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# THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

**February 2019**

Para español haga [clic aqui](#)

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

## CALENDAR

### February

**Feb. 23, 9:30-12:00pm**

#### **PAC Come & See**

St. Dominic Church  
Learning Center  
1050 Flanders Road,  
Southington  
9:30-12:00 PM

### MARCH

**March 3rd 1:00-  
8:00pm**

#### **Lenten Young Adult Retreat**

Holy Family Retreat  
Center, West Hartford  
[Register here](#)

### April

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

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

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## From the Director

Dear friends,

Earlier this month we participated in the 2019 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG) in Washington, D.C. The CSMG is organized by the USCCB and other national Catholic organizations. This central gathering of Catholic social ministry leaders in the U.S. brought together 500 participants whose faith inspires them to respond to pressing current domestic and global challenges relating to poverty, war, injustice and the promotion of human life and dignity. Many Catholic colleges and universities sent students to participate. We were awed by their enthusiasm and commitment to continue the Church's call to social justice.

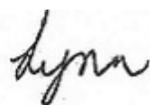
In addition to the CSMG events, I also attended diocesan directors meetings for Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and the Board meeting for the Roundtable Association for Catholic Social Action Directors. It is an honor to serve in these capacities on behalf of our office.

In gratitude for your support which makes participation in such events possible,

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Lynn Campbell, Executive Director

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February 2019 is for victims of Human Trafficking.



Pope Francis' prayer intention for February 2019 is for victims of Human Trafficking.

Let us join Pope Francis in prayer:

Loving Father,

We seek your divine protection for all who are exploited and enslaved. For those forced into labor, trafficked into sexual slavery, and denied freedom. We beseech you to release them from their chains. Grant them protection, safety, and empowerment. Restore their dignity and provide them a new beginning. Show us how we might end exploitation by addressing its causes. Help us reach out in support of victims and survivors of human trafficking. Make us instruments of your spirit for their liberation. For this we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

*(From USCCB handout for World Day of Peace 2015)*

## Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita

On February 8, we commemorated the life of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Canossian Sister who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Sudan. Together we raised our voices in prayer for victims of human trafficking, for vulnerable children, for the work towards opening a safe house in CT, and for an end to the demand and systems that perpetrate this crime against humanity. Prayer is such a powerful tool. We encourage you to include human trafficking intentions in adoration, rosary, and Stations of the Cross. Resources can be found on our [website](#). In celebration of February as National Black History Month, [Click here](#) for a short video on St. Josephine Bakhita.



## Meet New Board Member John Ryan



John is the Leader of Social Ministry at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Manchester, after volunteering there for 25 years. He believes that "social ministry is essential to a Catholic parish" and that biblical justice calls us to direct service for today and systemic change for tomorrow.

John and his wife Suzanne live in Manchester, and have four children and eight grandchildren.

**WELCOME JOHN!**



CCHD internships are open to Catholics in the United States who have leadership abilities, community service experience, and effective writing/communication skills. Openness to the CCHD values of solidarity building, participation of the poor, and Catholic social teaching is essential. Low-income people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply.

To apply, contact Lynn Campbell at [lynn.campbell@aohct.org](mailto:lynn.campbell@aohct.org) or (860) 242-5573 to receive an application. Applications received by March 1, 2019 will receive priority. All interns will be required to attend an all-expenses-paid orientation in Washington, DC on May 29 to May 31, 2019.

