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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

December 2018

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

CALENDAR

January

January 12, 2019 Human Trafficking Awareness Event

'Gather Together', at
St. Bartholomew
Church, 45 Ludlow St.,
Manchester.

February

Feb 8, 2019, 7-8 pm Prayer and Reflection Vigil Against Human Trafficking

St. James Church,
Rocky Hill

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From the Director

Dear friends,

What a year it has been! We enjoyed celebrating our "Jubilee for Justice" with you, and now we are gearing up for another year of ministry with you. Check out our calendar section for upcoming 2019 events.

We look forward to helping you - the interested parishioner, the social justice coordinator, the youth minister, school principal, deacon or priest. Whether it's helping your school learn more about the Church's concern of climate change, or your Confirmation class students have meaningful service projects, or your social justice committee unpack the bishops' pastoral on racism. We're a resource for you to help strengthen the social ministry part of your parish's mission.

As we prepare for a new year, let us reflect upon how our parishes are signs of Christ among us. As the U.S. Bishops' said in their "Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish":

"Today, more than ever, our parishes are called to be communities of "salt" and "light"; to help believers live their faith in their families, communities, world, and world. We need parishes that will not "lose their flavor" nor put their "light under a basket." We seek to build evangelizing communities of faith, justice, and solidarity, where all believers are challenged to bring God's love, justice, and peace to a world in desperate need of the seasoning of the gospel and the light of Catholic teaching."

Thank you
Advent Blessings,

VISIT OUR
[WEBSITE](#)



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn".

Lynn Campbell, Executive Director

ADVENT BLESSINGS



Human Trafficking Awareness and Action Event

Because January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry in collaboration with The Underground CT is offering 'Gather Together', a Human Trafficking Awareness and Action Event on Saturday January 12, 2019 at St. Bartholomew Church, 45 Ludlow St., Manchester. Expert speakers will present on the reality of trafficking in CT, the work being done, and how churches can help. Equal Exchange will offer a Fair Trade chocolate tasting and a presentation on labor trafficking in the cacao industry. Doors open at 8:15 am for registration and coffee. Presentations begin at 9:00am To register email: theundergroundct@gmail.com. Free will offering. For more information contact Lynn Campbell 860-242-5573



NEW Pastoral Letter on Racism



At their general assembly last month, the US bishops approved a new pastoral letter against racism, [Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love](#). The first time the bishops have spoken collectively on race in more than 40 years, the pastoral letter calls us to confront racism's root causes and the injustice it produces: "Racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart. This evil causes great harm to its victims, and it corrupts the souls of those who harbor racist or prejudicial thoughts. The persistence of the evil of racism is why we are writing this letter now."

[Accompanying educational and pastoral resources](#) have also been created.

Resources include a bulletin insert, homily help, prayer materials, background information on systemic racism, and activities for primary, secondary, and higher education classroom settings.

Commemoration of Saint Bakhita Prayer and Reflection Vigil against Human Trafficking

Join the Archdiocese of Hartford Human Trafficking Task Force and St. Bakhita Parish for a Prayer and Reflection Vigil against Human Trafficking on Friday February 8, 2019, 7-8pm, St. James Church, 767 Elm Street, Rocky Hill. Registration is not required.



February 8th has been designated by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy.

On February 8th, Catholics all over the world are encouraged to host or attend prayer services to generate awareness about human trafficking. Through prayer, we not only reflect on the experience of those that have suffered through this affront to human dignity, but also comfort, strength, and help empower survivors.

The Human Trafficking Task Force supports the Office for Catholic Social Ministry (OCSJM) efforts to build the capacity of the people of the Archdiocese of Hartford to eradicate human trafficking and exploitation.



To request St. Josephine Bakhita prayer cards or Praying the Stations of the Cross for Victims of Human Trafficking booklets for your parish, please contact the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry at (860) 242-5573 or info.ocsjm@aohct.org. Prayers, Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary Human Trafficking Intentions, and Prayers of the Faithful can be found at the [office's website](#).

Climate Change and Human Trafficking



We would like to share this video with you. It was published 11/22/18 - Thanksgiving Day. Afghan children are being sold because parents are suffering extreme poverty and cannot afford to feed their family. The U.N. reports 275,000 people have been displaced by drought. Climate Change plays a role in the extreme drought the country is having, causing people to flee their homes. We feel that this article points to how so many social issues are connected - climate change, poverty, peace, migration, hunger, human trafficking. It exemplifies what Pope Francis addresses in *Laudato Si'*. You can watch the [video here](#).

Our faith calls us to respond to local and global concerns. One way is by staying connected with [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#).

Farm Bill passes - Thank you for your advocacy

A good Farm Bill has passed both the Senate and the House - and it's because of your advocacy! The final bill protects SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the nation's most effective anti-poverty program. It also improves SNAP by investing in work opportunities for program recipients, utilizing proactive,

rather than punitive, measures to help families move out of poverty. Please pray that the leaders of our country will continue to make ending local and global poverty a priority.



CRS Parish Ambassadors in Action



On Monday, December 3rd we worked with Jennifer O'Neill, one of our CRS parish ambassadors from St. John Fisher, Marlborough, to host an Advent evening reflection focusing on global migration and solidarity. Jen adapted her own set of Advent reflections and paired them with select prayer boards from the CRS Solidarity Prayer Walk. There were sixteen people in attendance and participants had an

opportunity to gather for discussion to learn more about Catholic social teaching on global migration. We look forward to working with more parish ambassadors on different global solidarity initiatives like this as we look forward to 2019!

