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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

June 2022

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

From the Director

Dear Friends,

June 15 marked the 10th anniversary of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). You may have met someone with DACA status. They've gone to school with your children or worked at your favorite restaurant. Bright, beautiful young adults. But, what you don't see is that they live in fear, with a shadow over their heads. Their parents worry over them. Every two years they have to have their DACA status renewed. They lack access to permanent legal status and citizenship and face uncertainty about their future in the United States. A country they call home. They do not know their country of origin, having come to the United States as small children without documentation.

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.

Throughout my years at the Archdiocese, I have met many DACA recipients, aka "Dreamers". It is on their behalf that I ask you to join me in urging Congress to move forward with a permanent solution for Dreamers. Let us bring back the hope DACA provided to over 600,000 recipients. I encourage you to read on and participate in the Action Alert.

Blessings,

Snapshot - Where We've Been

Representing the CT Domestic Worker Justice Campaign at the Domestic Workers Congress offered by the CT Worker Center held on [International Domestic Workers Day](#).

Our CCHD committee completed their visits with grant applicants and met to determine funding allocations.

Represented the Office at the [Interreligious Eco-Justice Network Dinner](#), and looking forward to future collaborations.

Deacon Victor Mitchell of our Human Trafficking Task Force presented an awareness event at St. John the Evangelist Church in Watertown.



Lynn Campbell

Our racial justice working group met to discuss the documentary "I am Shakespeare: The Henry Green Story" which takes place in New Haven.

Our CRS Chapter members attended a national call where they learned about the 2023 Farm Bill and heard from Jorge Brenes, Chief of Party for USDA funded projects in Nicaragua.

Save the Date!



Please join us on Saturday, September 17 at the
Omni New Haven for our joint conference with the
Center for Catholic Education & Formation
as we present ~
Dreaming Together
Forming Disciples for Faith and Justice

Registration opens July 25
Promotional materials can be found at [Dreaming Together](#).

Keynote: "Grounding Your Ministry in Prayer" Presented by Rev. James Martin, SJ

Conference Workshop Spotlight

Deacon David Reynolds

"Catholics in the Public Square: Advocating for the Common Good"

In these very politically volatile times Catholics may find themselves conflicted between viewpoints on various topics and what the Catholic Church teaches on these issues. This workshop will begin with a review of the United States Bishops document "Faithful Citizenship" and what is met by the term "Common Good", which is found in numerous Church teachings. It will then review practical steps on how Catholics can let their voices be heard in the legislative process

Deacon David Reynolds advocates on numerous public policy issues for the Connecticut Catholic Conference. He is a registered lobbyist and has worked for the Conference for the past 18 years. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Hartford. David was ordained a permanent deacon in June 2004 by Archbishop Henry Mansell and currently serves as deacon to the parish of our Lady of Hope, serving churches in Harwinton and New Hartford.

Parish Spotlight - St. Rose of Lima



The first principle in Catholic social teaching is to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of the human person. In parish life, creating a strong community, based on relationships that are built between people who have taken the time to meet and know each other, is one expression of this deeply held value. St. Rose of Lima Parish in Meriden is on their way to building a stronger community.

The parish has held a series of House Meetings. House meetings are a key tool faith-based organizing uses for listening, building relationships, and effecting change. A house meeting is a small gathering of ten to fifteen people who are invited to the home of someone they know and trust to discuss issues of shared concern and develop ways to work together.

St. Rose of Lima Parish held a House Meeting Campaign in November. The parish is in the process of building a relational culture in the parish. Parishioners are getting to know each other in a deeper way. Through the sharing of stories deeper relationships are built.

To learn more about this development, be sure to check out Fr. Manship's workshop at our conference, offered in Spanish and English.

St. Rose of Lima Parish will receive funding from the [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) to further its community building effort.

In Solidarity with Domestic Workers

June 16 was International Domestic Workers Day. Celebrations, organized by members of the CT Domestic Worker Justice Campaign, were held in Bridgeport and New Haven. It's not too late to join the celebration. Here are two ways to participate:

1. **Call your member of Congress** and ask them to champion the National Domestic Worker Bill of Rights. Call 1-844-338-5133 and say:

"I am calling to ask my Representative to be a champion for the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. Nannies, home care workers and house cleaners keep our communities strong. Domestic workers need full rights and protections."