## CRS Parish Ambassador Corps - Come and See

Do you have a passion for global solidarity and want be part of a community of missionary disciples? Consider joining the Catholic Relief Services Parish Ambassadors Corps (CRS PAC)! Launched in 2018, CRS PAC is a new initiative of the Archdiocese to empower parishioners to foster the Church's global mission within their parishes. CRS Parish Ambassadors are equipped with skills for effective parish engagement to help start initiatives with a global focus. They serve a two-year commitment and have opportunities to attend two retreats each year to connect with other ambassadors and learn more about CRS. If you are interested in getting involved, we will be hosting an information session to be held at:

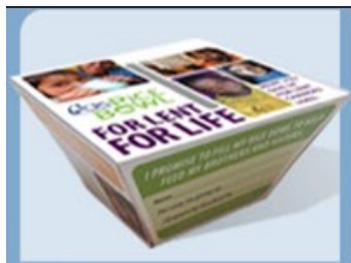


### St. Dominic Church

Learning Center (behind the parish)  
1050 Flanders Road, Southington  
Saturday, February 23rd  
9:30-12:00 PM

For more information and to register, contact Patrick Laorden at (860)-242-5573 Ext. 2686 or at [Patrick.Laorden@aohct.org](mailto:Patrick.Laorden@aohct.org)

## CRS Rice Bowl - Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6



Lent is fast approaching! With the plethora of resources available at our fingertips, we can easily get overwhelmed by the all that is found on the CRS Rice Bowl website. To aid you in your planning this Lent, we have created a brief twenty minute **training resource**. It provides a general overview of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) 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](#).

## Venezuela Update

CRS is responding across Venezuela and Latin America to support Caritas and local partners to assist thousands of Venezuelan families with emergency relief.



Please find a link below to an Emergency Fact sheet on

the escalating Venezuela crisis, with the latest insight from our CRS and partner teams responding in Venezuela and across the region.

You can view "[CRS Emergency Fact Sheet Venezuela Jan 2019](#)" [here](#).

## Help Immigrant Asylum Seeking Families Along the U.S./Mexico Border



Support asylum-seeking families who have fled their home countries and are arriving daily in Arizona, Texas and California. Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona serves families released by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, joining family members already in the U.S., and awaiting an immigration hearing. Many Catholic reception and hospitality centers along the U.S./Mexico Border gives families a safe

place to rest, rehydrate, eat, and care for their children and provide a change of clothes, hygiene items, and a chance to wash up.

How to help: [Donate](#) travel, household, or personal items.

Arizona: Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona needs winter clothes for adults (through size medium) and children of all ages. Knit hats and gloves are also appreciated. Bring or mail donations to:

Catholic Community Services  
ATTN: Casa Alitas  
140 W. Speedway, Ste. 230  
Tucson, AZ 85705

Texas: Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley needs shoelaces, jackets, gloves, belts in adults and children S-M-L sizes. Bring or mail donations to:

Humanitarian Respite Center  
c/o Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley  
700 N. Virgen de San Juan Blvd  
San Juan, TX 78589  
956-702-4088

Please specify that your donation is for the Humanitarian Center

## CT Domestic Worker Justice Campaign - Good Jobs, Great Care



CT has an aging population with an increasing amount of people who choose to have care at home to live as independently as possible. To address this concern, we have been working with several groups and formed the CT Domestic Worker Justice Campaign. We believe having workers who have some basic labor protections under the law will reduce turnover in the workforce, and help to attract more workers to the profession, and more stability in work.

As of this publication, we expect a public hearing in the Labor Committee next week for H.B. No. 6931 which amends the CT Domestic Worker Bill of Rights. The bill and its added protections will enhance the drive of most domestic workers to professionally upgrade their skills and to provide the highest quality home care for CT children and adults.

It's surprising that we need new laws to guarantee these simple protections that almost all other workers already have. We are trying to remove many decades of exclusion from labor laws that have singled out domestic workers for special denial of rights. Many domestic workers work by themselves for a homeowner-employer. These "solo" domestic workers should be extended the same protections, regardless of the size of their employer.

We invite you to contact your CT Representative and Senator and ask them to support CT Domestic Workers. [Find your legislator here.](#)

## Lenten Young Adult Retreat

### Ordinary Companions on the Journey

Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford

Sunday, March 3rd

1:00-8:00pm



Come join a vibrant group of young adults to prepare for our Lenten journey. Presenters will examine how we can bring our whole selves to the Christian journey. There will also be time for quiet reflection and discussion. Program offering is \$30.00 and includes dinner and celebration of the Eucharist.

