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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

March 2018

Para español haga [clic aqui](#)

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

CALENDAR

March

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

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

**March 19, 7-8:30pm
Common Ground-
Holy Ground**

St. Thomas the Apostle
West Hartford
Interfaith Dialog

March 22, 6:30-9pm

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

April

April 22 -Earth Day

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From the Director

Where do you find hope these days?

These days, it is easy to get depressed. The gloomy weather of March. The lack of respect for human life. So many injustices in our world. Pope Francis encourages us to be people of hope. During his weekly general audience on Sept. 20, 2017 he reminded us: No matter "where God has planted you, hope. Always hope," he said. "The world goes on thanks to the vision of many people who created an opening, who built bridges, who dreamed and believed, even when they heard words of derision and them."

This Lent I have found hope in the young people of our country.

- The Dreamers who for years have been fighting for their rights.
- The students from Parkville, Florida. Their voices speak of peace. They are not interested in partisanship or rhetoric.
- Our Archdiocesan Catholic school students, participating in our Laudato Si' Challenge. They are participating in individual and collective acts so that the earth will be a little more sustainable.

I wish you a hope filled Lenten journey.

Lynn

VISIT OUR
WEBSITE



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

Lynn Campbell, Executive Director

Triduum



CRS Rice Bowl Weekly Lenten Reflections



"The Good News is no mere matter of words: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others." - Pope Francis

Lent is a time of encounter.

Through prayer, we encounter Christ, present in the face of every member of our human family.

Through fasting, we encounter the obstacles that prevent us from loving God and neighbor.

Through almsgiving, we encounter our brothers and sisters around the world, sharing God's gifts with others.

The CRS Lenten reflections are your guide. Through them, you and your faith-sharing community will encounter Christ in those who are suffering, those who are marginalized and throughout creation. You will encounter Christ in your own prayer, too. And after the 40 days of Lent, you will be prepared to encounter the risen Christ.

By clicking on this [link](#), you'll find five Lenten reflections as modules with prayers, activities and questions that will help you unpack the idea of building a culture of encounter—a central theme to Pope Francis' papacy. Use the modules each week, or pick and choose the modules or features that are most helpful to you and your community's Lenten journey.

Save the Date

ANNUAL BISHOP PETER ROSAZZA SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

"Rooted in Faith: Bringing Social Justice Home"

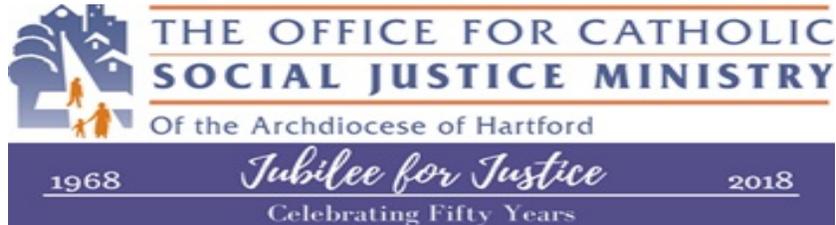
June 9, 2018 8:00am to 3:30pm
St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield CT





Our Opening Keynote Speaker will be **Joan Rosenhauer** of Catholic Relief Services. Joan's talk will be: "*Let Justice Flow at Home: Rooting Catholic Social Teaching in the Family*" Family is a central social institution that must be supported and strengthened. Joan will share her expertise and experience on how Catholic Relief Services is supporting this tenant of Catholic Social Teaching throughout the world. We must help our families remember this rich body of Catholic Social Teaching which calls us to respond to the Gospel and go to the peripheries.

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.

This month we are featuring Ken Galdson. Ken is the lead organizer and director of the Intervalley Project, a network of community organizing groups in the New England region. Ken has worked with us on many organizing efforts, one of which is a statewide campaign advocating for a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights in CT. Watch [here](#) for Ken's reflection!

WELCOME !!



