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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

July 2021

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



A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.

St. Francis of Assisi

From the Director

Dear friends,

I love summer. It's a time to rejuvenate our body, mind, and soul. I enjoy walking, bicycling, or just sitting in a beach chair enjoying the view. It's a great time to grow closer to God and in our appreciation of creation.

Summer is also a time for the annual Social Action Summer Institute. This event brings together diocesan directors to share best practices, hear inspiring homilies and keynotes, take part in workshops, and visit with CCHD funded groups. Although virtual again this year, I was able to attend again this year. It leaves me reenergized to help you strengthen your parish social

MINISTRY TEAMS

Snapshot – Where We've Been

Sr. Rosemarie Greco – newest member of our Human Trafficking Task Force – advocating for vicariate outreach funding transitional housing and

ministry. As the U.S. Bishops said in their pastoral letter "Communities of Salt and Light", "*the parish dimension of social ministry is what keeps a parish alive and makes it truly Catholic*".

I hope you have the opportunity to reenergize this summer, grow in your faith, and that paths open to enliven your parish.

Together in the journey,



Lynn Campbell

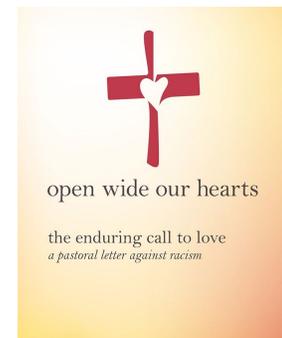
support for human trafficking survivors.

She recently wrote a column about her experience in the [Global Sisters Report](#).

Opening Wide Our Hearts – In our Parishes

On June 16 members of St. Patrick Parish, Collinsville, St. Mary, New Haven, and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Manchester, provided information and food for thought to 40 people at our workshop. Motivated by our monthly webinar series, each are providing parish opportunities to encounter, grow, witness, and change hearts about racism. Attendees at this gathering committed to continued actions and working together. A recording of their presentation can be found [here](#).

If your parish is addressing racism, we've love to hear from you. [Contact us!](#)



Social Justice Dinner and Awards

Save the Date - Tuesday October 19.

Our Social Justice Dinner and Awards will once again be held in person this year! We will return to the Aqua Turf where in addition to following CDC guidelines, we will be reducing the number of seats at a table so be sure to register early.



Watch for more information in the coming months including award winners, Keynote speaker and registration information.

We hope to see you there!

International Day Against Human Trafficking

July 30 is International Day Against Human Trafficking

Pray the Rosary

Friday July 30, 6:30 PM, St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 280 Brook St., Rocky Hill

St. Josephine Bakhita Parish invites you to join them in praying the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary for victims, survivors, and perpetrators of Human Trafficking.

For more information contact Barbara Pearce: srabgomez@sbcglobal.net



Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for the purposes of forced labor, sexual exploitation and even the sale of organs. It is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, exceeded only by the illegal arms industry, and second only to the drug trade.

Viewed through the lens of Catholic social teaching, human trafficking is a crime against the most basic aspects of human dignity and human rights. It preys on the poor and vulnerable who have no support, no recourse, no voice.



In the words of Pope Francis:

"I urgently appeal to all men and women of good will, and all those near or far...not to turn away from the sufferings of our brothers and sisters, our fellow human beings, who are deprived of their freedom and dignity. Instead, may we have the courage to touch the suffering flesh of Christ, revealed in the faces of those countless persons whom he calls "the least of these my brethren." (Mt 25:40,45)

Pope Francis, World Day of Peace Message, 2015

In recognition of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, a recitation of the rosary will be held at

**St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, in St Elizabeth Seton Church,
Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT**

6:30 pm on July 30, 2021.

All are welcome.

Action Alert

“Many people want to return to normality and resume economic activities. Certainly, but this ‘normality’ should not include social injustices and the degradation of the environment. The pandemic is a crisis, and we do not emerge from a crisis the same as before: either we come out of it better, or we come out of it worse. We must come out of it better, to counter social injustice and environmental damage. Today we have an opportunity to build something different.”

