



September 2014

Office for Social Concerns

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Latest Updates

LABOR DAY 2014: U.S. BISHOPS' STATEMENT

In this year's Labor Day statement, Bishop Thomas Wenski, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, focuses on young adults, who have "borne the brunt of this crisis of unemployment and underemployment" with an unemployment rate that is more than double the national average. Read the statement online at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2014.cfm.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN – WHO, WHY, WHAT NEXT – FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION

on Wednesday, September 10, 7 to 9 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Rd., New Albany. Learn more about the current conditions in Central America, the causes of child immigration, and how Catholics can respond to the crisis. Free and open to the public.

THE FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK is scheduled for Saturday, September 20 at the St. Francis DeSales High School Stadium, 4212 Karl Road, Columbus. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. and the walk begins at 10 a.m. The walk route is approximately one mile, to signify "walking a mile" in the shoes of the poor. Walkers are invited to walk the route as many times as they like. Money raised for the walk will support efforts of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. For more information, contact John Willig at (614) 314-4235 or jwillig@gmail.com or visit the SVPD website at www.vincentianvoice.org.

POVERTY & PRAYER WORKSHOP The Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus, is hosting a workshop on poverty and prayer presented by Gerry Straub on Saturday, September 20, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Gerry Straub, a television producer will explore how film transforms people's hearts and can be used to serve the poor. Suggested donation is \$20. Please register by September 15 at (614) 416-1910 or martindeporres@oppeace.org.

Pray and Act in Solidarity



Refugee Camp in the Middle East Photo: CRS

Pray and act in solidarity with Christians and other minorities in the Middle East in the face of ongoing violence and persecution. Support immediate humanitarian and pastoral needs.

Pray and act in solidarity with those suffering from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and for those providing care and treatment.

Pray and act in solidarity for peace in the Holy Land.

Pray and act in solidarity for the thousands of unaccompanied migrant children who made the perilous journey across the U.S. border.

Pray and act in solidarity for the many domestic and international issues affecting the life and dignity of the human person.

Pray and act in solidarity for religious freedom in this country and across the world.

Read the **Action Alert** section on how to get involved and make a difference.

PINK MASS for the remembrance and honor of loved ones lost to cancer and in hope for survivors and caregivers. Join us from throughout the Franklin County area to celebrate liturgy on October 1st at St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Rd, Columbus, 6:30pm. Students from the Diocesan Service Learning Network will be assisting the liturgy and hosting an information reception following mass. Please join us in celebrating those who fought the good fight and those still fighting the good fight!

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES BREAKFAST WITH THE BISHOP will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014, 7:45-9 a.m., at the Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High Street, Columbus. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Speakers for the event are Bishop Frederick F. Campbell and Jodi Pfarr, Minneapolis MN, *Bridges Out of Poverty* certified trainer, advocate, and teacher. All proceeds from the breakfast will support the vital programs and services of Catholic Social Services. For tickets or event sponsorship call Peggy Welch at (614) 857-1254 or via the CSS website at www.colscss.org.

BUILDING BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY TRAINING will be held on Friday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bryce Eck Activity Center, 3880 Reed Road, Columbus. Learn more on how to move individuals from poverty to self-sufficiency and revitalize neighborhoods. The training is sponsored by Catholic Social Services. To register, go to www.colscss.org or call (614) 857-1203.



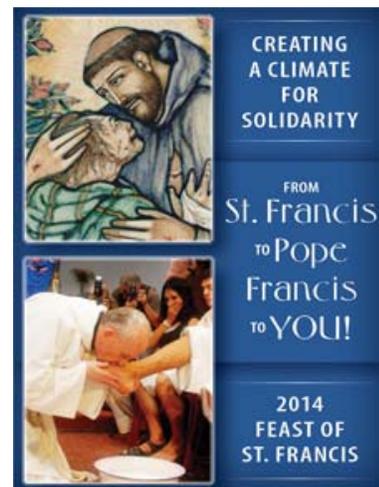
SERVICE SATURDAY: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR. LEND A HAND. Join Catholic Social Services to help older and disabled Franklin County residents in need of help with a small home repair, painting, yard work, or special project. Volunteer: Saturday, October 11, 2014. Donate: No time to volunteer? Help by providing a donation to assist CSS with purchasing supplies for the day of service. Identify a person in need. Do you know of an older adult (60+) or disabled individual who lives in Franklin County and needs help with a small home repair or special project? To register contact Peggy Sirbaugh at (614) 857-1251 or psirbaugh@colscss.org. RSVP by September 26.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE The greater Columbus community will participate in the 40 Days for Life. Faithful believers are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion. This peaceful prayer vigil will take place at an abortion facility in Columbus from September 24 to November 2. Participants are asked to volunteer and sign a statement of peace. For details, visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.



OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH and Sunday, October 5, is Respect Life Sunday. "Each of us is a masterpiece of creation" is the theme of the 2014-2015 Respect Life Program. Celebrate the gift of life in all its stages. For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540. Parish respect life packets that provide an overview of the pressing life issues of today are available online on the U.S. Catholic Bishops' website at www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/index.cfm.

CREATING A CLIMATE FOR SOLIDARITY FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE ENVIRONMENT Take part in the Catholic Climate Covenant's Feast of St. Francis Education Program, From St. Francis to Pope Francis to You! This 90 minute multimedia presentation with discussion guide can be used by parish groups, schools, and youth groups. Host an event on or near October 4, www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/feast-of-st-francis-2014.



MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK is October 5-11. The NCPD Council on Mental Illness, an outreach program of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability is encouraging Catholic observance of the annual Mental Illness Awareness Week and the National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding. This national effort is designed to promote pastoral sensitivity to, and inclusion of, individuals and their family members who are affected by mental illness. For resources, go to <http://www.ncpd.org/ministries-programs/specific/mentalillness/resources/miweek>.

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT On Tuesday, October 7, at All Saints Academy, 2855 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus. Meet candidates running for local office in the November 4th general election. Reception at 6:30 p.m. and Candidate's Forum at 7 p.m. This program is presented by the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government and is sponsored by the Diocese of Columbus Offices for Social Concerns and Black Catholic Ministries. For complete listing of all Meet the Candidates Nights visit the Consortium, www.franklincountyconsortium.com or contact the Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or socmailbox@colsdio.org.

EARTHKEEPING SUMMIT to be held October 12 & 13 presented by Ohio Interfaith Power and Light and The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources, www.ohiopl.org/earthkeeping-summit-2014.

PRISON MINISTRY GATHERING A gathering of Catholic prison ministers will take place on Friday, October 17, 2014, at Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson, Ohio. Bishop Frederick Campbell will celebrate Mass at 6 p.m. Dinner and a meeting will follow. The meeting will be an opportunity to share information about prison ministry and prisoner reentry efforts throughout the diocese. Please RSVP by October 14, to the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or email at socmailbox@colsdio.org.

PRAYER SHAWL (FIBER) MINISTRIES Annual knit-in on Saturday, October 24, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Rd, New Albany. All knitters, crocheters, quilters, seamstresses, anyone who works with fiber are invited to join this prayer community. To register, call Sandy W. at (614) 342-6003.

ELECTION DAY is November 4. "In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation." U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, www.faithfulcitizenship.org. Visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio's website at www.ohiocathconf.org for issue positions. Please vote. Let your voice be heard!



THE CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CCHD) COLLECTION will be on the weekend of Sunday, November 23, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Help break the cycle of poverty. For more information about the CCHD, go online at www.usccb.org/cchd or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

The CCHD national grant online pre-application process is now open through October 31. For more information visit www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/grants/community-development-grants-program/index.cfm or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

THANKSGIVING DAY, we pray and give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received. Also, please keep in your prayers the people who work hard to produce, prepare, transport, and sell the food we eat. To learn more about the Catholic Church and food issues, visit the National Catholic Rural Life Conference' website at www.ncrlc.com.

NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE will be on December 8, 2014. The 25th annual National Night of Prayer for Life will be on December 8, 2014. This night of prayer links the feast days of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the unborn. Catholics across the country will pray in unity in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Rosary, prayer to St. Michael, silent prayers and hymns. Prayer is encouraged from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., national hour of unity is 12 to 1 a.m.

CHRISTMAS CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION This annual collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations including J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs), St. Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Francis Center, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the Catholic Charities collection this year.