We would like to welcome and introduce you to another one of our newest board members. Anna Eisen lives in West Hartford and serves as the leadership team chair for Crossfire, the young adult ministry program at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. She has been working in libraries and nonprofit organizations for the past 10 years, and holds a Master of Library & Information Science degree from the University of Washington, and a BA in Women & Gender Studies from Smith College. She currently works as the Children's Librarian at Farmington Library, and previously worked as a Youth Services Librarian at the Hartford

Public Library. In 2011-2012, she served with Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, working at Catholic Charities' Childbirth and Parenting Assistance Program in Spokane, WA. Welcome Anna!

CRS Parish Ambassador Corps-Ministros de la Solidaridad

We are excited to launch CRS Parish Ambassador Corps in our Archdiocese. Are you interested in becoming part of a nationwide CRS-ambassador community?



Inspired by Pope Francis, Catholics across the United States hunger for new ways to live their faith-to encounter and respond to excluded and suffering people around the world. A passion for mission inspires Catholics, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to put the

teachings of the Church into practice by energizing their parish communities to have a global impact. To help Catholics answer this call, Catholic Relief Services has developed the CRS Parish Ambassador Corps.

This leadership development and spiritual formation opportunity offers hands-on training in skills for effective parish engagement. Learn more by [watching our video](#) and attending one of these 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

Earth Day 2018: Reduce Single-Use Plastic!



Sunday, April 22nd, marks the 48th anniversary of Earth Day! The Catholic Climate Covenant just released their 2018 Earth Program, which can be downloaded [here](#). This is a great program for any parish, school, youth group, or university to connect the theme of waste reduction in the community to Earth Day. The resource is a one hour educational program that addresses the growing concern of single-use disposable plastic. The program comes with prayers, readings, actions, and a short video to engage your community to learn, pray, and act on how to fight against a throwaway culture and to reduce single-use plastic.

In support of DACA

From St. John XXIII, West Haven in the southern part of the Archdioceses to St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, Rocky Hill in the North..., we were listening, praying and reflecting on February 18th and advocating on March 5th - the day that DACA ended.

On a cold Sunday afternoon in February, parishioners from Saint Josephine Bakhita Parish attended an engaging discussion on immigration.



Claire Dalidowitz shared that Deacon Michael Ward gave a thorough presentation on the roots of the immigration issue and the Catholic response from our bishops and others dating back to 2003. He explained the need to reform immigration rather than using enforcement only. Catholic Social Teaching states that "the human dignity and human rights of the undocumented migrant should be respected". The parishioners became fully engaged when they listened to a "Dreamer" who is a young person brought here as a child, who now is awaiting decisions on the Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Mr. Alan Dorman, one of the parishioners, shared a surprise testimony. *"I am walking 2.1 miles daily in support of DACA kids because I feel frustrated that Legislators are using DACA for political purposes and not based in what is most important for us as Catholic, this moral issue needs to be addressed. I am a 71 year old person with scoliosis, and every step I do is painful but worthy."*

On March 5th, a press conference was held in support of Dreamers. Mr. Dorman wants his voice to be heard so he came with us to the capitol. We made the arrangements and Mr. Dorman was able to share this powerful pilgrimage story of love.

Pictured Left to right Arturo Iriarte, OCSJM, Alan Dorman, Carmen Dorman

Making Poor and Vulnerable People a Priority

Many health care related bills have had public hearings in CT and now legislators have to



start making decisions. You can follow bills, identify committee members, and contact your representatives through the [CT General Assembly Website](#).

We are a part of the CT Statewide Home Healthcare Justice Campaign, organizing to win the CT Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. Together with Catholic Campaign for Human

Development funded group Naugatuck Valley Project, and other groups, we are advocating for provisions to enhance the rights of CT Homecare workers. Home Healthcare aides, unlike the vast majority of hourly workers, are not paid overtime. You can read our advocacy papers on [our website](#).

A proposal to watch is the Medicaid Work Requirement Proposal. We need to preserve funding to health care programs that provide a social safety net to the poor and seniors. [Five Reasons Work Requirements in Medicaid Won't Work](#): is a helpful resource to understand this. As Pope Francis said, "Health, indeed, is a not a consumer good, but a universal right which means that access to healthcare services cannot be a privilege."

