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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

January 2020

Para español haga [clic aqui](#)

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

CALENDAR

January

January 22

**Pro Life Hour and
Mass**

5-6:00pm Holy Hour

6:00 pm Mass

St. Monica Church
Northford, CT

February

February 7th @ 6 PM

**Stations of the Cross
for Trafficked
Persons**

St. James Church
Rocky Hill, CT

February 9th @ 3 PM

**Bi-lingual Prayer
Service to End Human
Trafficking**

St. Louis Church
West Haven, CT

March

March 14

**New England Faith
and Justice Summit
on Human Trafficking**

Pastoral Center,
Bloomfield

From the Director

Dear friends,

In order to better serve the people of the Archdiocese, we spent 8 months identifying our strengths and weaknesses, and developing objectives, goals, and priorities, arriving at a new strategic plan. I am thankful for members of the board, staff, and volunteers who contributed in this process. A summary of the plan is found [on our website](#).

The plan is meant to serve as a guide into our future as a response to the needs of the Church and society. It is not set in stone. Variables such as the needs of the Catholic community, including those identified in our Archdiocesan Synod, will influence the priorities set forth in this plan.

As we look forward to a new year, we are excited to implement the new strategic plan. Our mission is to enhance the social mission of the parish which complements and strengthens the call to evangelization. If there is something we can do to help you, [send us a note](#).

Wishing you a blessed New Year,

Join Our List

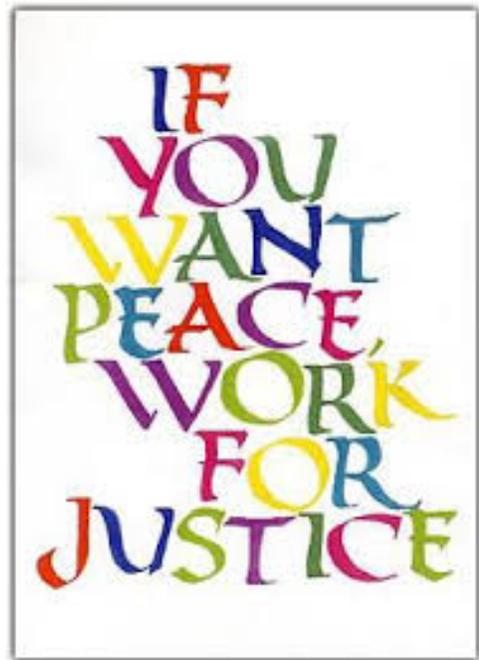
Join Our Mailing List!

QUICK LINKS

Catholic Social Teaching - New Resource Available

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith." Catholic Social Teaching is centered on our understanding of human life and human dignity. We believe in a triune God whose very nature is social and communal, and who calls us to share in His likeness. Every person is also made in the image of God, and therefore is worthy of respect as a member of the human family.

For a comprehensive Catholic Social Teaching Toolkit, which provides various resources, explanations, and activities, please visit our [website](#). As we learn more and reflect on the themes of Catholic Social Teaching let us remember the words of Pope Paul VI, "If you want peace, work for justice."



Immigrant in the Midst of the Church

We were invited to speak about immigration in the U.S. to a group of 170 ninth and tenth grade students from the St. George parish in Guilford. Waterbury leader, Romer Santana, Ana and I led the presentation. We first prayed together and then distributed a letter about immigration written by the [Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference of Bishops](#).



When we finished reading this letter, the whole room exploded with applause. The young people were moved by the Bishops' message and many of them spoke up expressing their feelings.

The students were able to answer why immigrants risk their lives to come to United States: "Immigrants came to make a living, because there are no economic opportunities at home," "some are fleeing gang violence and political persecution," "others come to reunite with their loved ones," "others seek education." The obstacles they face are daunting: "Dying of thirst," "sexual assault," "robbery", "hunger", "owing huge debts to traffickers," "living in the shadows," "fear of police," and "fear of being deported."

We then lead the students in a contemplative walk around the church asking them to quietly reflect on what they heard. Afterwards, Ana was moved by the spirit and stood up addressing the students, "I am an undocumented immigrant who lives in constant fear of being deported, of being separated from my husband and two sons." She asked the students to come and touch her, "I am not an alien, but a human being, like you, a person who loves her family and fears losing them..." Again, the room broke out in applause as the students were moved by Ana's speech.

We closed our meeting with the verse from Leviticus: *"The stranger living with you*

must be treated as one of you native born. Love them as yourself, for you were a stranger in Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34)

-Arturo Iriarte, Parish Social Ministry Coordinator

Domestic Worker Justice Campaign



[Contact your representative or senator](#) and let them know you support domestic workers!

A domestic worker is a person who works within their employer's household. They (most often women) provide a variety of household services for an individual or a family, from providing care for children and elderly dependents to cleaning and household maintenance. There are over 42,000 domestic workers in the state of Connecticut. They receive little or no protection under most of the laws that establish basic standards of fairness and dignity in the workplace.

The dignity of work and the rights of workers are principles of Catholic doctrine. That's why we are part of a campaign to improve CT's Domestic Workers Bill of Rights.