2. *Join Naugatuck Valley Project with their action:*

Monday, June 20, 2022
Waterbury City Hall Plaza
6 pm - 7 pm

Bring brooms, mops, and buckets! Featuring State Representative Geraldo Reyes Jr. NVP will lobby aldermen to sign a letter in support of NVP's education and enforcement campaign for domestic worker rights. Contact: Lourdes Gonzalez, Naugatuck Valley Projects (NVP) Board Member, lourdes.gonzalez@live.com

Opening our Hearts Through Mary

Mary . . . As Seen By All God's Children

Images of Mary – Enjoy a gallery of pictures of Our Lady from countries around the world. There will be a brief reflection on Mary as our spiritual Mother, and seeing all people as born in the image and likeness of God. Refreshments follow. All welcome!

***June 27,2022 6PM – 7:15PM
St. Joseph Church Hall,
129 Edwards St. New Haven 06511***

Volunteer Profile

We welcome our newest volunteer, Joe Meagher.

Joe and his wife Diane moved to Enfield last year from New Hampshire and are members of St. Raymond of Peñafort. Joe is retired from the former MiddleOak Insurance in Middletown CT.

In addition to volunteering with OCSJM, Joe enjoys playing golf and is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Catholic Theology through St. Joseph's College of Maine. Joe and Diane are "snowbirds", splitting time between Enfield and Spring Hill FL. While in FL Joe is a member of the local chapter of St. Vincent DePaul through the parish of St. Frances Cabrini. Joe and Diane have two adult children and two grandchildren.

Action Alert



Ask Congress to Provide a Permanent Path to Citizenship

DACA allows certain undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children—commonly referred to as “Dreamers”—to remain in the country, subject to several requirements. DACA does not provide legal status, nor does it

create a pathway to citizenship, but it does temporarily protect recipients from removal and make them eligible for work authorization, among other benefits.

There are currently multiple bills pending before Congress that would provide permanent relief to Dreamers, including the American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6) and the Dream Act (S. 264), both of which have been endorsed by the USCCB.

Ask your U.S. Senators and Representative to prioritize the passage of legislation providing them with a pathway to permanent legal status and citizenship!

[SEND YOUR MESSAGE HERE](#)

After completing this action alert, share your support for DACA recipients on social media using the hashtag #DACA10

Protecting the Children is our Highest Duty

The recent murders of 19 children and 2 teachers in Uvalde Texas, on the heels the unspeakable tragedy in Buffalo, brought back horrible memories of the Sandy Hook massacre. The frequency of mass shootings in our nation has become an unconscionable phenomenon.

Anger over the senseless deaths of helpless victims is coupled with incredible frustration as our society has failed to identify solutions, or pass meaningful legislation, which would halt or reduce the number of shootings. The motives behind these shootings are quite varied. The outcomes, however, are painfully indistinguishable.

Once again, following a shooting of this nature, politics has reared its ugly head with the ongoing debate over stricter gun regulation v. the rights of gun owners. We are a country of laws, and those laws are founded in our constitution, through which we are given the right to keep and bear arms. As Catholics we must first embrace that the right to life trumps all others.

We must do all in our power to protect our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable among them, our children. Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio stated "... each of us also needs to search our souls for ways that we can do more to understand this epidemic of evil and violence and implore our elected officials to help us take action." The Holy Father also echoed these sentiments, stating "It is time to say enough to the indiscriminate trafficking of weapons. Let us all work hard so that such tragedies can never happen again."

We must act swiftly and with a unified voice. Enough! Jesus called on us to love your neighbor as yourself. Now is the time for all to heed the words of our Savior and our Church and come to the aid of our neighbors. Life is a gift given to us all by God, it is sacred. It is not a bargaining chip.

The USCCB has reached out to all members of Congress ([Letter to Congress on Gun Violence, June 3, 2022 | USCCB](#)) expressing their strong support for legislation. Please consider contacting your Representative and Senator and urge them to action. ([US Senators and Representatives \(ct.gov\)](#))

Written by Joe Meagher

Human Trafficking Awareness

**July 30 is World Day
Against Trafficking in**

Persons

**Join us at this fun and informative event benefitting area anti-trafficking
and survivor support organizations**

From *Let us Dream* by Pope Francis

"What ties us to each other is what we commonly call solidarity. Solidarity is more than acts of generosity, important as these are; it is the call to embrace the reality that we are bound by bonds of reciprocity. On this solid foundation we can build a better, different, human future."

Pope Francis - Let Us Dream

Resources

Bulletin Announcements for your use

Bulletin announcements to promote "Dreaming Together, Forming Disciples for Faith and Justice", can be [found here](#).

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

Climate Change Campaign Resources

Climate change disproportionately hurts the most vulnerable communities. CRS' new campaign seeks to change this. Explore the new [climate change campaign resources](#).

At the launch of Laudato Si', we prepared a [Laudato Si' Parish Toolkit](#). The tool kit includes items to include in the parish bulletin.



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