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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

October 2022

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

From the Director

Dear Friends,

Are you as tired of the political campaign ads as I am? I think they started in July! So many are nasty, negative, and polarizing sound bites.

I can't wait for Election Day to be over, but that doesn't mean I won't vote. The Church teaches that participation in political life is a moral obligation. As the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person" (no. 1913).

No matter who is newly elected, we must move forward and work together for the common good. There are too many threats in our world - the destruction of natural resources, which harm both the environment and the poor; a broken immigration system; a worldwide refugee crisis; and wars and violence that threaten human life and dignity.

As the US Bishops remind us in ***Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship***, "The struggles that we face as a nation and as a global community cannot be addressed solely by choosing the "best candidate" for political office. In addition to forming our consciences, we must fast and pray, asking our loving and gracious God to give us the ability to effectively proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through our daily witness to our faith and its teachings" (p. viii).

Ministry Teams

Snapshot - Where We've Been

Honoring Fr. John Cooney, St. Basil the Great Parish, and the other awardees at the St. Vincent de Paul Mission of Waterbury Annual Banquet.

Planning next steps with the CT Domestic Worker Justice Campaign.

In faith,

Lynn Campbell



Annual Dinner & Awards - Oct. 25, 2022
Purchase Your Tickets Now

Building a Culture of Life in Today's World

Why must we build a culture of life and resist a throwaway culture as instructed by Pope Francis.

Presented by Gloria Purvis

Want to get to know Ms. Purvis? Here's a recording of Gloria Purvis at a recent conference.

Gloria Purvis
What Do the Racial Justice and Pro-life Movements Have In Common?

FORMING DISCIPLES FOR
LIFE & JUSTICE

Join us Tuesday, October 25, 5:00 PM, at the Aqua Turf Club

**Social Hour
Dinner
Awards**

**Recognize Social Justice Ministries in the Archdiocese
Keynote Address
Messages From our Bishops
Fun, Formative, & Affirming**

Most Rev. Donnelly Award Recipients

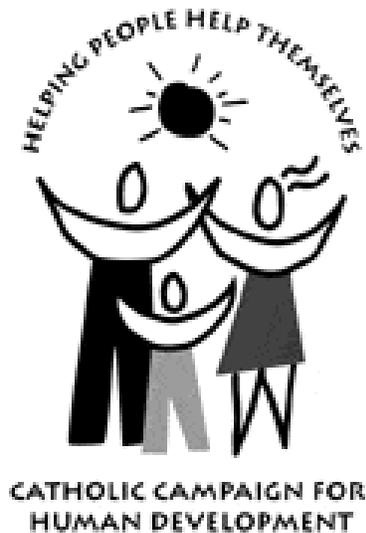
ImmaCare Inc.
Deacon Adam Michaele

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

Financial Assistance provided by calling 860-242-5573 ext. 2689

[Click here for a bulletin announcement](#)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development



For more than 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has supported organizations that combat poverty and improve the lives of people in communities across the United States. CCHD-funded groups tackle a wide range of economic and social justice challenges that affect local communities in rural and urban areas.

Here in the Archdiocese of Hartford, CCHD groups helped:

- Pass the Telehealth Bill
- Save the Medicare Savings Program for the elderly, blind and people with disabilities from including asset tests
- Provide Rent Relief
- Repeal “welfare liens”
- Create Criminal Justice Reforms
- Improve Health care access
- Earn Domestic Worker Rights and education and training for Domestic Workers

The weekend of November 20 is the collection for CCHD. For parish resources including a social media kit, prayer card, clipart, bulletin insert, and web adds, visit the [CCHD National Collections website](#)

Bulletin announcement to be used November 12:

Next week our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. More than 37 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face in bringing permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.uscb.org/cchd

Check out [the video](#) we created that highlights CCHD Funded groups with the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Time to Order Your Rice Bowls



True, it's not even Advent yet, but nonetheless CRS is requesting any updates to your parish/school's Rice Bowl order. If you have no changes from 2021, there is no need to do anything. If you have a change in shipping address, contact person, or quantity, please complete the [attached form](#) and return it to our office by October 14th.

We encourage all parishes and schools to participate in CRS Rice Bowl. New participants can order bowls up until two weeks before

Lent starts.

Help End Poverty

Fight Poverty in America.
Defend Human Dignity.



In the Gospel of Matthew, we learn of “The Greatest Commandment”. When asked which of the commandments was the greatest, Jesus replied; “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is that you should love your neighbor as yourself”.

