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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

December 2022

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

From the Director

Dear Friends,

Can you believe we lit the third Advent candle this week? Where does time go?

The third week of Advent is a time to be joyful – because we have arrived at the midpoint of Advent. Sometimes it can be hard to be joyful – especially when we listen to the news, open a newspaper or tune into social media. A war raging on in Ukraine, 611 mass shootings recorded in our country, drought, flooding and locusts in Kenya, and a world that has not had this many hungry people since 2010.

Pope Francis' words in his 2018 Angelus, reminds us that we cannot turn a blind eye to the injustices that surround us.

"Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world."

Let's use the remainder of Advent to bring joy to others. To those in front of us and those across the world. Speak up on behalf of the poor and vulnerable by responding to one of the many action alerts included in this newsletter. It is in the giving of joy that we receive.

Wishing you a joyful Advent and Christmas,

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

Ministry Teams

Where We've Been

Representatives from our Human Trafficking Task Force attended the U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Conference, The Underground NE Board meeting, and the monthly Trafficking in Person Council meeting.

Our Catholic Relief Services Chapter members are promoting CRS Rice Bowl to nonparticipating parishes and offering notes of gratitude to those that are.

Attending the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance Assembly.



Fair Food Program

Despite all the advantages that come with a company operating on an ethical platform, such as Fair Trade or the Immokalee Worker's Fair Food Program, companies in the U.S., such as Wendy's still continue to refuse participating in ensuring producers are not exploited and abused.

According to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, farmers and producers should not be exploited for financial gain. Wendy's refusal to join the Fair Food Program is why the group is boycotting the restaurant. Learn more at the [FairFood Program YouTube](#)

“Every perspective on economic life that is human, moral and Christian must be shaped by three questions: What does the economy do for people? What does it do to people? and How do people participate in it?”

Economic Justice For All, United States Catholic Bishops 1986

Help Prevent Human Trafficking



[The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022 \(HR 6552\)](#): The House passed this critical reauthorization in July 2022 with broad bipartisan support. The legislation would provide more than a million dollars in funding for anti-trafficking efforts, reapprove the U.S. Advocacy Council on Human Trafficking, provide for the creation of a Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program, and fund other trafficking related programs including those that focus on preventing and detecting trafficking of school-aged children.

It is critical that our country continues to combat what Pope Francis has referred to as a "crime against humanity."

Urge [Senator Blumenthal](#) and [Senator Murphy](#) to pass this bipartisan anti-trafficking legislation before the end of the 117th Congress.

Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act Respect the Dignity of Workers



Want to help pregnant women?

[Tell your senators to respect the dignity of pregnant of workers by passing PWFA before 117th Congress ends.](#)

Senate.

The House passed this Bill and it has been sitting in the

This bill prohibits employment practices that discriminate against making reasonable accommodations for qualified employees affected by pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions. A qualified employee is an employee or applicant who, with or without

reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the position with specified exceptions.

Specifically, the bill declares that it is an unlawful employment practice to:

- fail to make reasonable accommodations to known limitations of such employees unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on an entity's business operation;
- require a qualified employee affected by such condition to accept an accommodation other than any reasonable accommodation arrived at through an interactive process;
- deny employment opportunities based on the need of the entity to make such reasonable accommodations to a qualified employee;
- require such employees to take paid or unpaid leave if another reasonable accommodation can be provided; or
- take adverse action in terms, conditions, or privileges of employment against a qualified employee requesting or using such reasonable accommodations.

Catholic Relief Services Action Alert Help Children Impacted by War



[CRS Action Alert: "Take 5 Minutes to Help Children Impacted by War"](#)

Around the globe, hundreds of millions of people struggle with anxiety, depression and other stress related problems. In emergencies, a lack of food, shelter and other basic necessities often lead to psychological distress. And for people fleeing violent conflict —like the millions who have fled Ukraine in the recent months — stress is magnified. More than 1 in 5 people in conflict-affected areas are living with a mental health disorder.

[Urge Congress to support HR3988, the Mental Health in International Development & Humanitarian Settings Act / MINDS Act, which promotes psychosocial support for communities affected by conflict, hunger, other crises.](#)



CRS Rice Bowl

Call our office to add CRS Rice Bowl to your Lenten program. It's not too late to place your order.