[To register](#), visit the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center website. This event is co-sponsored by Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry and Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis

## Register Now - Laudato Si' Conference



Join us for an Environmental Justice Conference on Saturday, April 27th from 9-2 pm at St. James Church, 896 Main St., Rocky Hill. The conference theme is "**The Power of Positive Change: Bringing Laudato Si' to Life,**" focusing on how we

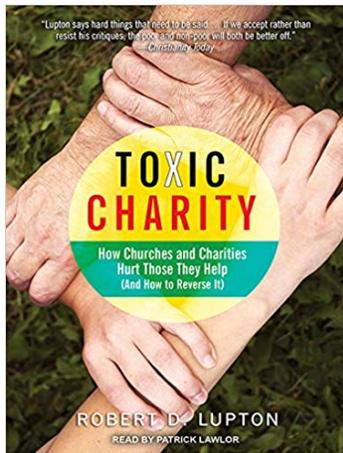
can take action on some of the pressing environmental issues of our time. Rev. Tom Carr from the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN) and Sr. Ruth Rosenbaum, TC, PhD, Executive Director for the Center for Reflection, Education, and Action (CREA) will be our opening and closing keynotes. Please register by Monday, April 22nd. For more information email [patrick.laorden@aohct.org](mailto:patrick.laorden@aohct.org) You can [register on-line](#) at our website or to register by phone call us at 860-242-5573.

## CCHD - Teaching Youth about Justice

Tracey Clements, an intern in our office and a member of our Laudato Si' Ministry Team, has been hard at work promoting the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) to the Catholic schools! Tracey recently gave presentations on the [Two Feet of Love in Action](#) for students at St. Christopher School in East Hartford and St. Gabriel School in Windsor. Students were engaged in a wide array of activities to learn more about the distinction between charity, which focuses on charitable works to address short term needs, and social justice, which focuses on institutional change to address long term needs. Tracey has also been promoting CCHD's multimedia contest, "[Creating on the Margins](#)," to empower youth to use the arts to educate others about the root causes of poverty in the U.S.



## Toxic Charity Book Review



The Catholic practice of charity has always been a pillar of our faith. The credibility of the Church and the Christian message rests entirely upon how we serve the marginalized in our community. By following the blueprint of the Beatitudes we feed those who are hungry and thirsty by delivering food to local food pantries, for the poor in spirit we answer the call of Jesus by delivering extraordinary baskets during Thanksgiving and Christmas to economically stretched members of our community. We continue to answer the call of being charitable by providing clothes, socks, shoes, and toiletries to those who are economically struggling. Despite all the drives and mountains of contributions why are the poor getting poorer, and the poverty gap increasing?

Never thinking that any type of charity can be toxic, Robert Lupton, in his book "Toxic Charity" encourages us to examine the emotional, economic and cultural outcomes of the receiving end of charity. Lupton does not intend to offend generous givers or discourage kind-hearted volunteers but to also consider methods of **justice** that will make sustainable differences in the lives of those that we want to genuinely help. Temporary aid to alleviate poverty will always be a societal need but what do we do when the crisis is over? Non-crisis specific charity can bring unintended consequences, such as unhealthy dependency, lack of self-worth, or lack of motivation to work. Our real goal should be to move people out of poverty by working collaboratively towards empowerment, employment, investment and reinforcing achievement **with** the poor. Some examples of justice strategies in place within our Archdiocese include the supportive affordable housing of Cathedral Green, and CCHD funded organizing groups like CONECT and Keep the Promise.

Pope Francis reminds us that Jesus wants us to reinstate the outcast, restoring everyone to God's family. Sometimes this involves looking at charity through a different lens, taking bold steps and thoughtful initiatives from those who have a most generous heart.

Review by Barbara Carpenter, OCSJM Board of Director  
Toxic Charity will be the focus of our 2019 Social Justice Conference.

## Current Parish Social Ministry Resources

### 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.