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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

March 2022

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

From the Director

Dear friends,

I recently spoke with an area priest who was looking to introduce sustainability practices to the parish. Parish events were starting to happen again in the church hall and he was looking to reduce the amount of disposables used. Learning that a parish priest was thinking about this brought me so much joy!

In his book "Let us Dream" Pope Francis shared his dream of our coming out of the COVID pandemic as better people, working together for the common good and considering new ways of living together on this earth. In his conclusion to the Synod Report, Archbishop Blair encouraged us to move forward with boldness and creativity.

Many of our parishes are back to offering in-person events such as retreats, soup nights and fish fries. We have an opportunity to do things differently. Stop using bottled water. When those plastic tablecloths wear down, replace them with linens. Start a [Care for Creation Team](#); we can provide some [financial assistance](#) to get you started. Your actions can help protect children and the poor. Now is the time to get creative and put Catholic social teaching into action.

Oh, and that priest I mentioned, he is starting with small steps, but he is starting.

Lenten blessings,



Lynn Campbell



Catholic Relief Services is the international aid and development agency of the U.S. Catholic Church.

The Church's initial support of displaced families includes, but is not limited to:

- Food distributions & hygiene supplies
- Support with reception centers at Caritas offices, train stations, and transit hubs.
- Transportation services
- Support with evacuation centers, which provide shelter, food and counseling services for displaced families.
- Evacuation of vulnerable children from conflict areas to centers in safe zones.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, more than 5 million Ukrainians could be forced to flee the country if fighting persists, while millions of others could be displaced internally. Poland, Moldova and Romania are already seeing considerable upticks in the number of refugees crossing their borders. According to the United Nations over 1 Million people have fled Ukraine to date.

[This 19 minute video](#) shows how CRS is working in the neighboring country of Moldova. One of the poorest countries in Europe, Moldova has opened its hearts and homes to the Ukrainian refugees.

This [1:30 minute video](#) offers a glimpse inside an emergency housing site in Moldova.

CRS online Fact Sheet on Ukraine Conflict and How to Help:
www.crs.org/media-center/current-issues/ukraine-conflict-facts-and-how-help

[Parish Bulletin and Pulpit Announcement](#)

[Donate to help families affected in the Ukraine](#)

CT DOMESTIC WORKER CAMPAIGN

Here are some bills we are watching, and requesting that domestic workers be included in the bills.

[S.B. No. 422 \(RAISED\) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESSENTIAL WORKERS COVID-19 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM](#)

[SB 312 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF CONNECTICUT PAID SICK DAYS](#)

The Labor Committee deadline to act on these bills is on Tuesday, 3/29.

[FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR HERE](#)



If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected – the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative (Sharing Catholic Social teaching, USCCB, 1999).



Join a webinar to learn more about JustFaith programs for Catholic Leaders!

[JustFaith Catholic](#) and [GoodNewsPeople](#) are two programs of JustFaith Ministries which are formally supported by the [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#). These programs are excellent opportunities to form Catholics in the social teaching of the church. Join [a webinar on March 17th at 2 p.m. ET to learn more](#) about how JustFaithCatholic and GoodNewsPeople can introduce a Catholic perspective on poverty, racial justice, care for creation, and peacebuilding to your faith community.

"With our hearts aching for what is happening in Ukraine, let us not forget wars in other parts of the world, such as in Yemen, Syria and Ethiopia....I repeat: May weapons be silenced. God is with the peacemakers, not with those who use violence."

-Pope Francis

Leading on Faith Religious Communities United on Climate Justice



REGISTRATION OPEN

<https://tinyurl.com/CRCJApr2022>

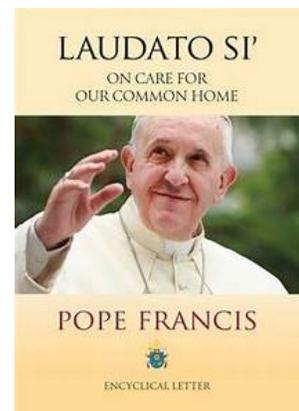
Monday April 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

In partnership with the [CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs](#), [Interreligious Eco-Justice Network](#), and the [Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford](#) we will offer a panel discussion on faith perspectives of our responsibilities towards climate justice. Learn how the various faith traditions call each of us to action.

This virtual event is free and open to all. Registration required.

Pope Francis, the Climate Crisis, and Racial Justice

We are excited to announce our Lenten event. This 2-part series combines our work with racial justice and Laudato Si'. We will be joined by the Collaborative Center for Justice for this interactive, two-part conversation. We will use excerpts from Pope Francis' book on the environment, *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home* as a starting point for a discussion on racial justice, ecology, and care for the poor and marginalized. In order to move from reflection to action, we will conclude with a look at relevant policy issues that need our advocacy.



Please click both Zoom registration links below to register for Part I and Part II individually. Once you fill out the registration form, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to launch the meetings on their respective dates.

