Spring is finally here. The refrain from the "Canticle of the Sun", keeps running through my head:

"The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And all creation is shouting for joy!
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
And sing, sing to the glory of the Lord!"

It is easy to celebrate creation at this time of year, when all is in bloom, and the birds are chirping at your window. Nature's beauty provides solace and comfort to our souls. Pope Francis reminds us that we must consider what type of world we want to leave to those who come after us, to the children who are growing up now. Green space, clean air, clean water! A future where our children will recognize that God created the world; where creation is shouting for joy, not groaning.

Join me in praise and gratitude for the gift of creation. Then, let us examine our lives and the ways in which we have harmed God's creation. Through this conversion of
the heart we will be lead to effectively work in community for a better world for future generations.

Lynn Campbell, Executive Director

Laudato Si’

"An authentic faith always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it."

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium

WE MOVED!!

Please take note of our new Information:

We are now located at:
ANNUAL REPORT

We are pleased to share with you our 2015 Annual Report. Together we accomplished so much. Thank you for your support and prayers! You can review the report here.

Save the Date!

2016 Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference

Saturday June 11, 2016

St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield

"Rooted in Faith, Caring for Our Common Home"

The 2016 Faith and Justice Award will be presented to Shawnee Baldwin, Archdiocesan Coordinator, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, for her courageous leadership in promoting social and environmental justice throughout the archdiocese. Shawnee has shown a steadfast devotion to spreading Catholic social teaching to youth and young adults and was instrumental in facilitating the recycling efforts at St. Thomas Seminary.

Please join us in honoring Shawnee at the

7th Annual Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference
Congratulations to Shawnee!

Archbishop O'Brien Library Book Sale

Be sure to drop by the annual book sale held in the Archbishop O'Brien Library at the Seminary when you are at the conference.

Laudato Si week - June 12-19

Laudato Si' Week Kick-off!

On June 18, 2015 Pope Francis released his historic encyclical, Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home. Laudato Si' Week, June 12-19th, will be a major international celebration to reflect on the message of Laudato Si' and take action to bring it to life. This year's Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference, Rooted in Faith-Caring for Our Common Home, will kick-off Laudato Si' Week in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Visit the OCSJM's Laudato Si' page for a growing list of resources!

Here are three ways to get you started:

1. Share the USCCB Laudato Si' bulletin insert with your parish
2. Utilize the USCCB’s liturgical aids for scripture passages, prayers and songs
3. Take part in Catholic Confront Global Poverty and sign up for Action Alerts

Spotlight on Faithful Citizenship

Nuclear Weapons

"A world without nuclear weapons" is a goal shared by all nations and echoed by world leaders, as well as the aspiration of millions of men and women. The future and the survival of the human family hinges on moving beyond this ideal and ensuring that it becomes a reality. -- Pope Francis, December 7, 2014

Saint John XXIII said in his 1963 Encyclical Pacem in Terris (113): "The true and solid peace of nations consists not in equality of arms, but in mutual trust alone." - "Nuclear weapons must be banned. A general agreement must be reached on a suitable disarmament program, with an
effective system of mutual control." Support for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation has been emphasized by Pope Paul VI, Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. The U.S. Bishops have worked for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for decades.

The U.S. Bishop's position (USCCB) states that the United States and other nuclear powers must move away from reliance on nuclear weapons for security. A global ban is more than a moral ideal; it should be a policy goal.

USCCB has urged the Administration and Congress to view arms control treaties not as ends in themselves but as steps along the way to achieving the goal of a mutual, verifiable global ban on nuclear weapons. Much deeper, more irreversible cuts, in both strategic and tactical weapons, are both possible and necessary.

For information on the Church's teaching, what's new on this issue, and action steps visit.

**Action Alert-Tell House Leadership Not to Bring Anti-Refugee Bill to a Vote!**

A few weeks ago, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a plan to send 500 metric tons of U.S. peanuts to Haiti to "help with Haiti's hunger crisis." The problem with this plan is that Haitians already grow their own peanuts and have a large peanut industry.

[Click here](#) to join us in asking the USDA and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to immediately cancel plans to ship U.S. peanuts to Haiti.

Instead, we need to prioritize a model of cooperation that respects the self-determination and economic independence of the Republic of Haiti.

**Maryknoll Sisters in Haiti have seen the U.S. do this before** - undercut the Haitian market and leave Haitian farmers unable to sell their crops and feed their families - most egregiously with rice, which was once a staple crop in Haiti. By 1990, there was so much U.S. rice coming into the country that many Haitian farmers stopped working the land. Today, little rice is grown in Haiti; instead, the nation is a market for the subsidized rice crop grown in the United States.

