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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

December 2019

Para español haga [clic aqui](#)

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

CALENDAR

January

January 14 -8:30 pm
JustFaith Hartford
Workshop
Asylum Hill
Congregational Church

March

March 14
New England Faith
and Justice Summit
on Human Trafficking
Pastoral Center,
Bloomfield

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

From the Director

Dear friends,

My husband Tom and I use an Advent Wreath each night with our evening meal. We've had it since we first got married. Come and gone are the days when the kids would fight over who got to light the candles or, more importantly, who got to extinguish the candles. Yet, we carry on this beautiful tradition because it grounds our hearts and minds in preparation for Christmas.

The first Advent candle symbolizes hope. As I assembled this month's newsletter during this week of hope, it appeared to me that our stories and resources are very hopeful.

There are so many opportunities where you can make lasting change. So many tools and resources available to you. Check out the Resource Suggestions where we've provided contacts for several organizations which offer Advent reflections - each with a connection to the social dimension of our faith.

Wishing you a hope filled Advent,



Lynn Campbell, Executive Director

Advent Blessings



Associates for Justice



Thank you all those who made a donation to our office this year. In doing so, you become an *Associate for Justice*, a vital part of our past, present, and future! Thanks to your support we can walk with individuals to help them develop effective parish social ministry efforts which provide not only charity but also long term solutions.

If you have not yet made a donation you can do so on our [website](#) or by calling the office at 860-242-5573 ext. 2688.

Just Faith Workshop



LIVE MORE SIMPLY.
LOVE MORE COMPASSIONATELY.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

JustFaith Hartford Workshop

Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Asylum Hill
Congregational Church
814 Asylum Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105

Free to Attend

QUESTIONS

John Ryan, 860.716.3914
socialministry@manchestercatholic.org
Martha DiGiovanni, 860.202.6535
mdigimom@gmail.com

REGISTRATION

justfaith.org/hartford-workshop

Curious about what JustFaith Ministries programs can bring to your community? Learn more about how over 50,000 people and 1,500 churches and communities have answered the call to compassion and participated in the JustFaith experience.

Our small group programs challenge participants to explore contemporary social issues while building lasting relationships through prayer, scripture, engaged reading, thought-provoking dialogue, and direct engagement.

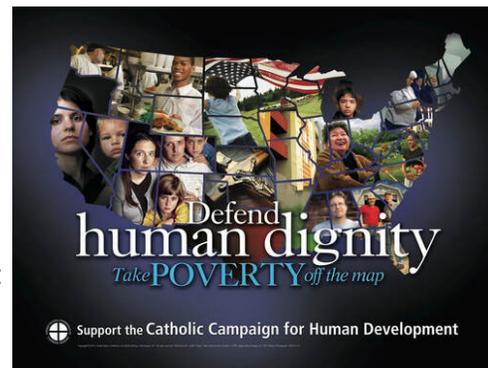
Bring a friend and join us for a dynamic and inspiring conversation to learn more with JustFaith Ministries founder Jack Jezreel, M.Div.

JustFaith Ministries seeks to connect, equip and inspire diverse communities of faith in the common task of healing relationships and restoring creation.

JustFaith Ministries is a nonprofit organization. Learn more at JustFaith.org

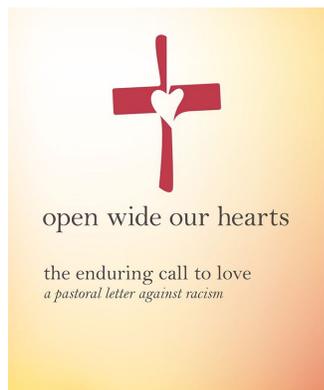
Catholic Campaign for Human Development

We are grateful to everyone who helped contribute to the annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. By supporting CCHD you are helping to give a voice to those living in poverty in our communities. A portion of these donations collected are used to fund local groups in our Archdiocese, such as Keep the Promise, which was established to enable and support those dealing with poverty due to addiction and/or mental illness. We offer these grants to nonprofit organizations throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford. In order to qualify for a CCHD grant, an organization must assist people living in poverty, and allow them to have a dominant voice in the organization. The organization must demonstrate both the intention and capacity to work effectively toward the elimination of the root causes of poverty and to enact institutional change. Interested applicants please [visit our website](#) and click "CCHD Local Grant Application" on the right.



Also, if you missed the collection it is not too late to contribute. Please visit [USCCB's How to Give page](#). May God bless you this holiday season.

Cooperative Parish Sharing at Work



Last month we joined members of St. Justin-St. Michael Parish in the launch of their Hearts Wide Open initiative. Based on the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter Open Wide Our Hearts, the initiative seeks to focus on conversations of race, racism, and social equity to eliminate all potential barriers with their parish and surrounding community. Using funds from our Cooperative Parish Sharing (CPS) program, the parish engaged a trainer to assist them in these conversations.

Our Office, along with the Faith and Culture Office, has been walking along side leaders from the parish to help them break open this pastoral letter. Their next steps will be to train trainers who can serve as facilitators for future conversations within their parish, and expanding to other parishes within the Archdiocese. Thank you for your support to CPS and OCSJM. You make this work possible!