CRS Parish Ambassador Corps



Our Parish Ambassadors carry out the work of Catholic Relief Services, this program was launched to better integrate global solidarity within parishes. Founded in 1943, CRS has dedicated the past 75 years to engaging Catholics to live out their faith in solidarity with the poor and suffering worldwide through many programs and initiatives, specifically the new campaign "[Lead the Way](#)" which promotes advocacy for migrants and refugees. CRS has assisted more than 130 million people in more

than 100 countries on 5 continents. The Parish Ambassadors coordinate three global solidarity initiatives a year, including [Rice Bowl](#). They attend two diocesan retreats and connect with other parishes who share a passion for global issues. Those interested in learning how to join our program or participate in Rice Bowl, please email intern.ocsjm@aohct.org.

January is Poverty Awareness Month

January is Poverty Awareness Month, and for over 50 years the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has helped to combat poverty. By empowering low-income families and communities to have a voice and take part in the decisions that affect their lives, CCHD helps to address the root causes of poverty in America. By working together we truly can make a difference and help to break the cycle of poverty that affects the over 38 million people currently living at or below the poverty line in the United States. For more information on Poverty Awareness Month, how we can make a difference, and to learn more about how CCHD works to end poverty, please visit [Poverty USA](#)



Social Justice Grants Available

At the end of November, the Archdiocese of Hartford participated in the National collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. This collection helps to break the cycle of poverty by empowering low-income people to advocate for the decisions that greatly impact their lives. Twenty-five percent of the funds collected remain in our diocese to fund groups that are working to create better lives for their communities. We are currently accepting applications for community and economic development grants for non-profit organizations within 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.

For more information on requirements to apply, and to find a copy of the application, please visit our [website](#) and click under "**Local CCHD Grant Information**" located on the right side of the page.

Ministry Tip - Weaving Social Ministry into the Fabric of Your Parish

Social ministry is not to be limited to the works of one committee, but is an integral part of the entire parish. Here are some best practices:



- There is a system in place to ensure regular communication between the parish pastoral leadership (pastor, staff and parish council) and the parish social ministry team.
- Those communications update and fully inform each party about activities undertaken and planned as well as explore how each can be supported and promoted by the other.
- Have and maintain a "Social Ministry" bulletin board and/or web page that keeps parishioners updated about current parish social ministry events and actions.
- Parish youth activities include volunteer opportunities to engage in social ministry work.

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
in English and Spanish.

Includes Mass and Lunch

Keynote Speaker: Alejandro Aguilera-Titus

Alejandro Aguilera-Titus is the National Coordinator for the V Encuentro and lead staff for Hispanic ministry for the USCCB under the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church. He has 35 years of ministry experience at the parish, diocesan and regional level. Alejandro is the co-founder of the National Catholic Council of Hispanic Ministry (NCCHM) and the National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministry (NCADDHM) where he is also Adjunct faculty

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

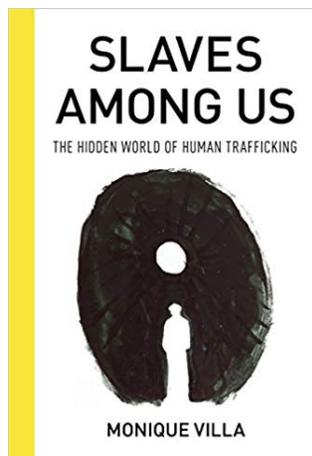
Human Trafficking Prevention Month



January is National Human Trafficking and Slavery Prevention month. Each year, an estimated 17,000 vulnerable men, women and children are trafficked across

our borders and then forced into slavery. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, including the United States, and it is important to understand the drastic impact that these problems are causing in our society today. Viewed through the lens of Catholic social teaching, human trafficking is a crime against the most basic aspects of human dignity and human rights. It preys on the poor and vulnerable and exploits their labor. Listen to this [TED Talk](#) by Yvette Young, who is the coordinator for Connecticut's Human Anti-trafficking Response Teams. She explains how children are lured into sex trafficking, and what we can do to better protect them.

Recommended Reading



Slaves Among Us - The Hidden World of Human Trafficking
by Monique Villa

Through the stories of three individuals who share how they fell victim to traffickers and how their bodies and souls resisted an enterprise of total destruction, Monique Villa uncovers the world where women, men and children are dehumanized and reduced to obedient machines. The stories are told by the victims and by the author to emphasize the hidden world of slaves who walk among us. In addition, there are chapters on how businesses are critical in the fight and suggestions for individual and worldwide solutions. This book is available at some town libraries.

Current Parish Social Ministry Resources

January Resources

Not just for children, through

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl we journey with members of our human family around the world, and commit our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving to deepening our faith and serving those in need. There are plenty of [FREE resources](#) - including Lenten reflections, short videos, Stations of the Cross for families, parishes, and educators are on-line.

The [Catholic Mobilizing Network](#) just released *Just Mercy: A Catholic Study Guide* to reflect and respond to this powerful new film.

9 Days for Life 2020 will take place Tuesday, January 21 - Wednesday, January 29

9 Days for Life is a multi-faceted novena for the respect and protection of human life. Each day, a different intention is accompanied by a short reflection, suggested actions, and related information. **Sign up to receive the novena** by email, text message, or an app at www.9daysforlife.com

Additional resources to observe the **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children** are available [here](#)