

You are receiving this email because of your interest in the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry.

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

March 2023

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

From the Director



On March 13, 2013, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope and chose the name Francis.

Georgetown's Initiative on Catholic Social Thought

and Public Life has hosted "Francis Factor Dialogues" series throughout his papacy. The dialogues focus on Pope Francis' mission and message, his priorities and leadership, his impact, and the challenges he offers to U.S. Catholics. They are always high quality. I encourage you to check out [past and future events](#).

Pope Francis is able to connect with everyday people. His messages are straightforward. This month I would like to share with you some of his quotes I am reflecting on this Lent.

- "Lent is a time to change direction, to respond to the reality of evil and poverty."
- "Practicing charity is the best way to evangelize."
- "Beware of getting too comfortable! When we are comfortable, it's easy

Ministry Teams

Where We've Been

- Hosted the Collaborative Center for Justice for a 2-part education and advocacy series on the Free School Lunch program.
- Contacting our legislators about the Assisted Suicide Bill, Expanded Sick Pay coverage and housing concerns.
- Hosted a webinar on Anti-Asian Racism with Fr. Joseph Cheah.
- Board members participated in QPR Suicide Prevention training.

Quote of the Month

The Church supports the human rights of all people and offers them pastoral care, education,

to forget other people.”

- “Let us ask the Lord for the grace not to speak badly of others, not to criticize, not to gossip, but rather to love everyone.”

My prayer for you this Lent is that the words of Pope Francis both challenge and comfort you. You can find his messages on [Vatican News](#), Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Lenten Blessings,
Lynn Campbell

and social services, no matter what the circumstances of entry into this country, and it works for the respect of the human dignity of all especially those who find themselves in desperate circumstances.

***Welcoming the Stranger
Among Us: Unity in Diversity,
A Statement of the U.S.
Catholic Bishops***

Catholic Relief Services Collection



Support the Catholic Relief Services Collection at Mass this weekend and help reveal Christ's love.

How to Help Ukrainians



Catholic Relief Services ("CRS") has supported Caritas Ukraine in its emergency efforts since conflict began on Ukraine's eastern border in 2014, by providing shelter, food and livelihood support for those who were displaced. Since the Russian invasion began a year ago

CRS has been supporting Ukrainians through Caritas Ukraine as well Ukrainian refugees through Caritas Romania and Caritas Poland.

Some of their work includes:

- Field kitchens to provide food.
- Reception services at Caritas offices, train stations and other locations for displaced families in transit. These will provide information, referrals, food, water, hygiene items and psychosocial support.
- Transportation of displaced families to friends, families and local social services.
- Evacuation centers providing shelter, food and psychosocial support for displaced families. These centers will include support to address emotional care, including case management and child-friendly spaces.
- Evacuating vulnerable children from centers in conflict areas to centers in safe zones.
- Providing needed medical supplies.

How can you help?

[Donate Online](#)

Donate by Phone by calling:
877-435-7277 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Donate by Mail

Mail your check or money order to:
Catholic Relief Services
P.O. Box 5200
Harlan, IA 51593-0700

Climate Change Resources for Lent

There's still time to go greener this Lent. Check out the Catholic Climate Covenant's [2023 Lent resources](#) page. It includes prayer and action calendars, programs for study and reflection, and materials for liturgy.

From Catholic Climate Covenant's Blog: Meatless meals are good for the body, soul, and our Common Home. Read the story [here](#).

Saints for Social Justice St. Josephine Bakhita

Throughout the world and right here in the state of CT, the evils of human trafficking have permeated our society. This month we examine the life of St. Josephine Bakhita, herself a victim of this inhumane practice.

She was born in 1869 in Darfur (now Sudan) to a loving



family including her parents and six siblings. In her autobiography she wrote "I lived a very happy and carefree life, not knowing what suffering was." This all changed however at the age of 7 she was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. Over the next 12 years she was sold approximately five times.

During her enslavement she served many masters in many differing capacities, the one constant was the physical abuse she suffered. At one time she was beaten so badly by her master that she was bedridden for over a month. Even worse was when she, along with other slaves, were scarred and tattooed as a means of branding them.

Having been sold numerous times, she was at one time given away as a "gift" to be a nanny. The family decided to travel to Sudan, leaving Josephine behind with the Canossian Sisters in Venice. It was during this time she converted to Catholicism and found a deep and profound love for Jesus. St. Josephine eventually remained with the Sisters after the Italian courts deemed slavery to be illegal and granted her freedom.

