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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

February 2018

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

CALENDAR

February

February 14
Ash Wednesday

March

March 3, 9am-2pm
Laudato Si' Retreat

Science as Ecological
Conversion
St. Thomas Seminary.
Register [here](#).

March 14, 10am-4pm
**Connecticut Interfaith
Conference on Drone
Warefare**

Hartford Seminary
Please visit [here](#) for free
registration.

March 22, 6:30-9pm

Human Trafficking Film
"I Am Jane Doe"
Holy Family Passionist
Retreat Center

Join Our List

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QUICK LINKS

From the Director

We recently participated in the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington DC in the midst of the federal budget activity. Along with 500 other Catholic leaders from across the country, including over 100 young adults, we prayed, learned, and advocated. It was truly energizing to see a new generation of Catholics committed to the social mission of the Church.

We met with staff members from CT Congressional leadership and discussed the importance of protecting the social safety net, protecting the Dreamers, and preserving funding for poverty-focused international development and humanitarian programs. The staff members appreciated our visits and stressed the importance of visits and calls, even if the leadership is in agreement with your concern.

Our talking points for providing protection to the Dreamers included:

- Provide a path to citizenship for these youth.
- A solution for Dreamers cannot be at the expense of other immigrant children or family-based immigration
- While we recognize the right of nations to control their borders, we ask that any border security measures be proportional and humanely implemented.

While Congress has since pulled together a budget, the deadline for DACA protection for Dreamers is fast approaching. Please join us by urging lawmakers to work together for an immediate solution for Dreamers by calling Senator Murphy (202) 224-4041 Senator Blumenthal (202) 224-2823, and your Representative (202) 225-1904.

On behalf of the many Dreamers and their family members, I thank you!

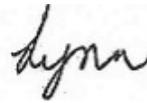
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Lynn



Lynn Campbell, Executive Director

Retreat



We will be offering a Laudato Si' retreat, "Silence as Ecological Conversion" on Saturday, March 3rd from 9-2pm at St. Thomas Seminary. The retreat will feature a screening of "In Pursuit of Silence" and a discussion facilitated by Kevin Johnson, professor at Sacred Heart University. We will explore the relationship between silence and care for creation, in which Pope Francis asks us to recover an ancient and fundamental aspect of knowing and engaging the world. It is here in this silent way of knowing the world, that we are converted and hear the call

of our Lord. To register visit our [website](#) or call our office at 860-242-5573 ext. 2688. The registration fee is \$30 and covers a continental breakfast and lunch.

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 Keynote Speakers are:

Joan Rosenhauer, CRS Vice President of US Operations

AND

Fr. Stephen Sledesky, Pastor of St. George Parish, Guilford

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.

We will be collecting pictures of parish communities engaged in works of justice. Each parish is encouraged to share one or more stories. Digital photos with a description (4x6 inch dimensions or 1200x1800 pixels) can be emailed to Patrick.Laorden@aohct.org. Hard copies can be mailed to our office at 467 Bloomfield Avenue Bloomfield, CT 06002. Please submit photos no later than Wednesday, February 28th. These stories will be shared in our newsletter, Facebook page, and at the Annual Dinner in October. Our goal is to receive fifty stories from parishes across the Archdiocese.

This month we are featuring a reflection from Myles Hubbard. Myles is a former OCSJM board member and a former member of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) committee. Watch [here](#) for Myles' reflection about working with us.

WELCOME !!



We would like to welcome and introduce you to one of our newest board members. James A. Mulhall is an Attorney and has been practicing law for over thirty years. His practice, The Law Office of James A. Mulhall, Jr., is located in Middlebury, Connecticut. Jim is a member of St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Oakville, Connecticut where he currently serve as a Lector. He and his wife Deborah have two children, James and Caitlin who attend Fairfield University, classes of 2018 and 2019 respectively. Welcome James!

CRS Parish Ambassador Corps-Ministros de la Solidaridad

CRS Parish Ambassador Corps
COME and **SEE** how you and your parish can get involved!



CRS Parish Ambassadors encourage their parishes to respond to Catholic social teaching by engaging their fellow parishioners to participate in CRS Rice Bowl and at least two other global solidarity initiatives annually.

