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THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

May 2019

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

CALENDAR

June

**June 8th 8:00am-3:00
pm**

**10th Annual Bishop
Peter Rosazza Social
Justice Conference**

Pastoral Center,
Bloomfield

[Register here](#)

June 11-13

Undoing Racism

Congregation Beth
Israel, 701 Farmington
Avenue, West Hartford.

[Register here](#)

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From the Director

Dear Friends,

On May 21 I'll be boarding a plane headed towards Ethiopia. I'll be joined by other Catholic Relief Services (CRS) diocesan directors from across the country. The purpose of this trip is to deepen my understanding of CRS' work overseas and to use that experience to help you address global poverty and injustice.

Please keep me and the other delegates in your prayers. Pray that we will be open to seeing everything through God's eyes and that the experience will transform us. Pray also for the CRS Ethiopian staff who are still grieving the loss of their colleagues from the recent plane crash.

Keep an eye on the Archdiocesan website and Facebook pages. If technology works, the plan is for me to send updates of the journey. Grateful for this opportunity, I look forward to sharing this experience with you.

Peace and Blessings,



Lynn Campbell, Executive Director



Join us



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

**Tenth Annual Bishop Peter Rosazza
Social Justice Conference**
Saturday, June 8, 2019

Keynote Speaker:
Shawn Duncan from the Lupton Center

12 Workshop Topics
Networking and Conversation
Exhibitors from Across the Region
Prayer and Music
Workshops in English and Spanish
Catholic Mass

Dr. Shawn Duncan, Director of The Lupton Center, will offer a keynote to raise awareness of the need to change the existing "meeting basic needs" paradigm to one that is about seeking Shalom. Dr. Shawn Duncan is the Director of The Lupton Center, a training and consulting nonprofit in Atlanta that equips organizations to create real and lasting change in their community.

Participants can select 2 workshops offered by Shawn to continue the discussion. The first, **"Five Principles for Health and Effective Engagement"** addresses "what does the Reimagine Charity framework look like lived out?" This presentation continues the keynote

address as Shawn walks us through the basic principles. The second workshop, "**Ready to Reimagine Charity**", offers a deeper conversation about program effectiveness with practical next steps in how to change the paradigm.

The Lupton Center's years of experience is shared in the books "Charity Detox, What Charity would look like if we cared about results" and "Toxic Charity, How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help".

[Register Here](#)

Papal Honors



The Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford, is pleased to announce that 14 members of the Archdiocese have received Papal Honors from His Holiness Pope Francis on the occasion of the 175th Anniversary Year of the Archdiocese.

Congratulations to our own **Arturo Iriarte** who will receive this Honor in a Ceremony on Sunday May 19, 2019 at 4:00 PM in the Saint Thomas Chapel at the Pastoral Center.

Archbishop Blair said that, "in bestowing these Papal Honors, the Holy Father recognizes the strong Catholic faith and the daily witness to Christ and the gospel on the part of so many of the Faithful of this local church, as represented by our awardees, for which we are grateful to God."

The **Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross**, which was created by Pope Leo XIII in 1888, is to be given to women and men for their distinguished support of, and service to, the universal Church and the Holy See.

Arturo has been an employee of the Archdiocese in the area of social justice ministry with a particular outreach to immigrants of Hispanic descent. He worked with the Office for Urban Affairs for 15+ years, then in the Hispanic office and eventually went back to the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry from 2010 until the present where he serves as Hispanic Parish Social Ministry Coordinator. He served in V Encuentro for the Archdiocese and has presented his work on multiple occasion to Catholic Relief Services and the USCCB. He is active in grass roots efforts in current immigration struggles as well as educating Catholics and the wider community on this issue. He lives with his family in East Haven.

CONGRATULATIONS ARTURO!

Help Bring Justice to Domestic Workers!

Contact Your Elected Officials to Support H.B. 6931

We are a member of the Connecticut Domestic Worker Justice Campaign, working with other organizations and faith communities, including the CT Catholic Conference. We believe Connecticut needs a Domestic Workers Bill of Rights - to remove exclusions from Labor laws vested in slavery & Jim Crow and do right for over 40,000 workers in CT.