**Faith Formation Course**
Dr. Ben Peters, OCSJM Board of Director, will be teaching "Survey of Catholic Social Teaching" on July 12, 13, 14 from 9:00am-12:00pm and again from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The class is brought to you through the Archdiocese of Hartford Diocesan Partnership with the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation. The registration fee for this excellent faith formation course is only $50. To register and learn more information contact Sr. Mary Kolbe Heffern, F.S.E. at 860-242-5573 ext 2652 or Sr.Mary.Kolbe.Heffern@aohct.org For additional class information click here. Registration Deadline is June 17.

Love Your Neighbor

A man is called selfish not for pursuing his own good, but for neglecting his neighbor's.

Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

When Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself," He was not saying that before you can love others, you must first love yourself. That is the common interpretation we often hear, but that is not correct. Jesus is not teaching self-love. Essentially, He is saying that just as you already love yourself, as you already care for yourself and think about yourself, you are to love your neighbor in the same way.

Claribel, a Parish Social Ministry leader from St. Mary Church in New Britain, is an example of a parish leader invested in the lives of others and loves her neighbor. While Claribel was tirelessly helping immigrants from her parish, she was doing her act of love so deeply rooted in love of God. At the same time, her daughter who is in the army had an accident. Whenever somebody thanked her for helping with their immigration concern, she asked for their prayers for her daughter. Soon a prayer chain was formed. We recently received a call from Claribel, and she wishes to thank everyone for the prayers. Her daughter is doing better and has plans to marry!

Jesus is saying, "You already love yourself; therefore, love your neighbor." He goes on to say that if you do this, as well as love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind, then all the commandments of God will be fulfilled, because you will naturally do the things that please Him.

Submitted by Arturo Iriarte

Rice Bowl Grants Available
Thanks to the many parishes and schools who participated in the CRS Rice Bowl program, we are able to allocate the 25% of funds designated for local uses. Catholic parishes, schools, or Archdiocesan entities within the Archdiocese of Hartford are eligible to apply. Grants must be used for hunger and poverty alleviation programs within the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Preference will be given to new and innovative programs that demonstrate solutions to hunger with specific, tangible goals and outcomes. Sample projects include: parish or school gardens, projects that increase hunger awareness, and food assistance for women in crisis pregnancies. Recipients must demonstrate intent to participate and promote the CRS Rice Bowl Lenten catechetical program.

Applications are available on our [website](http://www.example.com).

**Social Justice Scholarships**

The Archdiocese of Chicago will host the 30th annual Social Action Summer Institute, or SASI, "Who is My Neighbor? Discipleship in the Year of Mercy," on July 17-21 at St. Xavier University.

SASI will include a combination of presentations by national leaders, and sessions and immersion experience connected with Chicago's frontline efforts in racial, social, criminal and economic justice. Chicago has a unique and timely contribution to make to the national conversation regarding the most pressing justice issues we face.

The Social Action Summer Institute is organized annually by the Roundtable Association of Catholic Diocese Social Action Directors in collaboration with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Offices of Justice, Peace, and Human Development and International Justice and Peace, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities USA, JustFaith Ministries and the local host diocese or archdiocese. SASI offers education, professional development and advocacy training for diocesan and parish social action ministers. Rooted in the principles of Catholic social teaching, SASI provides a forum for people to explore social issues in the light of scripture, Church teaching and theology.

Scholarships are available through our office, please call 860-242-5573 for an application. For more information on SASI or to register visit [here](http://www.example.com).

**Movie Review**

To watch True Cost is to be moved to change your shopping habits. This film explores the "Fast Fashion" industry. How is it that we can get clothing at low prices? What are the environmental impacts of the fashion industry? What is the human impact? From this
film, I learned that 97% of our clothing is made outside of the USA, in low-cost economies and, that "Fast Fashion" is the #2 polluting industry next to oil production.

This film, without mentioning one word of Pope Francis, or Laudato si’, exemplifies the Pope’s concerns:

"Pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decision action, here and now." (61)

Not to leave you discouraged or depressed, the film highlights initiatives for sustainable and fair trade clothing. Watch the trailer.

Current Parish Social Ministry Resources

Here is a sampling of the numerous resources on Faithful Citizenship that have been added or updated in the last few weeks:

- Catholic School Principals and Teacher Recommendations (click here en Español)
- Family Guide to Faithful Citizenship (Click here en Español)
- Youth Ministry Discussion and Learning Activities (Click here en Español)
- Diocesan Planning Suggestions

Additional materials are at FaithfulCitizenship.org.

Laudato Si’ resources in the Archdiocese of Hartford