- Pope Francis, [Aug. 19, 2020](#)

Congress is considering legislation about how to best support our nation’s infrastructure and economic recovery. Lawmakers must set aside their differences to reach a strong, bipartisan agreement to make the investments necessary to care for the earth and for those on the margins of society. As a follower of Jesus, you can lend your voice to ensure that we build a better future that promotes the common good and protects the environment, the poor, and the vulnerable.

Tell your Representative and Senators to act now by working across the aisle and committing to climate and energy policy that benefits those disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation; prioritizing job creation for the poor and marginalized; ensuring access to safe, decent, and affordable housing for all Americans; and enacting economic policies that strengthen families.

We encourage you to add your own personal story about the need for an infrastructure plan that cares for those on the margins in the message as well.

**Take Action
Now**

Immigration Update



The importance of permanence and family security came to mind as the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing this week on The American Dream and Promise Act, which would establish a path to citizenship for DREAMers and TPS holders.

Both groups include immigrants who have lived in the United States for many years, contributing to our economy and communities. Both groups include many essential workers, such as AIS clients who work in health care, agriculture and retail jobs.

Learn more about the American Dream and Promise Act [here](#). Then reach out to your Senators to let them know that this bill is important to you and that #FamiliesBelongTogether

Provided by Apostles Immigrant Services

Death Penalty Petition

Last week, Attorney General Merrick Garland announced an [official review](#) of the federal death penalty. Ending the federal death penalty is an urgent priority, and an action by President Biden to dismantle this deadly system would serve to uphold the teachings of our Catholic Church. Although the announcement is no clear indication of President Biden's intentions, the president has not backed away from his campaign promise to end the federal death penalty.



CATHOLIC MOBILIZING NETWORK

ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY.
PROMOTING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE.

Please consider signing [this petition](#) urging President Biden and his administration to honor the sanctity of life by prioritizing an end to the federal death penalty.



Regarding the death penalty, the first and foremost aspect of the Church's teaching is the belief in the inherent dignity of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God. Our Catechism states that this dignity "is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes." As such, the death penalty is "inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person" (Catholic Catechism 2267).

Legislative Updates



Thank you to all who responded to our calls for action this year. This could not happen without the tireless work all those involved. These efforts have been in the works for years! That is the slow, but result oriented work of social justice.

An Act Concerning Human Trafficking will be life changing for survivors of trafficking, providing criminal relief that will enable eligibility for work and housing. *Lead: Love 146 and The Underground CT.*

Welfare Liens removed in CT thanks to lead organizer Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA)

Clean Slate legislation-this bill has the possibility of offering second chances to nearly 300,000 CT residents, evening the playing field for access to housing and employment. *Lead: CONECT & GHIAA*

Climate and Community Investment Act – provides a just transition to climate-protective energy production and helps working-class families in CT access clean technology careers. *Lead: CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs.*

The Department of Labor will provide grants to CT non-profits to do education and outreach to domestic workers, addressing work-related laws. *Lead: CT Domestic Worker Justice Campaign*

Resources

Bulletin Announcements for your use

Suggested Bulletin Announcements regarding Church Teaching & Racism can be [found here](#)

Fratelli Tutti

Have you heard? Pope Francis released his third encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. It presents his vision of how humanity must respond to the needs of the 21 century. It can be considered the sister to *Laudato Si*. Where *Laudato Si* reminds us that we live in a common home, *Fratelli Tutti* reminds us of the need to take care of our common family.

These documents prepared by the Vatican provide a helpful introduction to Pope Francis' third encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*. [The overview document](#) includes a helpful chapter by chapter summary of the document, and the [summary](#) provides a one-page introduction to some of *Fratelli Tutti*'s main themes. Use these to accompany your reading and reflection on the full encyclical.

Also helpful, **Twelve Themes from Fratelli Tutti by John Carr** (Georgetown University) can be found [here](#).

Resources on racism can be found on [our website](#).



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