



Lent 2015

Office for Social Concerns

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Latest Updates



PARTICIPATE IN CRS RICE BOWL Celebrating its 40th year, CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities. Motivated by the example of Jesus Christ, CRS assists poor and suffering people in 93 countries on the basis of need (without regard to race), religion, or nationality. 75 percent of the Rice Bowl donations supports CRS' programs around the world and 35 percent go to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in our diocese. Rice Bowl materials are sent directly to parish and schools. If you have questions or need materials please contact Erin Cordle, diocesan CRS director, at 614-241-2540 or ecordle@colsdio.org.



GET THE CRS RICE BOWL APP

Read daily reflections, measure your Lenten sacrifices, get delicious recipes from around the world. Available at www.crsricebowl.org/app.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE is February 18 to March 29. Communities across the country will participate in the 40 Days for Life campaign. Faithful believers are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in America. This peaceful prayer vigil will take place at an abortion facility. Participants are asked to volunteer and sign a statement of peace. For details about 40 Days for Life in the Columbus area, please contact Greater Columbus Right to Life at 614-445-8508 or visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

Lent

Prayer Fasting Almsgiving



URBAN PLUNGE Students from the University of Notre Dame volunteer at Catholic Social Services' Our Lady of Guadalupe Center as part of their 48 hour Urban Plunge. The Office for Social Concerns has led several thousand Catholic school and university students and faculty on urban plunge retreats over the last decade. Contact us for more details.

"I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security."

Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel

MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH

The National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) facilitates the implementation of the *Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities* by calling for inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the Church and society. Many of NCPD's resources can be found online at www.ncpd.org.

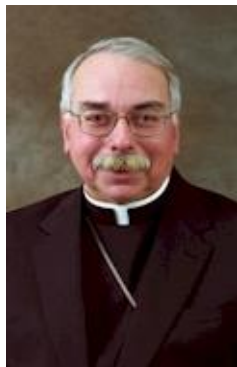
"Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation"

DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, at Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway, Columbus. We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker is Bishop Frederick F. Campbell. Bishop Campbell will address this year's theme of the U.S.

Catholic Bishops' Respect Life Program, *Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation*. Our other featured speakers will cover a spectrum of topics from the beginning of life to its natural end and the opportunities for us as members of the Church to embrace those struggling with life issues.

Mass at 9 a.m. Conference is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration is \$20 which includes lunch. To register, please send a check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio 43215. For details, call (614) 241-2540 or email at socmailbox@colsdio.org.



**Come hear
Bishop Campbell
speak about respect
for life.**

FEATURED SPEAKERS - RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

Bishop Frederick Campbell – Keynote Speaker
Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation

Fr. Bob Penhallurick, Pastor, St Brendan Church, Hilliard - *Ethical Decisions for End of Life Issues*

Beth Vanderkooi, Executive Director, Columbus Right to Life - *How the Parish Can be More Engaged in Pro-life Work*

J. Russell Crabtree, Author and President of Holy Cow! Consulting - *Developing a Pastoral Response to Suicide Prevention*

Learn more about diocesan efforts to promote the dignity of human life through prayer, education, pastoral outreach, and advocacy. Hope you can join us!

Your Voice is Needed:**CATHOLIC LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY**

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 10.**

Deliver the Catholic message to respect life and dignity, protect the poor and vulnerable, and support families and community.



Meet Catholic advocates, listen to issue briefings, and visit state legislators and staff. Registration is free. Bring a bag lunch. Gathering 9 a.m. Issue briefings at 9:30 a.m. Held at The Catholic Foundation, 257 E. Broad Street, Columbus. Sponsored by the diocesan Office for Social Concerns and St. Vincent de Paul Voice of the Poor. RSVP by March 4 online at <http://tinyurl.com/legadvocacy> or call 614-241-2540.