Looking Ahead in 2015:

WORLD DAY OF PEACE IS JANUARY 1

www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm

JANUARY IS POVERTY IN AMERICA AWARENESS MONTH www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/poverty-education/poverty-awareness-month.cfm

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK – JANUARY 4-10
www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week

STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE WEEK – JANUARY 15-22
www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/violence/confronting-a-culture-of-violence-a-catholic-framework-for-action.cfm

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – JANUARY 20
St. Joseph Cathedral, 7 p.m.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN – JANUARY 22

RESPECT LIFE MASS – JANUARY 22 St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus, 10:30 a.m. Bishop Frederick Campbell – Celebrant

RALLY FOR LIFE – JANUARY 22 Ohio Statehouse, noon. Sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life

CATHOLIC SOCIAL MINISTRY GATHERING, WASHINGTON, DC www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/catholic-social-ministry-gathering

CRS RICE BOWL - FOR LENT FOR LIFE
www.crsricebowl.org

DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE – MARCH 7
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus
Keynote Speaker: Bishop Frederick Campbell

GOOD FRIDAY WALKING STATIONS OF THE CROSS – APRIL 3 St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus, 8 a.m.

DIOCESAN SENIOR CITIZENS DAY CELEBRATION – JUNE 2 St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

Resources

For additional resources visit www.socialconcerns.colstdioc.org.

RESPECT LIFE PROGRAM begins anew each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October. The program is highlighted in liturgies and marked by special events. The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities publishes a program packet each year to call attention to numerous human life issues. These materials are especially helpful for priests, parish groups, and other organizations. The packet includes articles and bulletin inserts, liturgy guide, posters, flyers, and a catalog of pro-life publications. This year's theme is "Each of us is a Masterpiece of God's Creation." To access the packet online, go to www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/index.cfm.

CRS FAIR TRADE Catholic Relief Services has an amazing program related to Fair Trade products: Crafts, Coffee, and Chocolate. To learn more visit the CRS Fair Trade website at www.crsfairtrade.org or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns to link with a CRS Fair Trade Ambassador.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP ON DISABILITY E-NEWS NCPD provides many online resources to promote inclusion of the people with disabilities in the life of the Church and society. They also produce a comprehensive electronic newsletter, full of latest updates and resources. To subscribe, visit www.ncpd.org/views-news-policy/news/enews.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE
Rural parishes and rural communities live with many blessings and experience challenges. Learn more about

CATHOLICS
CONFRONT
GLOBAL
POVERTY

CATHOLICS CONFRONT GLOBAL POVERTY Get involved by learning about current issues related to global poverty and receive timely action alerts to make a difference for our brothers and sisters here and around the world.
www.confrontglobalpoverty.org

what the Catholic Church is doing to address rural life issues, www.ncrlc.com

MULTIMEDIA YOUTH CONTEST is organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). It is a tool for schools and parishes to engage Catholics in grades 7 through 12 in learning about the root causes of U.S. poverty and the Church's response. Creative work of any medium (e.g. video, song, painting, drama, poetry, etc.) is welcome! All 7-9th grade category submissions are due by Friday, December 5, 2014 and will be featured at the 2015 Bosco Bash on January 31, 2015. All 10-12th grade category submissions are due by Friday, January 30, 2015, and will be featured at the 2015 Diocesan Youth Rally on March 14 & 15, 2015. For more information visit www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/multimedia-youth-contest/index.cfm or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns or Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

POVERTY EDUCATION RESOURCES – CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CCHD) has a host of resources to educate the Catholic community about poverty and what you can do about it. Visit the CCHD Poverty Education webpage for programs involving all ages, www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/poverty-education/index.cfm

OHIO BISHOPS' STATEMENT ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG & HEROIN ADDICTION The Ohio Catholic Bishops issued a statement concerning prescription drug and heroin addiction in Ohio. In the statement, they urge

prayer, discussion, treatment and community involvement. They also support the state's Start Talking! Program. To read the bishops' statement, go to www.ohiocathconf.org.

CARE FOR CREATION WEBSITE: CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO The Catholic Conference of Ohio's *Care for Creation* webpage on environmental justice provides resources for families, parishes, schools and other institutions. Go to www.ohiocathconf.org/home_frameset.htm.