Submitted by Joseph Meagher

Safe Families for Children [Learn More](#)

On Wednesday April 12th at 7:00 PM via Zoom, we will host an information session with the nonprofit *Safe Families for Children*.

When a crisis strikes, many of us rely on relatives and friends for support. But for some families, poverty and social isolation mean that they have no support when they need it. Children in these situations often suffer neglect or abuse; some eventually are removed from their home and placed in child welfare. Safe Families for Children provides a chance for parents to get back on their feet before abuse and neglect occur.

Learn how you can make a difference.

To register go to catholicsocialjustice.org or scan the QR Code.

The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry
of the Archdiocese of Hartford Presents....

Information Session



Safe Families *for* Children

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 7:00 PM via Zoom

Many families have no one to call on
when facing a crisis.

- † Learn how you can make a difference.
- † Hear testimonies from families.
- † Help build a support system.

**To Register go to:
catholic-social-justice.org or
scan the QR Code**



*“The problem with the world is
we draw the circle of our family too small.”
~ Mother Theresa ~*

*Located in 70 cities in the United States and across the globe. Safe Families host children
and support parents until they can stabilize their home situation.*

The Waterbury Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents

CHOIR FESTIVAL CONCERT

TO BENEFIT UKRAINE AND OTHER PLACES IN NEED



We are ***“Instruments of Peace”***

Sunday, March 19, 2023

(snow date of March 26)

5 p.m. concert

no admission charge

St. Rose of Lima Church

35 Center St., Meriden, Connecticut

Featuring church choirs from around Central Connecticut, and choristers from Avon High School

Andrew Brochu, Jr. - director

Free will offering will be taken for Catholic Relief Services to benefit Ukraine and other places in need.

The American Guild of Organists, Waterbury Chapter is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Denounce Proposed Limits on Asylum Access

On February 23, 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Justice published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, outlining regulations that, if implemented, would impose punitive restrictions on the right to seek asylum at the U.S. - Mexico border. Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, **issued a statement** in response to the proposed rule.

The **International Catholic Migration Commission** and **Our Sunday Visitor/Catholic Review** both included articles about the proposed rule and the USCCB response.

Catholic Relief Services also denounced the proposed restrictions. Their press release can be found [here](#).

We have less than two weeks to respond and tell the Biden Administration why they must not go through with this dangerous plan. We have the opportunity to use an **official comment process** to express our strong disagreement with their plans to revive parts of the Trump Administration's asylum ban.

Submit your comment no later than Monday, March 27, 2023 by midnight.

[USE THIS LINK](#)

Your comment must be unique but need not be lengthy.

Facts to Consider / Points to Share:

Many migrants seeking asylum and waiting in Mexico are facing homelessness, kidnapping and sexual violence.

- *The Church teaches refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.*

We can address the root causes of this migration crisis by increasing development assistance to the region, allowing families to thrive where they are.

- *The Church teaches persons have the right to migrate to find opportunities in their homeland.*

The proposed rule requires people to use a cell phone application to schedule an appointment to present themselves at a Port of Entry. The app does not recognize the faces of persons of darker or deeper skin tones and is available only in English and Spanish.

- *The Church teaches that our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples.*

Help Pass The Farm Bill

One in ten people around the world go to bed hungry each night. One in four children under five are severely malnourished. It doesn't have to be that way. Hunger is solvable. God calls us to advocate for an end to hunger and poverty.

Several organizations, including Catholic Relief Services, Bread for the World, and JustFaith Ministries are collaborating to help pass the Farm Bill.

The **Farm Bill** is one of the oldest and ever-evolving pieces of legislation and is a **bedrock policy for:**

- US and global food security;
- our farmers' and ranchers' wellbeing and relationship with the environment and markets; and

- nutrition assistance.

The Farm Bill is updated every five years, but if the latest version does not pass through Congress, it will default to the 1949 version, which is outdated and would threaten the sustainability of our food security system.

An informational event hosted by JustFaith Ministries will take place on Thursday, March 16th • 7:00 pm ET

The value and details of the Farm Bill will be discussed and there will be opportunity to answer questions and equip you to reach out to their Congressional Representatives and help get it passed!

Register Today!

