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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

April 7, 2020

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

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From the Director

Dear friends,

***It came without soup nights, it came without fish fries.
It came without egg hunts, palms, and our Sunday best.
It came while we were put to the test.***

Holy week came. Our Lenten journey is drawing to an end. A colleague sent me a beautiful note, bringing to my attention that as the world around us is mostly void of Easter commercialism it is an amazing reminder of the true meaning of the Lenten Season and the joyful promise of the Resurrection to come.

I pray that although celebrations this Easter will be different this year, that you will find joy, hope, and peace in the true meaning of Easter.

Blessings,



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

Lynn Campbell, Executive Director



Pope Quote

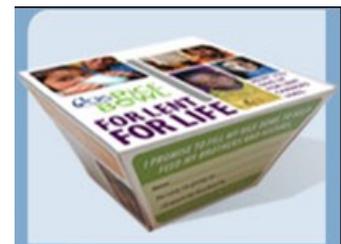


"May God's blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: 'Do not be afraid' (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, 'cast all our anxieties onto you, for your care about us' (cf. 1 Pet 5:7)."

March 27, 2020 from his "Extraordinary Moment of Prayer"

CRS Rice Bowl

Your Lenten participation in CRS Rice Bowl comes at a critical time in our world. Because of the impact of COVID-19 more people will be at risk of hunger. Those suffering from malnutrition have weakened immune systems and become more at risk.



Here's the [link to CRS Rice Bowl](#) with information on how to send your remittance directly to CRS. No worries, the 25% which remains in our Archdiocese will be returned to us so that we can help hunger people in our Archdiocese. Thank you for bringing Lent to life!

A Message from Arturo Iriarte, Parish Social Ministry Coordinator



As we all know there is no more serious preoccupation in our minds today than the COVID-19 pandemic, for which there is no antidote at the moment. Many professionals are working hard to discover the cure and God willing they will find one sooner rather than later. Meanwhile our Archdiocese sends us home to shelter for the safety of us all.

To continue our mission from home, we need to be creative in how we "visit, convene and meet" with parishioners. My starting point was to call about 35 parishioners as well as several Spanish speaking priests and deacons throughout the Archdiocese, to have a better view about how our brothers and sisters are adjusting to

these new conditions.

I heard stories about lack of food, money and healthcare to protect the undocumented members of our society. I also heard beautiful and compassionate stories that are happening now in parishes. For example, St. John XXIII leaders have delivered food for three undocumented families in need in West Haven.

As parish social justice coordinator for OCSJM, I set up video conferencing on a regular basis with parish leaders in order to have a closer and more personal conversation with them. What I have heard from them are the needs in their parishes for psychological, spiritual, economical, food support and legal advice as well as general concerns about personal anxiety, stress, and safety.

Father in heaven I am your child and loved by you. For in one way or another, kindness always makes a difference. Live with kindness and you live with strength, with confidence, with positive effectiveness. Live with kindness and you make your world a better place to be.

MIGRATION-RELATED POLICIES ON THE CARES ACT, H.R. 748/ S. 3548.

"CARES" stands for the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security".

As a general rule, CARES leaves in place the ineligibility of the undocumented and other "non-qualified aliens" for cash assistance, including any cash assistance provided by CARES (such as unemployment insurance.)



CARES prohibits anyone in a household from receiving the \$1,200-per-adult and \$500-per-child cash assistance if the household includes one or more undocumented immigrants. However, CARE covers resident immigrants who filed federal taxes in 2018 or 2019 or before, have a social security number and meet certain IRS residency requirements.

There is likely to be further legislation for the mitigation of and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. At the national level, the bishops' conference will continue working for greater inclusiveness and support for refugees and immigrants and to address gaps in healthcare and economic support. We know that we are called to care for and love all our brothers and sisters no matter their immigration status. On the local level we must make sure they are not left behind in our efforts to provide food, comfort, and care to those affected by this pandemic.

The Connecticut March for Life is NOW - CT-Login for Life

The Connecticut March for Life is NOW - "CT-Login for Life"

This webinar event will feature:

- State level presenters discussing current pro-life issues in Connecticut
- Information on lobbying your elected officials
- Time for questions by participants



The webinar will last one hour. If you have a computer or tablet you have all that is needed to participate. You can also dial in by phone to listen to the presentations. Please join the CT Catholic Conference for this first ever pro-life event of its kind in Connecticut.

[Click here](#) for more information on the event and to register

[Click here](#) to receive Action Alerts from the CT Catholic Conference

Hunger and the Coronavirus



The world is living through unprecedented times. The coronavirus (COVID-19) is causing anxiety, uncertainty, and disruption. As is often the case, people living in hunger and poverty are likely to suffer the most. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. We can advocate for the vulnerable communities among us by [writing a letter](#)

urging congress to increase assistance to those already suffering despite the growing pandemic. As Easter approaches, we are reminded to turn to our God who is always with us, loves us, and shares in our concerns. [Click here](#) to learn more about Bread for the World's response to global hunger and COVID-19.

Prayer During This Health Crisis

Compassionate and Loving Father,

in the face of confusion and concern impart to us the calm of your presence.

In You allow us to find hope and healing.

Be with those who serve the sick and give them Your caring hands.

Be with those who lead and give them Your Spirit of wisdom.

Be with those who have fallen ill and give them Your comforting heart.

Wrap your arms around our world and hold us in your love.

Allow us at this time of trial to then serve as instruments of that love to all we meet.

We ask this in Your Name,

Amen.



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