Catholic Relief Services - Global Child Thrive Act

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) recently launched a new campaign to engage Catholics across the country in learning about and taking action on the issue of forced migration and displacement so that migrants and refugees can exercise their right to lead dignified lives, and ultimately thrive. This will be an opportunity for the Catholic community to take meaningful action and truly lead the way to supporting migrants and refugees around the world.



- We have an action alert in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) focused on the House and the Global Child Thrive Act. This alert will hopefully provide a great opportunity to get your broader networks and communities involved and engaged in the campaign and advancing this bill.
- The new CRS [bilingual landing page](#), hosts many resources for communities to access to join in the campaign.

Creating on the Margins - CCHD

Every year the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the domestic anti-poverty program created by U.S. Bishops in 1969, sponsors a contest for students in Grades 7-12 to learn about the root causes of poverty in the United States as well as CCHD's response.

Students will reflect upon what they have learned in the context of their faith to create multimedia works of art to teach others about poverty and its root causes.



This year's theme is "More than a Roof." This is a wonderful opportunity for students in your Catholic schools and Faith Formation Programs to use their creative talents to live out their faith. Contest deadline is February 28, 2020.

To learn more, visit [Creating on the Margins Contest Promotion Video](#) and download our attached flyer as well as Educator and Young Artists Guides. For more information, contact Tracey Clements at CCHDContest@cox.net or at (860) 644-9134.

St. Gabriel School responds to Laudato Si'

Thirty-one of Saint Gabriel School's 7th and 8th Grade Students (and one First Grader), along with Mrs. Jeffery, Mrs. Schloat, Mr. Conlin and Mr. Muller joined in solidarity with hundreds of thousands of students across the United States and around the world in a Youth Climate Strike. The students attended a peaceful demonstration at the Connecticut



State Capitol. During this first week of December, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change began in Madrid, Spain. This autumn is the 40th Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi being declared Patron Saint of Ecology. Before boarding the bus to Hartford, the faculty and students gathered and offered prayers to St. Francis of Assisi to bless them in their efforts to care for Creation and to protect our human environment from the ravages of pollution and global climate change. This is one of the many endeavors that Saint Gabriel School has engaged in as a response to the call of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*.

Pictured in the photo above is Jennifer Schloat and Grade 7 student Alice Franceschet. Jennifer also serves as a member of our *Laudato Si'* Team. Way to go Jennifer!

Ministry Tip - Controlling a Meeting

Do people come to your parish committee meetings, never to return again? Meetings can be very productive, or they can be a waste of time. By using the PAT approach (Purpose, agenda, time frame) you can improve your meeting management skills.



- The **Purpose** of the meeting should be identifiable in the agenda. It should also be announced at the beginning of a meeting. Have someone serve as a "topic keeper". If the group gets off topic, this person says "we're getting off topic, let's address that off-line/at another time".
- The **Agenda** limits the items to be discussed. Assign a person responsible to speak on each agenda item. Send the agenda out ahead of time - preferably a week.
- **Time frame**. Provide a time limit to each agenda item. Start on time. Don't wait for stragglers to show up, and don't go back and review what has already been covered. That disrespects those who showed up on time for the meeting.

Stay focused and do not let any one person dominate the discussion. By following these tips you'll be off to a good start in the New Year.

USCCB Action Alert on Nuclear Weapons



The United States and Russia possess over 90% of the world's nuclear weapons. Our two nations must lead the way in global nuclear disarmament efforts. Bipartisan bills S. 2394/H.R.2529 express a sense of Congress supporting the extension of the New START Treaty that places verifiable limits on both nations' nuclear armaments. The Treaty

is due to expire in 2021 unless it is extended. The bills also outline a number of reporting and certification requirements that will help contribute to informed national dialogue and appropriate Congressional oversight regarding the extension of the Treaty.

Catholic teaching on nuclear weapons has been clear since St. John XXIII wrote in *Pacem in Terris* that "nuclear weapons must be banned" (no.112). This teaching has been reaffirmed by each of his successors, most recently by Pope Francis on his visits to Nagasaki and Hiroshima, where he followed in the footsteps of St. John Paul II.our readers.

The visit of Pope Francis to Hiroshima and Nagasaki is a poignant reminder of the grave threat to human life posed by nuclear weapons. Please [contact your members of Congress](#) and urge them to support the Richard G. Lugar and Ellen O. Tauscher Act to Maintain Limits on Russian Nuclear Forces (S. 2394/H.R.2529).

Pope Francis Statement

"The use of nuclear weapons is immoral, which is why it must be added to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Not only their use, but also possessing them: because an accident or the madness of some government leader, one person's madness can destroy humanity."

Pope Francis, Nov. 2019, during the in-flight press conference aboard the plane bringing him back to Rome from Japan



Greater Hartford Interfaith Effort



There is a new faith-based community organization in the greater Hartford region called Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). Three years of individual meetings, house meetings - where small groups of people convened to share concerns, and trainings, resulted in 35 diverse faiths communities coming together to launch a campaign for justice. GHIAA's goal is to organize in solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed for justice as a common core mandate of our various faith traditions to build the power to create more just communities.