H.B. 6931 modifies current wage laws:

- Allowing a person employed "in the domestic service in or about a private home" to be able to be paid minimum wage
- Requiring employers of domestic workers to provide a written job description
- Extending discrimination and harassment protections to all domestic workers
- Including domestic workers in the groups of workers who cannot be compelled to work 7 days per calendar week



Information on the bill can be found [here](#)

Please call or send an email to your State Senator or

Representative urging them to vote **"YES" on H.B. 6931**. Find your legislators [here](#).

Social Justice Grants Available



We are offering social justice grants to Catholic parishes, schools, or Archdiocesan entities within the Archdiocese of Hartford. Grants must be used for hunger and poverty alleviation programs within the Archdiocese of Hartford. Preference will be given to new and innovative programs that demonstrate solutions to hunger with specific, tangible goals

and outcomes.

Funding from the grants come from the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program. Recipients must demonstrate intent to participate and promote the CRS Rice Bowl Lenten catechetical program. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis and are available at [OCSJM's website](#) For more information call Lynn Campbell, director, at 860-242-5573 ext. 2689.

HomeFront - Acts of Kindness

On Saturday, May 4th, I left my house around 7:00 am to visit one of the "HomeFront sites". The Archdiocese has partnered with HomeFront, a long established house repair program that has been going on for 25 years. Eligible parishes, such as St. Raymond of Peñafort, apply for Cooperative Parish Sharing grants through our office to assist with their work for this project. Parishioners serve as skilled volunteers. In one or two days, they repair what is most needed for a screened and approved family's home.

When I arrived at the Enfield work site, I imagined what the volunteers might be feeling during this special moment of service. As I was walking toward them, I was received with beautiful smiles and felt welcomed right away. I said "Good morning. I am from The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdioceses and I came to visit and thank you all for helping your neighbor."



I spoke with Bob Atiyeh - House Captain and Mary Mercik - Volunteer Coordinator. They thanked me for the support and I said "No, I am here to thank you for what you are doing". I asked Bob to share with us why he was there, "This truly is Works of Mercy," he said. "Today we are replacing 13 windows. The homeowner has been in the house about 5 years and the old windows were creating a significant energy loss." Some other work the team did was a tub/shower replacement in the bathroom, added electrical outlets and provided four smoke detectors, one CO2 detector, a fire extinguisher, etc. etc.

At Morning Prayer, I asked God "what do you have for me today"? Visiting the HomeFront project taught me that providing for someone's basic needs is an act of kindness, but foremost, still has spiritual value in God's kingdom. Let us create a culture of kindness so that people can experience God's kingdom through us and know that His intentions for them are to be loved by Him.

"Thank you to all of the 14 parishes in the Archdiocese who participated in HomeFront, and witnessed a "culture of kindness".



Arturo Iriarte, Parish Social Ministry Coordinator OCSJM

Parishes In Action

Parishioners from St. Mary Parish are participating in our [Parishes in Action](#) program. Parishes in Action is a five-session series designed to develop new social ministry efforts at parishes or to assist active ones. St. Joseph Church recently merged with St. Mary Church and saw this as an opportunity to bring together existing social justice efforts from both communities.

Parishioners have been learning the roots of Catholic social teaching, the difference between charity and social justice, the pastoral circle, and one-on-one relationship building. They've enjoyed the opportunity to connect with our office and one another through the various sessions offered in our program. If you think your parish might be interested in Parishes in Action, please contact Patrick at Patrick.Laorden@aohct.org or (860)-242-5573. Ext. 2686.



Undoing Racism



Undoing racism is critical in the work of social justice. An excellent opportunity for very thorough training in undoing racism is offered by The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. This 2.5 day training is designed to help us understand how all of us are adversely impacted by racism every day, everywhere. The training is being offered by the Christian Activities Council on June 11 - 13; more information can be found here: <http://christianactivities.org/?s=racism>

June 11th - 13th

Dates/Times/Location:

- Tuesday and Wednesday, June 11th - 12th | 8:30am to 4:30 pm
- Thursday, June 13th | 8:30am to 1:00 pm
- Participants must be available for all of the training to register

Location: Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford.

