Justice

Here are some follow-up resources to our event offered by the Collaborative Center for Justice

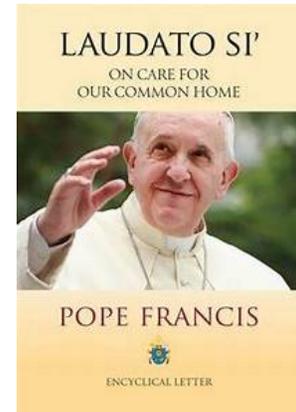
[Click here](#) for free text of *Laudato Si'* on the Vatican's website.

[Climate Action Venn Diagram](#)

[Christopher Columbus' report](#) to the Spanish crown on his first voyage to Hispanola.

[Unbowed: A memoir](#) by Wangari Maathai

[Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace](#), by Jen Cullerton Johnson. Children's book about Wangari Maathai.



## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Last month, the Biden administration reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, just in time for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual violence is an issue that affects [nearly half a million Americans every year](#), and it is not limited to in-person settings. In an age of constant connection, the risk of bullying and abuse is greatly increased. Servile relationships in which traffickers force romantic partners into commercial sex is an example of how sexual assault and human trafficking overlap.

Sexual assault is also a major aspect of **human trafficking**. It occurs in many forms in online spaces, such as sextortion (using sexually explicit photos/videos of someone as blackmail) and online harassment.

The commercial sex industry, particularly pornography, is the top venue for trafficking in the nation according to the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#). Young people, particularly African American girls, Native American girls, transgender students, and young women in general, are at greater risk of being submitted to sexual assault. It can happen to anyone, and survivors of all backgrounds deserve support and justice.

Source: North Carolina Stop Human Trafficking update, 4/11/2022

## Living Wage Crisis in the U.S.

Oxfam recently released an alarming report detailing the extent of the low-wage economy in the United States. The headline finding: approximately **one third of U.S. workers earn less than \$15 per hour**. The numbers for women and minorities were even more concerning – for instance, nearly half of Black workers earn less than \$15. For a full-time worker, a \$15 per hour wage amounts to \$30,000 per year; it's hard to imagine supporting a family on less than this anywhere in the United States. It's a sign of deep structural problems in our economy that we have learned to depend on low wage labor to perform much essential service work. [CLICK HERE](#) for the Oxfam report.



*Retrieved from Catholic Labor Network update 3/29/22*

**The Catholic Labor Network** brings together thousands of Catholic activists — lay, clergy and religious— from across the United States to promote Catholic Social Teaching regarding labor, work and economic justice.

[Join the Catholic Labor Network Email list](#) and stay informed.

## CCHD Internship



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### Catholic? Interested in fighting poverty?

Intern with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) at our office in Bloomfield.

We are accepting applications for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Candidates must be 18 years of age or older.

All interns are required to attend an all-expenses paid orientation in

Washington, D.C. on June 1-3, 2022.

Preference to applicants received by **May 1, 2022.**

For more information contact

[Lynn Campbell](#)

Download the application from the [USCCB website](#).

## Volunteer with Us!

Would you like to join one of our teams? Our strategic model is one that includes the investment in leadership through ministry teams and committees.

Current opportunities include:

- Parish Engagement
- Global Solidarity
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Board of Directors
- Conference planning

Additional areas of engagement are being considered. Information on our teams can

Do you have some free time and would like to share your gifts and talents with our office?

In office and remote opportunities exist  
Contact [Lynn Campbell](#) for more information



## Save the Date!

### Saturday September 17 Dreaming Together: Forming Disciples for Faith and Justice

Our Annual Conference is being transformed into a joint conference with the Archdiocesan Education & Formation Office. It will be held at the Omni Hotel in New Haven.

Father James Martin, SJ, will provide the keynote address, “Grounding Your Ministry in Prayer”. The address will provide those who have given a Holy Spirit ‘yes’ to either faith formation ministries or social justice ministries some encouragement. Through a renewed prayer life and new strategies for listening to God’s voice, we hope those at this conference will be reminded of why they were called into ministry and how God needs them to help with the Kingdom building work at hand.

Fr. James Martin, SJ, is a Jesuit priest, editor at large at *America* magazine and a consultant to the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication. He is the author of many books, including the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Jesuit Guide*, *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* and, most recently, *Learning to Pray*.

## Virtual Parish Social Ministry Gathering

Do you have a great parish program you would like to share? Are you looking to engage in justice-oriented activities but don't know where to start? Is your parish merging and your ministry is going through growing pains?

Our monthly virtual gatherings are a time to meet with others involved in parish ministry from across the Archdiocese and learn from each other.

**April 13, May 11, 7:00 PM**

[Registration is Required](#)

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### Social Justice and Racial Justice Capacity Building Grants

**Perfect to launch a Laudato Si' project!**

We are offering grant money to help your parish! These grants are designed to empower the parish's efforts to educate and raise awareness of social concerns and strengthen their resolve to create cultures of encounter and work for justice. We will pair the grants with guidance and support from the office as requested. A list of suggested projects is provided. Grants in the range of \$250 - \$5,000 will be available to parishes on a rolling basis until the funding is depleted.

More information and grant materials are available at:  
<http://www.catholicsocialjustice.org/grants.html>

Recipients will be expected to complete an evaluation demonstrating the outcomes of their funded project.

### Offered by the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

#### How to Bring Electric School Buses into Your Community

Led by Daphne Dixon from LiveGreenCT, this webinar will explore the program that is helping communities switch diesel school buses out for electric school buses.

Register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-bring-electric-school-buses-into-your-community-tickets-295144985597>

**Monday April 18, 2022 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**  
Online event

Energy Efficiency as Eco-Justice: Save Energy, Save the Planet – Monday April 25  
Learn more about how to make homes more energy efficient. You will learn about the weatherization process, as well as incentives and rebates for the standard program and the income eligible program. You will also receive tips on how to run a successful weatherization campaign in your community.

Register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/energy-efficiency-as-eco-justice-save-energy-the-planet-tickets-294318884707>

**Monday April 25, 2022 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**  
Online event

### Offered by Mercy by the Sea

Contemplating with Creation: An Earth Day Mini Retreat

**A Virtual Program with Christina Leño**

**Thursday, April 21, 2022, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. U.S./EST**

**\$45 (Inquire about scholarships)**

In collaboration with the Laudato Si' Movement

[Click here](#) for more information.

## New Resources

### Stations of the Cross with reflection on mental illness

New resource from USCCB's Justice For Immigrants campaign: [Ukraine Resource Page – Justice for Immigrants](#) for USCCB statements and prayer resources



[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

[DONATE HERE](#)

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[Visit our website](#)