50 Acts of Justice

This month's "50 Acts of Justice," highlights Nancy Kiely, a past OCSJM board member and parishioner at Christ the King Church in Wethersfield. Nancy, along with other parishioners, has been assisting at a medical clinic in Honduras, which shares a relationship with Christ the King Church. The medical clinic is staffed by Hondurans while Nancy and two other parishioners provide oversight. The clinic has been open now for three years and continues to be successful!



This is one of many stories we love to share, of parishioners actively engaging in social justice in the archdiocese. Let's continue this Jubilee for Justice, walking with both our charity and social justice feet! Please send any photos and stories to patrick.laorden@aohct.org

Providing pastoral care and solidarity



There are many blessings and heartfelt moments amidst our challenging work. One such moment came when we visited with the parish community of St. John the XXIII in West Haven. We were there as part of our letter writing campaign in support of Dreamers. As of this writing eight parishes have participated, writing almost 7,000 letters.

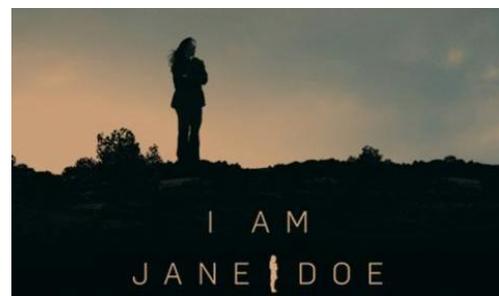
We slowly read aloud [CT Bishops Statement on Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals](#) to the congregation. Most had not heard of it. It brought many to tears. The congregation stood and applauded. It was such a comfort to know that the Catholic Church - and their Archbishop - is standing in solidarity with them. Just as important to our advocacy work is our pastoral care, and it was valued at this gathering.

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.

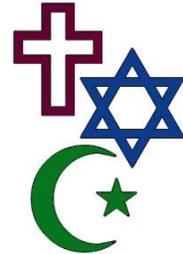
This intense documentary follows real cases of American girls enslaved in the child sex trade through ads in a newspaper's online classified section. Starring Jessica Chastain and directed by Mary Mazzio.

Refreshments will be available - free will offering appreciated.

Common Ground-Holy Ground

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, West Hartford

Lower Level Reception Area
Monday, March 19, 2018
7:00 - 8:30 PM
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



In prudence and love, join us for an evening of dialogue as we explore Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, recognizing the moral, spiritual, and socio-cultural values found within them and how their communities can provide us with concrete ways to foster peace and solidarity in our common pursuits to live compassionate lives.

Panelists

Fr. Edward Moran, St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Rabbi Yitzchok Adler, Beth David Synagogue
Imam Omar Tawil, Farmington Valley American Muslim Center, Inc.

Facilitator: Patrick Laorden, Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry

For more info call Patrick Laorden (860)-242-5573 Ext. 2686

"Silence as Ecological Conversion" - A Laudato Si' Retreat



Thank you to everyone who attended our Laudato Si' Retreat "Silence as Ecological Conversion". The event drew thirty-eight people who represented twenty-one parishes in the archdiocese! Participants came away understanding that silence is a means of ecological conversion, which calls us to lifestyle changes and challenges us to engage our environmental justice efforts in the community as advocates. There were also opportunities to network with John Humphries from the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate

and Jobs, Sr. Ruth Rosenbaum, TC, co-founder of the Center for Reflection, Education, and Action, and Livia Fiordelisi, a parishioner at Prince of Peace Church, Woodbury who helped start a Care for Creation ministry at her parish.

The retreat sparked interest to form a Laudato Si' parish network. The network will consist of parishes in the archdiocese, who are engaged in Care for Creation initiatives, to serve as a resource for one another. If your parish is interested in joining this network, please email patrick.laorden@aohct.org.

Movie Review

Before the Flood - Movie Review

Edited by Steve Lowrance, OCSJM Laudato Si' Team Member

Climate change is happening and it's terrifying. But what is there to be done about it? That's one of the central questions of the documentary *Before the Flood*, produced by Leonardo DiCaprio. DiCaprio doesn't simply pop in and out of the documentary at his convenience—he's in nearly every scene, speaking with some of the world's top scientists and the individuals that have the power to do something about climate change, from President Obama to Pope

Francis.

To read the full review of this important movie, please visit our [website blog](#).



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.