Interfaith efforts provide a moral force to make our communities more just and equitable. Organizing for justice is one of the seven areas of social ministry of the parish (see [Communities of Salt and Light, USCCB](#)).

If you are interested in taking your parish work in charity to the next level (working for social change), contact us! We would like to see more Catholic participation in GHIAA or one of the other organizing groups in your area. We can be reached at 860-242-5573 or email us at info.ocsjm@aohct.org

Stop the federal government from restarting executions

On July 25, 2019, the U.S. Department of Justice announced it would resume executions at the federal level for the first time since 2003. This decision violates the teachings of the Catholic Church, which unequivocally state that the death penalty is "inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person." (Catholic Catechism 2267)

On November 20th, 2019, a U.S. district judge temporarily halted the four pending federal executions - a decision which is already facing appeal by the Department of Justice. The situation concerning the planned restart of federal executions is still incredibly volatile and requires your continued vigilance.

We invite you to support the Catholic Mobilizing Network's petition. [Please click here.](#)

Human Trafficking Summit



SAVE THE DATE!

Contact us for more information
Phone: (860) 242-5573
Email: info.ocsjm@aohct.org
CatholicSocialJustice.org

New England Vision Faith & Justice Summit on Human Trafficking

Saturday, March 14, 2020

- National Speakers
- Regional Event
- Exhibitors

Pastoral Center, Archdiocese of Hartford

Join us to connect, learn, explore possibilities for the work ahead. Together we can make a difference!

Sponsored by
The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford
AND
The Underground CT

Bishop Peter Conference - Save the Date

Coming June 06, 2020



Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference

Based on the Pastoral Letter on Racism,
our theme this year is

"Rooted in Faith" Opening Wide our Hearts"

There will be 6 workshop themes offered in 2 sessions offered in English and Spanish.

Mass will again be offered

Watch for more information and registration to follow in the coming months

Get Ready for National Migration Week: January 5-11th, 2020

January 5-11, 2020, the Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Migration Week. The theme for this year's celebration is **"Promoting a Church and a World for All,"** which reflects the need for Catholics to be inclusive and welcoming to all our brothers and sisters.



we are one family under God

National Migration Week 2020 provides us an opportunity to focus on the most vulnerable of migrants, including [DACA](#) and [TPS](#) holders, who remain in precarious and uncertain situations. It is also a time to reflect on threats to migrant and refugee children, the littlest ones among us, particularly children who are detained or otherwise separated from their parents, [unaccompanied migrant children](#), and those who are stuck [waiting in Mexico](#) for asylum in the United States.

For several years the [Kino Border Initiative](#) has sponsored our conference and annual dinner. We'd like to share a short documentary from Creighton University on the causes of immigration and the effects of US policies on the southern border, which features the Kino Border Initiative. [Watch now.](#)

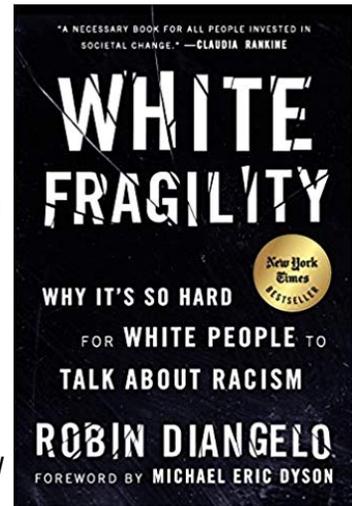
Book Review

"*White Fragility: Why it's so hard for White People to Talk About Racism* is written by Robin DiAngelo, a consultant, lecturer, and trainer on racial and social justice. Fragility is a term she uses to describe the defensiveness felt by white people when challenged racially.

The book moves from helping the reader understand racism as an institutional system into which we are all socialized (rather than individualized acts by bad people) to helping the reader see from a different perspective.

I've read several books related to racism and social issues, but this one has had the greatest impact on me. I highly recommend this book."

Lynn Campbell



Current Parish Social Ministry Resources

Advent Resources

From the **Catholic Volunteer Network** - an advent reflection guide offered by current and former long-term volunteers serving in faith-based programs all around the world. [Advent Reflection Guide](#)

From the **Catholic Mobilizing Network**: For each Sunday in Advent, subscribers will receive a special reflection written by a person of faith whose own story has intersected with that of our broken criminal legal system. [SIGN ME UP](#)

From **Catholic Relief Services**: Advent Wreath Prayer, prayers, and reflections [CRS Advent Resources](#)

From the **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**: [An Advent Calendar](#)

Spend Advent with 'Laudato Si' and a question: What is God asking of me?

National Catholic Reporter is sharing former editor and publisher Arthur Jones' Advent meditations based on "Laudato Si': on Care for our Common Home," published on [NCR's EarthBeat](#), one week at a time.

Bread for the World will post devotional reflections, available in English and Spanish on their [Bread Blog](#). You also have the option to [receive these reflections](#) via email every Sunday during Advent. The first reflection was written by Bread staff member and seminarian Chet Jechura.