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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

July / August 2019

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

CALENDAR

August

August 28
Catholic Relief
Services Parish
Ambassador Corps
info sessions

Morning and evening
session available.
Please call 860-242-5573
x 2686 to register

September

September 19th
6:30 to 8:30 pm
Parish Social Ministry
Focus Group

Our Lady of Mercy
Parish-Plainville. Call
860-242-5573 Ext 2686
to Register

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From the Director

Dear Friends,

The photos of detention centers and parents and children dying in pursuit of a safer life, beg us to stand up for the dignity of the human person.

To seek social justice is to get to the root causes of the injustice. This means we need to go beyond soundbites and social media and dig deeper in our understanding of the issue. This involves asking tough questions. What is going on in the countries where people are fleeing from, such as Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala? What has been the U.S. involvement in those regions? What is the U.S. government response to those countries? Where is the Catholic Church in all of this?

One also needs to delve deeper into Church teaching which says we have a right to secure our borders while also saying a person has a right to migrate. According to "Strangers No Longer" the joint pastoral letter from the bishops of Mexico and the U.S. "More powerful economic nations, which have the ability to protect and feed their residents, have a stronger obligation to accommodate migrant flows." The right to asylum must not be denied when people's lives are threatened in their homeland. Our faith calls us to protect human dignity.

Anyone can seek asylum anywhere along the border. It is not illegal. People have the right to request asylum without being criminalized, turned back, or separated from their children. Illegal border crossing is different from asylum seekers. The people arriving at our border are mostly escaping desperate and dangerous circumstances, trying to protect their children. They are fleeing violent situations, often created by drug cartels which are supplying the demand of drugs from the U.S.

Here are some resources where you can learn more AND take steps to show your love of our migrant brother and sisters:

1. Follow the USCCB's [Justice for Immigrants Action Center](#). Here you will be kept up to date on policy and Catholic reflection on the policy. You will also be provided with timely action alerts so that you can voice your concerns with your legislators.

**VISIT OUR
[WEBSITE](#)**

[DONATE HERE](#)

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

2. [Hope Border Institute](#), a grassroots effort "that seeks to bring the perspective of Catholic social teaching to bear on the social realities"
3. [International Rescue Mission](#)
4. Support organizations, such as Catholic Relief Services, which are addressing poverty and other root causes of migration. For example, [CRS' work in Honduras](#)

Peace and Blessings,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn".

Lynn Campbell, Executive Director



Pope Francis on Migrants and Refugees



"Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women, and men who leave or are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more."

~Pope Francis ~

Save the Date



**THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC
SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY**
Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE DINNER AND AWARDS**

October 22, 2019
at the
Aqua Turf Club
556 Mulberry St., Plantsville CT

Our Keynote address will be given by Kerry Robinson
"Justice, Recovery, and Reform in the Catholic Church"

Most Reverend Donnelly Awards will be presented to:

Deacon Art Miller for the Individual award

Center for Reflection, Education and Action (CREA)
Sr. Ruth Rosenbaum, executive director for the Organization Award

[REGISTER HERE](#)

2018 Impact Report

Our 2018 Impact Report can be found on our [website](#). Thank you for supporting our shared ministry! Take a look and see what together we are accomplishing.

Welcome Claudia



OCSJM welcomes Claudia Surprenant as our Catholic Relief Services, Parish Ambassador Animator Intern. Claudia is entering her third year of college at The University of Saint Joseph's in West Hartford where she is an Elementary and Special Education Major. Claudia is a parishioner at Saint Teresa of Calcutta in Manchester where she has participated as an Altar Server for 9.5 years. Claudia also received the Girl Scout Gold award for creating and conducting a communal altar serving training program during the merging of the two parishes. Claudia currently participates in the contemporary music group on Sundays, teaches Religious Education, and recently completed her first Brake the Cycle of Poverty Ride!

Welcome Claudia

Catholic Relief Services Parish Ambassador Corps

The Catholic Relief Services Parish Ambassador Corps has successfully launched in our Archdiocese. We have 30 Ambassadors from 15 parishes who are helping parishioners connect to the global dimension of our faith. These Ambassadors are building community and developing new leadership within the parish. There will be two information sessions available on Wednesday, August 28th:



10:00- 12:00 PM
The Pastoral Center
467 Bloomfield Ave.
Bloomfield, 06002

6:00-8:00 PM
St. Raphael Parish at
St. Ann Church
501 Naugatuck Ave.
Milford, CT 06460

Call (860) 242-5573 Ext. 2686 to register. If you are interested in learning about how your parish can get involved contact Patrick Laorden, our parish social ministry coordinator, at Patrick.Laorden@aohct.org.

Connecticut Catholic Bishops Release Statement on Immigration

"In recent decades U.S. governments led by both of our major parties have fallen woefully short of enacting immigration reform and of honoring the basic humanity of migrants and

refugees... We urge everyone to work and pray for a better way forward in addressing this humanitarian crisis."