October 17th is the [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#). The observance of this day dates back to October 17, 1987 when over a hundred thousand people gathered in Paris to honor the victims of hunger, poverty and violence. Poverty is all around us. In the United States approximately 12% of all people live in poverty. Poverty, being defined as a household income of \$25,700 for a family of four. That is a pretty paltry sum for a family of four, so the actual number of our brothers and sisters who struggle to meet basic needs is likely much higher. For women who head up a single parent household the poverty rate is 24.9% and for the disabled it is 25.7%.

We are all called to help. This is what Jesus instructed us and it is also what the Church teaches us. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church we are taught “God blesses those who come to the aid of the poor and rebukes those who turn away from them” (CCC 2443). It is our duty and obligation to seek out and help our neighbors in need.

On this October 17th please take some time to learn more about those in need across the nation, but also across the street. [Click on the link for povertyusa.org](#) which is sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Within this homepage are numerous other links which serve to educate us on the crisis of poverty but also how we can help. I encourage you to take a moment to watch the videos on their website, so we can live the Gospel and address issues of poverty and other matters of social justice.

Joseph Meagher, OCSJM Volunteer

Mercy Demands Justice

“It is not enough to offer someone a sandwich unless it is accompanied by the possibility of learning how to stand on one’s own two feet. Charity that leaves the poor person as he is, is not sufficient. True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice, it demands that the poor find the way to be poor no longer.”

-Pope Francis

Keeping Open Wide Our Hearts Alive

We heard many positive remarks about **Dr. Kevin Dowd’s** presentation Open Wide Our Hearts: Implementing Anti-Racism in our Catechesis and Christian Discipleship at our conference.

Although we did not record his workshop, we did find a recording of a similar presentation he did in 2020. Even though the title is *Teaching Kids, I still highly*



recommend it even if you are not in a teaching or parenting role.

Kevin brings together many aspects of our Church’s social teachings. He pulls from the Bible and the Bishops statements. He uses resources we have used such as *The Two Feet of Love*, the book *Blind Spot*, and the bishops’ resources on civil dialogue called [Civilize It](#).

Kevin breaks open terms such as social sin, structural racism, and implicit bias. He touches upon Black Lives Matter, police accountability, and implicit bias. We recommend spending the 70 minutes to watch this video, and then forwarding it on to someone.

Dreamers Need Your Action



The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on Wednesday, Oct. 5, that the lower court judge who found that the decade-old Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was unlawful needed to consider a new rule

issued by the Biden administration. The 5th Circuit's ruling allows the program to go forward, but only for current DACA recipients, also known as Dreamers, not new applicants. All first-time applications submitted since July 2021 remain unprocessed.

Bishop Mario Dorsonville, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Migration, responded to the news by “implor[ing] Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, to provide a permanent solution for all Dreamers out of respect for their God-given dignity.” Bishop Dorsonville’s full statement is available on the [USCCB website](#).

Support DACA recipients by sending an [action alert](#) and asking Congress to pass legislation protecting Dreamers.

Pave a Pathway to Freedom for Human Trafficking Survivors



Learning about human trafficking and finding your role to help end it can be overwhelming. Our **Human Trafficking Task Force** is here to help! [Contact us](#) to schedule an awareness presentation.

There are very few organizations in CT which support trafficking survivors. We work closely with [The Underground New England](#), which does. We have a partnership program to support their mentor program, in which teams of people are paired up to provide prayers and support to the survivors. Visit [our website](#) to learn more.

October is the Month of the Most Holy Rosary



The month of **October** each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7.

The Rosary is primarily a scriptural prayer.

A **Scriptural Rosary for Justice and Peace** is provided by the US Bishops can be found [here](#).

A **Rosary for Vulnerable Migrant Populations** provided by the US Bishop's Justice for Immigrants Campaign can be found [here](#).

Hurricane Donations

Catholic Charities USA is accepting donations to help Catholic Charities agencies in [Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands](#), and [Florida](#) to respond with needed disaster supplies now, as well as long term responses.

Working for Justice Opportunity

Paid Sick Time Leave

The CT Women's Education and Legal Fund invites you to join their Paid Sick Day Legislative Campaign planning meeting on Wednesday Oct. 19, at 11:30 am via Zoom. [Contact us](#) to get the Zoom information.

CT does require certain employers to provide paid sick days to service workers. But there are many loop holes and exemptions. Join the group as it creates a narrative around paid sick days and why it is critical to workers and their families, and public health.



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