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# THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

**April 1, 2020**

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

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## From the Director

Dear friends,

Water is a basic human right. We are being told over and over again to wash our hands. Clean water is critical to the prevention of the spread of disease. We are so fortunate to have access to clean water to wash our hands as often as needed. Yet, there is an inequality in our world. Hundreds of millions of people live in extreme poverty, lacking the basic necessities such as clean water. COVID-19 is a global pandemic. It requires a local and global response



Pope Francis has said "We are not condemned to universal inequality. We must put an end to poverty." Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is working around the clock in the most vulnerable places where communities lack infrastructure to handle a health care crisis. When I was in Ethiopia, I saw the comprehensive approach CRS takes by providing access to clean water and following that with the promotion of healthy sanitation and hygiene practices. CRS is the Church's response to international aid and development. We can be proud of what CRS is doing to end poverty in our behalf. I encourage you to support their efforts through prayer and almsgiving this Lent.

Praying for the health and safety of you and your loved ones,



Lynn

Lynn Campbell, Executive Director

## Lenten Blessings



## Pope Quote



"Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity."

*Pope Francis, March 27, 2020, Extraordinary Urbi et Orbi Address & Blessing in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. [Click here for the full version.](#)*

## Mary O'Brien

### Blessings

Global Solidarity volunteer and longtime friend of OCSJM, Mary O'Brien (pictured) shares the following reflection.



In her recently published poem, "Pandemic" (03-11-20) Lynn Ungar writes that we should think of this time as a sacred time....a Sabbath. That was my intention as I began the day on Friday of last week.

Something I've been thinking about a lot, and especially in recent weeks is why I use my car all the time, when I could easily take the bus which literally stops right in front of my house. So on Friday, I decided to take the bus downtown to a small Mexican restaurant for "take-out" as the governor is asking us to do, in order to continue supporting these small businesses where we cannot "dine-in" for the time being. So I'm at the bus stop, and when it pulled up I was afraid to get on.....there were so many people, and it was not going to be possible to do "social distancing." (Many more people are taking the bus now because there is no charge. The cash-deposit machines are in the front near the drivers, and

they have blocked off those areas to keep the drivers safe from the virus. Only the back doors of the buses open). I just called out, "Sorry, wrong bus," and stepped away as it drove off. It really pained me to think of all those persons who have no choice other than to ride those crowded buses. I decided to take a walk instead.

There is a small park with a small pond in walking distance from my home, where I stopped to sit for awhile on one of the benches, and just admire the beautiful "creation" around me, human and non-human..... wondering why I don't come here more often. After a time, I continued walking through the park and into a neighborhood where I found a small Lebanese family restaurant with "take-out" only. A young woman was outside passing out menus and taking orders. Not familiar with Lebanese food, I asked her for meatless suggestions from the menu and she asked me if I was a Catholic. She wore a head-scarf and said the family is Muslim. When she returned with my order she said, "We are sorry to hear that your Holy Day Services are cancelled for this year. Please come back and we will be happy to serve you." When she said "serve," the word took on a whole new meaning for me. On my way back home through the park, I munched on some very delicious appetizers, and never gave another thought to fish tacos!

## Parish Social Ministry News



Does your parish run an outreach ministry? These resources may be of help. Here are new resources from Catholic Charities USA developed in light of the coronavirus pandemic:

- [Click here](#) for Catholic Charities USA's analysis of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The analysis summarizes the major investments the bill makes that will benefit Catholic Charities agencies and those they serve.
- The [US Department of Health and Human Services](#) has revised its Recommended Preventative Practices and FAQs for Faith-based and Community Leaders.
- To help understand the emotions arising after a disaster event, including the current pandemic, CCUSA's Disaster Operations Team is sharing its "[Phases of Disaster](#)" chart.

## Spiritual support from National Council of Catholic Women

It is important to stay physically and emotionally healthy, but remember to stay spiritually healthy as well. [Here is a link for daily Masses around the world](#), join Catholics across the globe, travel to a distant land and join in a liturgy that might look a little different:

### Let us pray together:

Creator God, we cry out to you for all of your people who are experiencing isolation in this time of "social distancing." Grant them the courage to persevere in faith and to seek new avenues of interaction and community. Protect us from illness; physical, mental and spiritual. We ask this as a community of women



called to serve You and those around us.

May the Spirit of God protect us.

May the Spirit of God lead us.

May the Spirit of God free us.

Amen

## V Encuentro bilingual practical resources



The V Encuentro ENAVE team has shared the following resources (i.e. videos, faith formation curriculum, youth ministry, etc.) posted on the [V Encuentro website](#) and will be updated continuously.

The [resource page](#) is available in English and Spanish Sections include:

- Masses Online
- Online Prayer Opportunities
- Resources for prayer, worship and Mass in the home
- Prayer Resources for Catholics, parents and pastoral leaders
- Online resources for Parents Faith Formation Resources
- Resources for Children
- Resources for Pastoral Juvenil, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry and Campus Ministry
- Resources for Persons with Disabilities
- Mental Health Resources

## Resource



The blog at [ctvoices.org](http://ctvoices.org), the website for Connecticut Voices for Children, answers questions geared toward those with COVID-19 and their family members: eligibility for paid sick leave or family medical leave, how to get unemployment benefits and how to retain employees rather than closing. More blog entries will be added later.

CTVoices Blog Series - [Paid Leave and Unemployment Insurance](#)

## Take Action to Protect Vulnerable Children

Our partners at DCF warn us that child trafficking will likely increase during these challenging times. Our most vulnerable children in the state become even more vulnerable during such challenging times. Many children are unsupervised during

this time and kids will have a significant amount of free time which often translates to more social media. Adults also have more idle time. The vast majority of our child victims are lured in and/or sold online.



We invite you to visit the action center of the [National Center on Sexual Exploitation](#) which identifies and monitors corporations and organizations that profit from sexual exploitation. You can participate by responding to one or more of their action alerts which will protect children from on-line sexual exploitation. Actions such as calling on Visa and Mastercard to cease allowing payments to be processed at Pornhub given recent news that sex-trafficked children and adults have been found on the website.

## Internship Available



Do you have an interest in fighting poverty and the systems that oppress people? Consider interning with The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford!

The internship is made possible with a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The internship is for the 2020-2021 academic year. Working from our office in Bloomfield, an intern will have opportunities for one-on-one interactions with local poverty focused group, training and outreach, and administrative responsibilities.

CCHD internships are open to Catholics in the United States who have leadership abilities, community service experience, and effective writing/communication and computer skills. Openness to the CCHD values of solidarity building, participation of the poor, and Catholic social teaching is essential. Low-income people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply. This internship is not limited to college students. Anyone interested can apply. To apply, contact Lynn Campbell at [lynn.campbell@aohct.org](mailto:lynn.campbell@aohct.org) or (860) 242-5573 to receive an application. Applications are due **May 1, 2020**. All interns will be required to attend an all-expenses-paid orientation in Washington, DC on May 27 to May 29, 2020.

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

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