GOOD FRIDAY WALKING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAY, APRIL 3. Many facets of faith and justice will be the focus of the annual Walking Stations of the Cross. The walk begins with opening prayer at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus, at 8 a.m., Friday April 3, 2015. Hundreds of participants from across the diocese will process to locations throughout downtown Columbus to recognize Jesus Christ's suffering and crucifixion as well as to reflect on current areas of social concern. Open to all ages. For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (614) 241-2565.

**Join us for the Good Friday Walking Stations.**

Hundreds of Catholics from around the diocese will participate on Good Friday morning for this annual prayer and witness in downtown Columbus.

J.O.I.N. BIBLIOBENEFIT

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 7 to 10 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, Nugent Hall, 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus. The Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs' annual fundraising event helps support their mission to provide for emergency material needs. Registration for the fundraiser is \$50. Please send check payable to J.O.I.N. c/o Bibliobenefit, 578 E. Main St., Columbus, OH 43215. For more information, call 614-241-2531.

CORCORAN AWARDS - ST. VINCENT FAMILY

CENTER WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, at noon. The annual luncheon celebrates community leaders who are making outstanding contributions in the areas of service and supports the efforts of St. Vincent Family Center to make good kids better. Individual tickets and tables can be purchased in advance by calling (614) 252-0731 ext. 1131, email: dhuff@svfc.org. Learn more at www.svfc.org/events/corcoran-awards.

SERVICE SATURDAY – CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

SATURDAY, MAY 16 Senior or disabled in need of home repair? Service Saturday, sponsored by Catholic Social Services, will be held on May 16. Do you know of an older adult (60+) and disabled individual living in Franklin County who needs help with a small home repair or special project? If so, please contact Peggy Sirbaugh in the CSS office, [614-857-1251](tel:614-857-1251) or psirbaugh@colscss.org with the name, street address, zip code, phone number and project idea. Be sure you discuss the event with the individual before making the referral. Please call by March 2. We can accept a maximum of 30 worksites, so please don't delay! (We are unable to accept plumbing, electrical, and second-floor exterior projects.) Volunteers are needed. Visit www.colscss.org to sign up.

DIOCESAN SENIOR CITIZENS DAY CELEBRATION

TUESDAY, JUNE 2 at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 313 N. State St., Westerville. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. Mass is followed by a luncheon. This annual event is a great opportunity to meet with seniors from around the Catholic Diocese of Columbus. Registration for the celebration is \$10. To register, send a check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, Catholic Diocese of Columbus, 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For questions, call (614) 241-2540 or email at socmailbox@colsdio.org. Registrations are requested by May 28.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

SEPTEMBER 2015 Families from around the world are planning to attend the World Meeting of Families held in Philadelphia. Pope Francis is scheduled to participate as well. Want to attend or learn more? Visit www.colsdio.org/Offices/DeptforSpiritualLifeandParishMinistry/MarriageandFamilyLifeOffice/WorldMeetingofFamilies.aspx or contact the diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office at 614-241-2560.

***This just in...* ECUMENICAL EVENT: SAVING OUR COMMUNITIES: DRUG EDUCATION CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4** for pastors, lay-ministers, parishioners involved in substance abuse related ministries. March 4, 2015, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Ohio Christian University, Circleville. To RSVP go to www.ohiochristian.edu/psychology/event/saving-our-communities-drug-education-conference-pastors/2015-03-04 or call Heidi Riggs of the Ohio Attorney General's Office at 614-907-1448 for more details.

Resources

For additional resources visit <http://socialconcerns.colsdio.org>.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**THE BASICS: PARISH SOCIAL CONCERNS**

New to parish social concerns committee, parish social ministry, justice & peace, respect life, etc.? Come learn the basics. Get tools and be connected to what's going on in this exciting work of the Church.

Tuesday, April 14 7-8:30 p.m. – Catholic Center

It's Free. RSVP to the Office for Social Concerns at socmailbox@colsdio.org or call (614) 241-2540. Can't make the date? Office staff can travel to your parish to fit your schedule. Give us a call.