Housing the Homeless, Feeding the Hungry, Working with Children, Loving their Neighbors



The Hartford Catholic Worker is a lay community of Catholics and like minded friends, living in the north end of Hartford, working and praying for an end to violence and poverty.

Their newsletters go into greater depth on today's social justice issues than we can in this newsletter. We would like to acknowledge their efforts and encourage you to [check them out here.](#)

DACA Action Alert

DACA recipients continue to lack access to permanent legal status, and their future in the United States remains uncertain.

This uncertainty has been exacerbated by years of legal challenges, including a federal district court's ruling in July 2021 that declared DACA to be unlawful, preventing new applications from being processed and jeopardizing protection for current beneficiaries. Any day now, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals could end protections for nearly 600,000 current DACA beneficiaries, terminating their work authorization and subjecting them to removal from the United States without any regard for their families or the communities that have come to depend on them.

For many years, the U.S. Catholic bishops have called on Congress to provide Dreamers with the ability to integrate as fully recognized members of our society. This includes those who have benefited from DACA. As Bishop Mario Dorsonville, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, [emphasized](#) in June, "DACA was never a cure for the underlying challenges facing Dreamers, but it was a welcome step toward recognizing their inherent dignity and unrealized potential. Only Congress can ensure the full integration of this population."

Last March, the House of Representatives [passed](#) the American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6) with broad bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the Senate has failed to take up the bill. If it does not do so by the time the 117th Congress ends on January 3, 2023, the bill will have to be reintroduced and the process begun all over again in the 118th Congress.

[Urge Congress to move forward with creating a pathway to permanent legal status for Dreamers today!](#)

Source – USCCB/Justice for Immigrants

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering



Don't miss this [transformative annual gathering](#) to put your faith into action!

Join us at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, "Blessed are the Peacemakers" in Washington, D.C. for dynamic and thought-provoking presentations and workshops that will address pressing issues such as climate change, hunger, gun violence, migration, and others that will invite us to work together as a Church to think creatively and boldly about how we can create opportunities for healing and renewed encounter.

Join the discussion and be part of the solution!

Registration Link

Financial Assistance is available
[Contact our office](#) for an application

Acting for Justice - A JustFaith Ministries Webinar



December 15, 7:00 pm ET

"Faith in the Face of Gun violence: A 10-year Remembrance of the Sandy Hook Elementary School Tragedy" by Debbie Weatherspoon.

Ten years ago, on December 14, 2012, there was a mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut. This year, it was Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. As informed people of faith, we are aware of increasing gun violence in our society. What is ours to do? Explore ways to engage our faith in the public square as we learn about the excellent work that has come out of heartbreaking tragedies.

Why is Climate Change such a Critical Issue?



People of Hope – CRS Speaker Series: "We are Called to Do!" Sean Callahan, President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, reflects on our response to the Gospel call. WE are PEOPLE OF HOPE and in solidarity and subsidiarity with those most in need we become People of Love!

Dec. 21, 2022 12:00 PM ET – 15 minutes! Hear why climate change is such a critical issue.
Simultaneous Spanish translation.

Registration: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Join Us! Parish Social Ministry Leaders Gathering

It's not too early to be planning for Lent!

Join us on Zoom, **Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 PM** to meet others from across the Archdiocese who are committed to living the Gospel and transforming the world.
Share your ideas for parish Lenten initiatives.

How are you making Rice Bowl a parish affair?

How are you strengthening your social ministry efforts to enrich every aspect of your parish?

What needs greater attention?

How can your parish better share and act on the social justice demands of the gospel?

[REGISTER HERE](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Light up the dark
END CHILD TRAFFICKING!

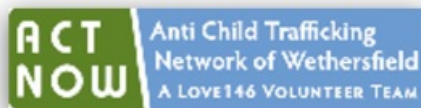
Save the Date!

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:



Resources

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

[Green Your Advent and Christmas](#) - We've updated this document originally created by Jeanie Graustein.

Check out this [article from fairtradeamerica.org on fair trade Christmas gift purchasing sources](#) that will help add some fair trade goodness to your Christmas spirit and gift-giving!



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