GIFT Program - St. Patrick Church Farmington

Nancy Strini, Sr. Amaris Salata, and Deacon Adam Michaelae participate in a panel discussion "Living a Moral Life" at St. Patrick Church in Farmington's Generations in Faith program.



We were pleased to help the parish put together this dynamic panel, which covered Human Trafficking, End of Life Issues, and Mental Health Ministry. Nancy Strini is a member of our Human Trafficking Team. Sr. Amaris is also a member, and coordinator of Pro-life activities with the Archdiocese. Deacon Adam facilitates a mental wellness ministry at St. George Parish in Guilford. Each are available to speak at your parish. Contact us for more information.

50 Acts of Justice



Donna Finneran, a parishioner at Church of the Assumption, Ansonia was recently featured in *Columbia*, the magazine of the Knights of Columbus, for her Brian Bags ministry. Read the full article [here](#).

Donna is part of the social justice committee at the parish and started the ministry, named after her deceased brother Brian who himself was homeless, to aid homeless individuals in the Ansonia valley. The bags include items such as food and toiletries to help individuals meet basic needs in their day to day living. We are proud to support this ministry with a CRS Rice Bowl Grant. Your participation in CRS Rice Bowl is helping with this ministry! Learn more about the Brian Bag ministry as part of the Brian O'Connell Homeless Project, an organization [here](#).

Jubilee for Justice



Hard to believe we are closing out the 50th anniversary of our office! To end this series of monthly reflections, we are featuring John Ryan, a devoted social justice leader at St.

Teresa of Calcutta Church in Manchester and incoming OCSJM Board member. John assists our office as a member of our Bishop Peter Conference Planning Committee and as a coordinator of the JustFaith program throughout the Archdiocese. John reflects on the necessity to move beyond charitable works into works of social justice. Watch his reflection [here](#).

Laudato Si'

Members of our Laudato Si' ministry team were very active these last few months providing outreach to two parishes and a school in the Archdiocese. Steve Lowrance, a parishioner at St. Josephine Bakhita in Rocky Hill, gave a faculty in-service at St. Bernard School in Enfield on Laudato Si'. Sr. Ruth Rosenbaum, TC, executive director of CREA (Center for Reflection, Education, and Action), provided a training for the Care for Creation ministry team at Prince of Peace in Woodbury. Finally, Maureen Vagnini, a parishioner at St. Damien Molokai in South Windsor, gave a presentation to confirmation students at St. Josephine Bakhita in Rocky Hill on water and environmental stewardship. If you are interested in working with our team to receive training or consultation on the encyclical and/or environmentally-related topics, please contact Patrick Laorden at Patrick.Laorden@gmail.com.



10th Annual Boston Justice Convocation



Patrick Laorden, one of our parish social ministry coordinators, was a recent keynote speaker at the 10th Annual Social Justice Convocation in the Archdiocese of Boston last month. Patrick delivered an address entitled, "Perspectives from the Younger Generation," exploring how the Church can provide better outreach to youth and young adults in social ministry. Other keynotes included Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, and Fr. J. Bryan Herir, Cabinet Secretary Health and Human Services. Read more highlights from the day and excerpts from Patrick's keynote [here](#).

A Child is Born



Current Parish Social Ministry Resources

January is Poverty Awareness Month

We can help you respond. Contact us to arrange a "Two Feet of Love" poverty awareness/social justice presentation. Here are some helpful website resources to get you going..

PovertyUSA.org and PobrezaUSA.org Feature: Maps & Data

On the [Maps & Data page \(en Espanol\)](#) of the new [Poverty USA.org](#) and [PobrezaUSA.org](#) mobile-friendly websites, tens of thousands of data points bring data to your fingertips about your own community. Enter your county and find median household income, deep poverty rate, unemployment rate, median rent, percentage without health insurance, and more. You can also find which [CCHD-funded organizations \(en Espanol\)](#) are helping in your community.

New Prayer Resource

[Show Us Your Face: Prayer based on Rejoice and Be Glad](#) (Gaudete et Exsultate) | [en Espanol](#)

The USCCB has a new video and we are featured in it! Look for the photo of the immigration pilgrimage! As missionary disciples, we are called to respond to God's love through both Charitable Works and Social Justice. [This brand new video on the Two Feet of Love in Action](#) includes narration in English and Spanish, is perfect for sharing on social media.

Below are some Migration and Refugee Resources to help you understand the complicated systems that are in place.

JustFaith Ministries' 8-week program [Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey](#) invites participants

to formulate a personal response to the migration inspired by their Christian beliefs. The program was developed in partnership with Maryknoll.

[Jesus Was a Migrant](#) by Deirdre Cornell provides a moving and spiritually grounded presentation of the value of migrants, immigrants and refugees to the United States.

Migration and Refugee Services of the USCCB is charged with assisting the bishops in the development and promotion of migration [policy positions](#) within the context of the Church's social teaching. To this end MRS works with grassroots Catholic networks across the US to promote fair immigration and refugee policies, advocates for the passage of [immigration reform](#), engages in the fight against [human trafficking](#), develops initiatives aimed at educating Catholics on the Church's teaching on migration, and assists the U.S. Catholic bishops in carrying the voice of the Church to Congress and the Administration.