1. [Click here](#) to register for Part I, happening on **March 23 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**
2. [Click here](#) to register for Part II, happening on **March 30 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Please find readings for our discussions embedded in these links. For Part I, please read the poem "[Canticle of Creation](#)" and [chapter 2 of Laudato Si](#). For Part II, please read [chapter 4 of Laudato Si](#). [Chapter 1](#) is also attached as an optional read for this session. [Click here](#) for free access to the entire book if you want.

You can help promote this event with [this flyer](#).

The [Collaborative Center for Justice](#) is a Hartford-based Catholic social justice organization sponsored by six communities of nuns. This program is free of charge, and all our welcome. If you are able, [click here to donate](#) to the Collaborative Center and support programs like this. Thank you!

Support Human Trafficking Survivors



We are proud to partner with the Underground New England in their support to survivors. They are doing amazing work, walking with the survivors on their recovery journey. One way your small group can support their work is by serving as a **Care and Prayer Partner**. Partners provide prayer for both survivors and mentors, encouragement notes, holiday gifts, and household items if needed.

Distribution of items is done through the mentor, in order to maintain confidentiality. To become a partner please contact [Lynn Campbell](#).

The Underground's survivor support program is need of contacts with apartments and sponsorship support. Learn more with this link to [The Underground NE](#).

Peace Vigil

Coming together to vigil in a way that demonstrates a response to the disruption of peace is one way to respond to the Ukrainian Conflict.

You are invited to join Brian Kavanaugh from Hartford Catholic Worker and a group of Catholics and supporters on Fridays from 11:30-12:30 during Lent in front of the Federal Court House, 450 Main St in Hartford. Bring a sign, or just bring your gift of presence.



CCHD Internship



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Catholic? Interested in fighting poverty?

Intern with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) at our office in Bloomfield.

We are accepting applications for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Candidates must be 18 years of age or older.

All interns are required to attend an all-expenses paid orientation in

Washington, D.C. on June 1-3, 2022.

Preference to applicants received by **May 1, 2022.**

For more information contact

Lynn Campbell

Download the application from the USCCB website.

CRS Annual Collection



This video shows how CRS helps empower women through their Savings program



The regularly scheduled national Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Collection, offered by the USCCB, will be held on **March 27, 2022.**

The Collection supports six Catholic agencies that prioritize the family and protect the life and dignity of each person:

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for international relief and development
Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) for refugee resettlement
Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC) for immigration legal services
Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development (JPHD) for advocacy
Holy Father's Relief Fund for emergency relief
Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church for evangelization and ministry

By supporting The Catholic Relief Services Collection, you help these organizations build richer lives for faithful around the world.

Virtual Parish Social Ministry Gathering

Do you have a great parish program you would like to share? Are you looking to engage in justice oriented activities but don't know where to start? Is your parish merging and your ministry is going through growing pains?

Our monthly virtual gatherings are a time to meet with others involved in parish ministry from across the Archdiocese and learn from each other.

April 13, 2022, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

A Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.
Amen.

[retrieved from Catholic Agency for Overseas Development UK](#)

Area Events of Interest

Interested in learning how broad based organizing works?
This is the work of Social Justice!

You are invited to attend:

Naugatuck Valley Project's

2022 Community Gathering

***Organizing for Affordable Housing,
Domestic Worker, Environmental, and
Healthcare Justice!***

The Struggle Continues!

Thursday, April 7, 2022
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

ZOOM MEETING – In English & Spanish Simultaneously

Register for the ZOOM Meeting:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For more information, call NVP at 203-574-2410 and leave a message.

Contemplation and Caring for Creation

offered by Holy Family Retreat Center

Contemplative Enrichment Day
Saturday, April 9, 2022; in-person event
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (ET)
Christina Leaño

This day-long immersion will explore the ways contemplation can support the healing of our planet. Participants will explore methods of prayer to awaken to God's presence in the natural world to help us better care for creation in our daily lives. The day will include periods of silence, "forest bathing," and mindful exploration. Participants will come away with a deeper understanding of the relationship between contemplation and action on behalf of our common home.

This program will be offered both in-person and online via Zoom. Information on how to access the program on Zoom will be sent to participants in advance.

This program will include a morning and an afternoon session of Centering Prayer.

Offering: \$65 (includes lunch)

[Click here](#) for more information and registration

CONTEMPLATING WITH CREATION: AN EARTH DAY MINI RETREAT

Offered by Mercy by the Sea

A Virtual Program with Christina Leaño
Thursday, April 21, 2022, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. U.S./EST
\$45 (Inquire about scholarships)

In collaboration with the Laudato Si' Movement

[Click here](#) for more information.

Mental Health Resources

Stations of the Cross with reflection on mental illness

[This resource](#) is based on a Stations of the Cross that Saint John Paul II used on Good Friday, 1991.



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[Visit our website](#)