Food: Breakfast and lunch provided each day.

Cost: The Cost is \$450 per person. Scholarships are available simply by requesting one. 100% of the fee goes to the training and food. Please check with your faith institution first to see if there are scholarships available. If not, CAC will provide the scholarship.

Group Size: There is a maximum of 40 participants per training so register early!

How to register: Email Cori Mackey at cmackey@christianactivities.org. Send check made payable to Christian Activities Council to 47 Vine Street, Hartford, CT 06112 or pay through our web site at www.christianactivities.org. Call 860-527-9860 with questions.

About the Training: Training is offered by The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond

Undoing Racism® is our signature workshop. Through dialogue, reflection, role-playing, strategic planning and presentations, this intensive process challenges participants to analyze the structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity and prepares them to be effective organizers for justice. The multiracial team of organizers/trainers includes more than 100 men and women whose anti-racist organizing expertise includes years with civil, labor and welfare rights struggles, educational, foster care, social service and health reform movements, as well as youth and grassroots community organizing. An average of 30 groups per month participate in The People's Institute Undoing Racism®/Community Organizing process.

Workshop participants will:

- Develop a common definition of racism and an understanding of its different forms: individual, institutional, linguistic, and cultural;
- Develop a common language and analysis for examining racism in the United States;
- Understand one's own connection to institutional racism and its impact on his/her work;
- Understand why people are poor and the role of institutions in exacerbating institutional racism, particularly for people and communities of color;
- Understand the historical context for how racial classifications in the United States came to be and how and why they are maintained;
- Understand the historical context for how U.S. institutions came to be and who they have been designed to serve;
- Understand how all of us, including white people, are adversely impacted by racism every day, everywhere;
- Address surface assumptions about how your work is (or is not) affected by racism;
- Develop awareness and understanding about ways to begin Undoing Racism®

A Reflection on Poverty



Poverty for Poverty
A reflection by Jason Rinaldi
Director of the Pope Francis Center for Renewal
A Ministry of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception

The little man lay on the floor overcome by the illnesses that would eventually take his life later that day. A stone floor is no comfort to most people who are gravely ill, but to this man, it was a perfect place to finish his life. The sound of muffled crying in the room was periodically interrupted by his coughing that readily punched through the background noise and echoed off the stone walls that were witnessing his last hours like silent sentinels keeping guard. Humble candle light outlined a face that was thin and delicate with exhaustion. Before long, he asked that he be stripped of his clothing. Everything was to be taken off so that he can lay completely naked on the floor. St. Francis wanted to leave this world with no attachments, nothing that would occupy his heart, not even his own clothing. Naked on floor, gravely ill,

hungry from fasting, his last mission was to die like his Lord on the cross...completely stripped of any worldly glory or attachment so that his only love can be God Himself.

Please visit the [blog](#) on our website to read the rest of this reflection.

Current Parish Social Ministry Resources

Human Trafficking

We updated our resource of [books and videos](#). The Archdiocese of New Orleans provided us with "Sorrowful Mysteries for Victims, Survivors, and Perpetrators of Human Trafficking", which is to be used with the Rosary. It can be found on [our website](#).

CRS RiceBowl

We created a twenty minute training resource. It provides a general overview of Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl, ways of fostering a deeper encounter and select resources to effectively promote Rice Bowl at your parish. We've created a self-paced guide that includes links to prayers, three short videos, and resources. These materials can be found on our website on the [Programs/Catholic Relief Services page](#).

Poverty

Check out our [list of local outreach](#) opportunities for Hartford, Waterbury, and New Haven vicariates.

Grant Resources

We offer grants to parishes working to alleviate hunger and poverty within the Archdiocese. Grants are made possible through Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl, where 25% of the funds collected are to remain in the Archdiocese. Applications are available on [our website](#) and are accepted on a rolling basis.

Prayer Resources

Start your meeting or gathering with prayer! [Catholic Relief Services](#) offers a free Pope Francis Quote book, prayers and general intercessions relating to current events and emergencies, and a host of other ministry tools for prayer, formation and action.