Benefits of CRS Parish Ambassadors Corps

- Leadership development and spiritual formation opportunity
- Brings together newly merged parishes
- Receive hands-on training in skills for effective parish engagement.
- Become part of a nationwide CRS-Ambassador community

Choose one of three informational events:

Tuesday April 17, 7pm, St. Ann Church, Milford

Saturday April 21, 9:30am, St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield

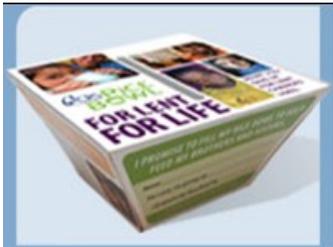
Thursday April 26, 7pm, Holy Angels Church, Meriden

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

Pray, Fast, Give



CRS Rice Bowl



Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14th. Are you ready? There are many opportunities to pray, fast, learn, and give through the CRS Rice Bowl program. For the technology savvy, there is the Rice Bowl app, which puts Lent at your fingertips! The app can be downloaded [here](#). If you are looking for ways to integrate Catholic social teaching into your Lenten programs, resources can be found [here](#). Below are some ideas to get you

started:

- A simple supper with Stations of the Cross
 - [Lenten recipes](#)
 - [Stations of the Cross prayer resource](#)
- A youth group or religious education project looking at the lives of the saints
 - [Stories of Catholic saints](#)
- Offering a day of reflection for your parish social ministry committee
 - [Community reflections](#)
- An educator's guide for Catholic school teachers and parish religious educators
 - [Lent 2018 Educator's Guide](#)

50 Acts of Justice

This month, our "50 Acts of Justice" features the "Brian's Bag Project" from the Church of the Assumption in Ansonia. Parishioners Donna and Walter Finnerman founded the "Brian's Bag Project" in honor of Donna's twin brother, Brian O'Connell, who died homeless in 2016. Donna and Walter work with parishioners to fill one-gallon, zip-lock bags which contain: food, snacks, water, socks, a fast food gift card, and first aid kit. They then distribute these bags to persons living outside in the Ansonia area. Thank you Donna, Walter and Church of the Assumption for this **Act of Justice**.



CRS Emergency Assistance update

Catastrophic Category 5 Hurricane Irma claimed at least 34 lives and affected half a million



people across the Caribbean in early September 2017. It made landfall on the Leeward Islands, and then again on the northern coast of Cuba, where nearly every region in experienced some damage.

In Cuba, the priority needs include house repair, living and hygiene supplies, and clothing. Caritas Havana has responded with food and household supplies for 400 families, and has supported 2,720 families with food, water and hygiene kits in Camaguey, Ciego de Avila and Santa Clara.

CRS will help Caritas Cuba provide roofing and mattresses to 150 families in those three locations.

You can visit CRS [here](#) for the latest report on Catholic Relief Services' ongoing emergency response and recovery activities around the world.

Parish Social Ministry Focus Group - Ansonia

Last month we held a parish social ministry focus group at Church of the Assumption in Ansonia, which also drew parishioners from St. Michael in Beacon Falls and St. Nicholas in Seymour. Parishioners enjoyed being able to network, engage in discussion about current challenges in ministry, and strategize ways to work together to strengthen parish social ministry in their respective communities. Parishioners took away concrete things: relationship building skills such as one-one-ones and storytelling, the distinction between being an organizer and a doer, and learning about our key advocacy initiatives.



The next focus group will be held in Torrington at St. Peter Church on **Tuesday, February 20th from 6:30-8:30pm**. If your parish would like to participate in the focus groups, please email Patrick Laorden, at Patrick.Laorden@aohct.org

Connecticut Interfaith Conference on Drone Warfare



Connecticut Interfaith Conference on Drone Warfare will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 14 at Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman St., Hartford, Connecticut

The presenters include: Andrea Prasow, Associate Director of the Washington Office of Human Rights Watch; Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love, Politics Department, Catholic University, Washington, DC; Rev. Chris Antal, Unitarian Universalist Minister, resigned as an army chaplain because of the U.S. lethal drone policy; Lt. Colonel Shareda Hosein (U.S. Army Reserves Retired) - Muslim Chaplain. Two films produced by the Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare for congregations will also be screened.

Registration is free, but a free-will offering will be taken. Lunch will be provided. Please register [here](#). For more information, call 609-924-5022 or visit their [website](#).