[Statement on Immigration Reform - July 10, 2019](#)

[Statement on Immigration Reform - July 10, 2019 \(Spanish\)](#)

Our faith calls us to show our love to the most poor and vulnerable. Using your voice is one way to do this. Participate in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops [Justice for Immigrants](#) advocacy campaigns.

We also offer workshops for parishes, based on the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops "Justice for Immigrants" program, to educate about immigrant enforcement actions and provide preparation and protection. Please visit our [website](#) for more information.



Protecting Programs that Eliminate Hunger



Your voice helped make the difference in the House!

As of the end of June, the House has now passed the two biggest bills connected to the federal budget's funding of poverty-focused U.S. foreign aid.

Thanks to your action over the course of this year, the House rejected the administration's proposed cuts to this critical funding, which means we're closer to protecting funding for international programs that prevent hunger and malnutrition in families and communities!

Now it is time to connect with our Senators about ending hunger. [Send them an email today to ensure they protect this life-saving funding!](#)

During our overseas Catholic Relief Services trips, we have witnessed the importance of poverty-focused USAID. Most recently, in Ethiopian where it supports emergency food aid distribution.

Parish Social Ministry Focus Group

In a first-ever Ted Talk by Pope Francis, he said, "The future is, most of all, in the hands of those people who recognize the other as a 'you' and themselves as part of an 'us.' We all need each other."

Ministry is strengthened when we increase the opportunities for collaboration. Let's move in that direction with parish social ministry. Join us for a parish social ministry focus group at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Plainville on Thursday, September 19th from 6:30-8:30pm! This is a forum for those active and/or interested in parish social ministry to learn from one another, connect with our office, and discuss strategies on how to strengthen parish social ministry in our Archdiocese.



To register, please call Patrick Laorden at (860)-242-5573 ext. 2686 or email at Patrick.Laorden@aohct.org. There is no registration fee. Please register by Monday, September 16th.

Book Review

It's no secret that I am a fan of Jack Jezreel. We have brought him to the Archdiocese to speak on several occasions. His passion to help parishes really engage in living the Gospel message comes through once again in his latest book, *A New Way to Be Church: Parish Renewal from the Outside In*.

Jack breaks down the parish section of Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*, reminding us that Pope Francis is not satisfied with the way things are and is hoping for a completely

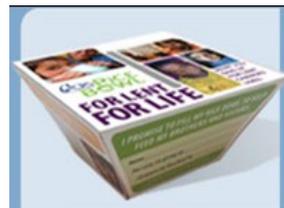


missioned-oriented church. This book concludes with a very practical 5-year plan to help your parish move towards a parish more aligned with the vision of Vatican 2.

I highly recommend reading this book, especially since our Archdiocese is undergoing a synod process, looking toward our future. It is a reminder that we are called to move more intently to a Vatican 2 parish which goes beyond serving its members to serving the greater community.

Time to order your Rice Bowls

It's that time again - Yes, it's only August, but Catholic Relief Services has us on a tight schedule. If you didn't participate last year, and would like to this year, please see the [attached letter](#) and complete the [attached form](#). If we don't hear from you by September 13, you will receive the same quantity of materials as you did in 2019.



Did you know that 25% of the funds stay within the Archdiocese? Rice Bowl grants provide seed money to parish gardens, emergency food gift cards, and supplement parish food pantries. If you have any questions regarding this program, contact Agnes Dann at 860-242-5573 ext. 2688.

Season of Creation



With the urgency of climate change in our local and global communities, the *Season of Creation* is a great time to participate in this urgent call to Care for Creation! The *Season of Creation* runs from Sunday, September 1st to Friday, October 4th. This is a time where Christians around the world take on different initiatives to raise awareness and engage the local and global communities on Care for Creation. There are many ways to participate during this season:

- Check out SeasonofCreation.org for prayers and resources
- Connect with the our office's [Laudato Si' Ministry Team](#) to host a study of discussion group on Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'* (Praised Be to You) or topics related to the environment.
- Have an outdoor Mass and connect Care for Creation with the liturgy. Consider [planting a tree](#) as a symbolic act, a proven strategy in combating climate change.

Current Parish Social Ministry Resources

New Resources from JustFaith Ministries

The [GoodNewsPeople](#) program offered by JustFaith Ministries has been revised. There is no registration required. All program materials are self-contained in a binder - no need to purchase additional books. The program is designed to inspire mercy and develop community within a small group in a parish.

[JustEngagement: The Power to Change](#) is an eight-week program offering tools and tips to organize your own grassroots advocacy efforts. Inspired by our social justice conference? Understand the Two-feet of Love, but don't know how to move forward? This is one resource to help you walk in the justice foot.

[Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey](#) is an eight-week program for small groups, intended to help formulate a personal response to the 21st-century reality of migration inspired by our Christian beliefs.

Spanish Media

* Root causes of Migration: CRS' Rick Jones was interviewed on [EWTN Espanol/Cara a Cara](#)

[show](#)