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES

Human Trafficking is modern day slavery. It's happening around the world, including Ohio. Take part in efforts to combat it.

USCCB Resources: www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program

Ohio Resources:

www.ohiocathconf.org/I/Trafficking/Trafficking.htm

For local resources contact the Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-240.

CARE FOR CREATION CALENDAR

The Ohio Catholic Rural Life Conference issued a Care for Creation Calendar which identifies various patron saints associated with aspects of stewardship of the God's creation. The calendar is available on the Catholic Conference of Ohio website, www.ohiocathconf.org.

OHIOANS TO STOP EXECUTIONS FAITH LEADER

INITIATIVE OTSE launched a Faith Leader Initiative to mobilize the faith community to work together to end the use of the death penalty in Ohio. Sign up to receive updates and put our faith into action with their "To Do" list, www.otse.org/faith-leader-initiative.

Action Alerts

For current action alerts visit <http://socialconcerns.colsdioc.org>.

Add this to your To Do list.

CATHOLIC LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY on Tuesday, March 10. Your voice is needed. See page 2.

OHIO BUDGET Governor Kasich released his two-year state budget plan. The Ohio General Assembly debates it in the next few months. The budget has an impact on families and communities, especially the poor and vulnerable. For advocacy details, visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio website at www.ohiocathconf.org.

CARE FOR THE UNBORN Several prolife bills calling for a reduction of abortions will work their way through the Ohio General Assembly and Congress. For updates visit: OHIO: www.ohiocathconf.org/I/AB/Abortion.htm FEDERAL: www.nchla.org

IMMIGRATION REFORM With a new Congress, comes a renewed debate on immigration reform. The immigration system is broken. Visit the USCCB's Justice for Immigrants Campaign website for the latest action alerts and education resources, www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

IRAQ AND SYRIAN CRISIS & EBOLA CRISIS What's happening to Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq and Syria by the violence from ISIS is horrific. Ebola continues to spread in parts of Africa. Catholic Relief Services and partners are working to address these international crisis and more. For the latest news and how you can help, go to www.crs.org.

DEATH PENALTY It looks as though executions will not take place in Ohio in 2015 until the state finds a way to determine a new method of lethal injection. It is hoped for that the Ohio General Assembly will take up recommendations of the Ohio Supreme Court Death Penalty Task Force. www.ohiocathconf.org/I/DP/deathpenalty.htm.

FAIR HIRING ACT St. Vincent de Paul Voice of the Poor is following development of the Fair Hiring Act in Ohio. The bill would prevent background checks during preliminary stages for hire for public sector jobs helping former prison inmates find jobs. A job is crucial for successful prisoner reentry.

Receive action alerts and upcoming events via email, socmailbox@colsdioc.org.

Help! Volunteers Needed & Services Available

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES needs volunteers for their Friendly Visitor Program (visiting senior citizens), Our Lady of Guadalupe Center Food Pantry, and Service Saturday. CSS is also offering a Home-Based Maternal Counseling program in Franklin County helping mothers and their babies thrive. Call 614-221-5891 or visit www.colssc.org.

J.O.I.N. Needed: Volunteers and donations of personal care items, 614-241-2531 <http://join.colsdioc.org>.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, Volunteers and donations needed at your parish, St. Lawrence Haven, Clothing Center, 614-241-2569, www.vincentianvoice.org

ST. FRANCIS CENTER IN VINTON COUNTY needs pasta for clients. Can you spare some? Contact: Lisa Keita at 740-596-5820, lkeita04@hotmail.com St. Francis Center, 108 W. Mill St., McArthur, OH 45651

ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY HOUSE Volunteers need for a variety of tasks. 614-295-6347 ext. 451 or www.saintstephensch.org/programs/volunteer

ST. VINCENT FAMILY CENTER Help make good kids better, 614-252-0731 ext. 1132 www.svfc.org/get-involved/volunteer