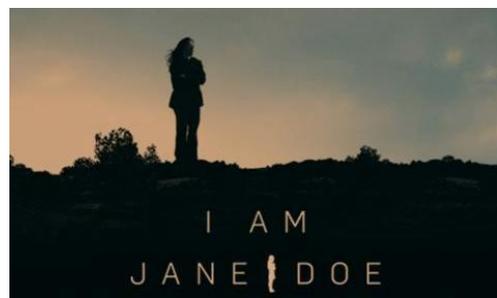
The conference is co-sponsored by Hartford Seminary and the Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare.

Human Trafficking Film - I Am Jane Doe

The Hartford Catholic Worker and
The Just Faith Ministry at
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
Proudly Present the Film:

I AM JANE DOE

Thursday - March 22, 2018
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
303 Tunxis Road - West Hartford



Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his/her will.

This intense documentary follows real cases of American girls enslaved in the child sex trade through ads in a newspaper's online classified section. Starring Jessica Chastain and directed by Mary Mazzio.

Refreshments will be available - free will offering appreciated.

Sharing the Journey



Together, we are on a journey walking alongside Immigrants

We have reported before about what was happening with the immigrant community, especially the youngest one called the "Dreamers" and the concerns of the church. The media has extensively covered this issues but so far nothing is being done legislatively.

We are on this journey with the "Dreamers" who have been brought to the United State by their parents when there were young. We meet with the Dreamers, and hear their stories. We meet with parish leaders and talk to priests and deacons, listening to their concerns about this issue.

With the launch of our DACA/Dreamers advocacy letter writing campaign, our team has met in parishes where letters were written to our legislators to ask for support of DACA. Catholic dreamers shared their stories with us after masses. Parishioners listened compassionately and asked questions of them. Parishes participating in our campaign include North American Martyrs-East Hartford, St. John Paul the Great-Torrington, St. Teresa of Calcutta-Manchester, with a total of 1,410 letters being written.

We are asking Congress to Provide Dreamers a Path to Citizenship, recognize the sanctity of families and recognize the right of nations to control their borders and maintain protection for unaccompanied children. Please pray for our efforts.

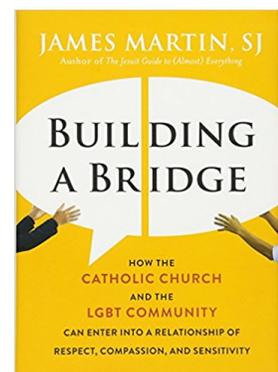
Submitted by Arturo Iriarte Archdiocesan Parish Social Ministry Coordinator

Book Review

Building A Bridge: A Review of "Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community can enter into a relationship of respect, compassion and sensitivity"

by Michael Reynolds

The image of a bridge. Connecting. Strong. Enduring. Capable. Pathway. In his book, Fr. James Martin invites those in Church leadership and members of the LGBT communities, and also all of us, to step out onto a bridge that is already here for us, a bridge where compassion, sensitivity and respect are the pillars of its foundation. We walk this bridge by engaging in honest and authentic sharing of our lived stories, through the lens of our informed conscience of our lives in faith. Fr. Martin invokes select scripture passages to highlight the core values of sensitivity, compassion



and respect. He implores us to come to the Oneness of our Common place at the Catholic table. One where each person brings unique and needed gifts, and the whole is strengthened by calling in instead of casting out.

Fr. Martin calls for respect, compassion and sensitivity to drive the dialogue between and among the LGBT Catholic community and the Institutional Church leadership. He reminds those in both groups that we are uniquely and wonderfully made, and called by name. Instead of assigning arbitrary and uninformed names and judgments to those in each group, he encourages a reaching across the aisle to inquire and find out what preferred names people desire to be called.

As a gay Catholic man, I believe Martin's call to awareness and action is actually a call into our fundamental purpose in our Catholic faith: where all are truly welcome, lifted up as gift, and a necessary part of the Church family.

For our LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) communities, the simple acknowledging of our preferred names is a major step in creating truly welcoming Catholic faith communities. It is a foundation upon which we find a church home, a community to call our own, and come out of our isolation and painful past of separation from what both we need and the church needs, too. Language that calls us in, lets us know that we are truly welcome. Then, we can invite the honest, authentic and lived experiences to help shape our way forward. Fear and judgement is transformed into love and embrace.

Let each one of us have the courage to be this bridge. .

Current Parish Social Ministry Resources

The Catholic Climate Movement is offering a "[Lenten Fast for Creation](#)" program which pairs 40 days of global voices from the front lines of climate change with 40 suggestions for living more sustainably. The daily witness will be complemented by scripture and in-depth context.