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

RECYCLEFORCE COLUMBUS – RECYCLE USED ELECTRONICS Consider hosting a recycling drive for used electronics. RecycleForce Columbus is an electronics recycling organization in the Columbus area that provides a pathway for formerly incarcerated men and women to successfully reintegrate into the workforce and become responsible and productive community members. RecycleForce Columbus offers short-term job placement in comprehensive, environmentally sound and secure end-of-life electronics processing. RecycleForce Columbus will collect unwanted consumer and business electronic products and equipment at or nearing the end of their useful life. If your parish would like to host a recycling drive, call (614) 261-6161 or visit www.recycleforcecolumbus.org for more information on how to donate.

Action Alerts

For current action alerts visit www.socialconcerns.colsdioc.org.

IRAQI AND SYRIAN CRISIS: HUMANITARIAN AID AND HOSPITALITY The conflict has led many Iraqis and Syrians to flee their homes in search of safety. Caritas Iraq and Catholic Relief Services are working to support these displaced families, How you can help, www.crs.org.

Urge the President and Congress to do more to stop the violence and increase humanitarian assistance. How you can advocate, www.confrontglobalpoverty.org.

NOW IS THE TIME TO END ALL HOSTILITIES AND SUPPORT PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND! Let President Obama and Congress know that you care about our brothers and sisters impacted by this

Add this to your To Do list.



recent cycle of violence in the Holy Land, www.confrontglobalpoverty.org. How you can help, www.crs.org.

EBOLA CRISIS CONTINUES Catholic Relief Services is expanding programs as the Ebola crisis has spread in West Africa. How you can help, www.crs.org.

ONE HUMAN FAMILY, FOOD FOR ALL Pope Francis through Caritas Internationalis launched a worldwide movement to respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our midst by praying and acting to end hunger, <http://food.caritas.org>.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT Urge the U.S. Senate to support the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, S. 946. How you can advocate, go to USCCB Action Center at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/index.cfm>. Scroll down to Action Central.

UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS ON U.S. BORDER

Central American children are migrating to the United States alone in record numbers, many risking their lives in this perilous journey. The Catholic Church is working hard to respond to this humanitarian crisis. Learn more, www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services How you can help, www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/upload/Children-s-Services-Reponse-to-Humanitarian-Crisis-final.pdf.

IMMIGRATION REFORM Congress has failed to pass immigration reform this year. It's important that members of Congress hear from the Catholic community. How you can advocate, www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops urge passage of three pieces of legislation relating to the protection of marriage: Marriage and Religious Freedom Act, State Marriage Defense Act, and the Marriage Protection Amendment. How you can advocate, go to USCCB Action Center at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/index.cfm>. Scroll down to Action Central.

CLIMATE CHANGE - EPA REGULATIONS

USCCB and the Catholic Climate Covenant has voiced support for national standards limiting carbon pollution from power plants in response to Church

teaching on care for creation and the poor and vulnerable. Learn more, <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/environmental-justice-program/upload/Comments-to-EPA-from-Archbishop-Wenski-Bishop-Pates-on-carbon-pollution-standards-2014-07-30.pdf>
How to submit public comments, http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5256/p/dia/action3/mon/public/?action_KEY=17826

OHIO DEATH PENALTY U.S. District Judge Gregory L. Frost has ordered a temporary moratorium on executions in Ohio until January 15, 2015, while legal issues related to the new lethal injection protocol are worked out. Contact the governor and Ohio legislators and urge them to put an end to the use of the death penalty in Ohio. Learn more, www.ohiocathconf.org/1/DP/deathpenalty.htm.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM A reform of the United States criminal justice system is long overdue. Urge Congress to pass the Smarter Sentencing Act. In an effort to strengthen prisoner reentry programs urge passage of the Second Chance Act, www.usccb.org/about/domestic-social-development/index.cfm

PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM Protect religious freedom here and around the world. Urge Congress to support two bills H.R. 4653 on international religious freedom and the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act. How you can advocate, go to USCCB Action Center at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/index.cfm>, click Action Central. Urge opposition to S. 2578 that would revoke conscience rights now guaranteed by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, <http://nchla.org/actiondisplay.asp?ID=311>.

“I ask everyone with political responsibility to remember two things: human dignity and the common good.”

Pope Francis @Pontifex via Twitter

Receive Action Alerts via Email. Join the Information and Response Network.

If you would like to receive legislative action alerts and upcoming events from the diocesan Office for Social Concerns via email, subscribe to the Information and Response Network. Please send an email to socmailbox@colsdio.org. Don't forget to visit our website at www.socialconcerns.colsdio.org.