Because advocacy is part of our Christian witness and discipleship, **Bread for the World** provides you with the tools for your Church to organize an Offering of Letters. Churches collect letters and present them as an offering to God before mailing them to Congress. You can also send an email message to your senators and representatives to support the reauthorization of the **Farm Bill** through this portal.

Chrysalis Center

For several years Chrysalis has been hosting an Empty Bowls event to raise funds for Freshplace (Chrysalis Center's innovative, fresh food pantry providing fresh produce, meat and dairy to those who need it most along with lifesaving case management services) and to raise awareness about hunger right here in our community.

Empty Bowls is an international initiative to fight hunger, both globally and locally. All proceeds from this event will go directly to supporting Chrysalis Center programs that address the critical issue of food insecurity and lack of fresh food in our community. At the event you will learn about what we do to combat the issue of food insecurity and enjoy a modest meal and handcrafted bowl made by local artists as a reminder that our very own neighbors often go to bed hungry.

Chrysalis Center works tirelessly every day to make sure the individuals and families living in Hartford's poorest neighborhoods have the resources to live healthy, fulfilling and self-sufficient lives.

This year's event will be held on March 29th from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Here is the link for information or to buy tickets:
<https://emptybowls2023.givesmart.com>.

Book Review

Leveling the Praying Field, Can the Church We Love, Love us Back is written

by Ansel Augustine, and includes forward by Fr. Bryan N. Massingale, and afterword by Bishop Fernand J. Cheri III, OFJM (OCSJM's 2021 *Open Wide Our Hearts* Conference speaker).

This book was offered to me as a “quick read” whose author is someone we should pay attention to. Ansel Augustine works with youth, young adults, and various grassroots organizations, to help the most vulnerable on the peripheries of his hometown of New Orleans. Ansel shares lived experiences of racism within the Catholic Church, and firmly places racism as a right-to-life issue.

The book includes Catholic Resources, Important statistics of the United States, and A Prayer Service for Black Children of God, an adaptation of “Requiem for Black Children of God,” which was created in 2020 by Bishop Fernand Cheri of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Resources

Migration

As migration became a contentious issue in the early seventies and has remained so to the present, the Catholic Church has been actively involved in education efforts and crafting political solutions to this challenging phenomenon. The US Catholic Bishops' Office of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) guides our education and advocacy around immigration. MRS overhauled and launched their **Justice for Immigrants website**. The overhaul includes an emphasis on educational modules.

Be sure to check out the first educational module, which focuses on debates related to **comprehensive immigration reform** and commentary on the Church's work in this arena. The four modules make for good discussion starters before a parish meeting. Additional resources for immigration reform and reflection questions follow the educational modules.

Anti-Asian Racism

Father Cheah's talk on his book, *Anti-Asian Racism, Myths, Stereotypes, and Catholic Social Teaching*, can be found on our YouTube page.

Lenten Resources

Centered around the theme of ***Return to Me: Path to Healing***, our new Weekly Reflection Guides will include Lenten Exercises to help you retreat to your inner room to experience God's healing love. Sign up to get Weekly Reflection Guide Reminders. In addition to our Reflection Guides, we will offer both in person and online Zoom retreats, as well as many other resources. Check out all their Lenten Events and Resources.

[Stations of the Cross](#)

[Scriptural Way of the Cross](#) for Lent from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has a focus on our concern for the poor and vulnerable.

[Stations of the Cross: Overcoming racism](#), by the USCCB to reflect on the pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts, the enduring call to love*. Booklet form in English and Spanish.

[Praying the Stations of the Cross for Victims of Human Trafficking](#) created by the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services can be downloaded, or call our office to arrange the pickup or delivery of the booklets.

[Stations of the Cross video](#) is a video set of reflections by Catholic Relief Services and includes a corresponding [prayer resource](#)

[Stations of the Cross in the Spirit of Laudato Si'](#) written by the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission of the USG/UISG.

[Reflections and Prayers](#)

[Examination of Conscience in Light of Catholic Social Teaching](#) available in English and Spanish from the USCCB, on their website or in a [printer-friendly PDF](#).

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl website ["What is Lent" video collection](#) consists of short videos featuring well-known speakers such as Cardinal Timothy Dolan, and provide the opportunity to sign-up for the CRS Rice Bowl email series.



[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

[DONATE HERE](#)

"Your support helps keep social ministry a vital part of the Archdiocese."

Visit our
website