



December 2016

# Office for Social Concerns

## *Catholic Diocese of Columbus*

# Latest Updates

### **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.

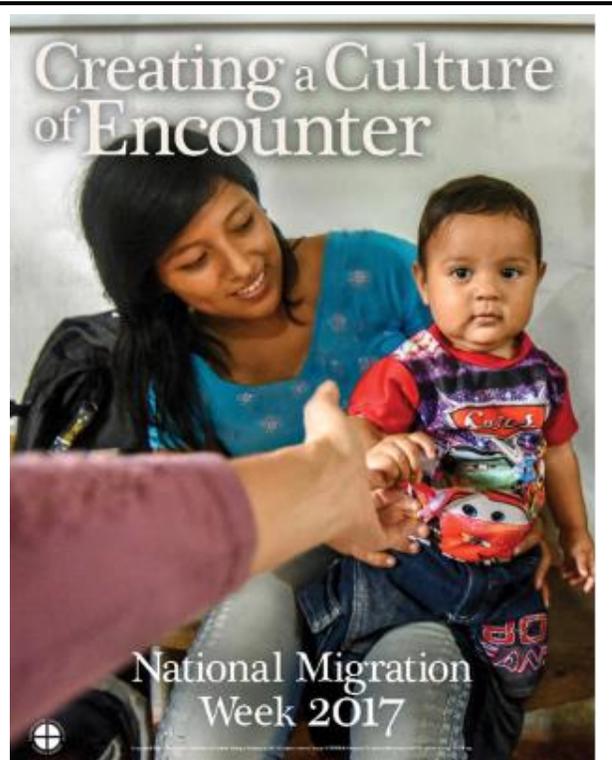
**CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS HELP** For a flyer listing ways to help people in need this Christmas by supporting our diocesan sponsored Catholic charities, please visit <http://socialconcerns.coldsdioc.org>.

### **POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH (JANUARY)**

**MATERIALS** USCCB's Poverty Awareness Month materials include an online and print calendar with daily ways to learn about poverty, get inspired by how communities are responding, and take action with others. You can also sign up for daily reflections. For these and other resources go to [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-2540.

### **"NON-VIOLENCE: A STYLE OF POLITICS FOR PEACE" IS POPE FRANCIS' WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE.**

In his message for the 50<sup>th</sup> World Day of Peace (January 1st), Pope Francis will urge families, faith communities, government leaders, and the international community to practice nonviolence and work to build a just peace. Gospel nonviolence is not passive; it entails active strategies such as peacebuilding, conflict transformation, restorative justice, and unarmed civilization protection. Seeking a just peace means preventing conflict by addressing its causes, building relationships, and facilitating healing and restoration. For the Holy Father's message and a two-page handout, visit [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm) when resources become available or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614-241-2540).



**"Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others."**

**Pope Francis**

### **"CREATING A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER" IS THE THEME FOR NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK 2017**

National Migration Week, January 8-14, 2017, is an opportunity for the Catholic Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for NMW 2017 draws attention to Pope Francis' call to create a culture of encounter, and in doing so to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us. In the homily given at his first

Pentecost as pope, he emphasized the importance of encounter in the Christian faith: “For me the word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others.” Online toolkit of resources for parishes and schools, go to [www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week](http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-2540.

**STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE WEEK** is January 15-22. In 1994, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral letter entitled “Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action.” As a response to the pastoral letter, parishes and dioceses across the United States are called to focus on peacemaking and policy efforts against violence from January 15, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and January 22, the anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade decision legalizing the violence of abortion. To read the U.S. Bishops’ statement go to [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/violence/confronting-a-culture-of-violence-a-catholic-framework-for-action.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/violence/confronting-a-culture-of-violence-a-catholic-framework-for-action.cfm)



**9 DAYS FOR LIFE** Join thousands of Catholics across the country coming together in prayer during the bishops’ pro-life novena, 9 Days for Life, from Saturday, January 21 - Sunday, January 29. Participate through email, text message, Facebook, or a free iOS or Android app! [www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/nine-days-of-prayer-penance-and-pilgrimage.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/nine-days-of-prayer-penance-and-pilgrimage.cfm).

**RESPECT LIFE MASS - JANUARY 23 – DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN** The annual Respect Life Mass will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017, 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrant. Since January 22nd, the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, falls on a Sunday, our diocese will join all of the dioceses of the United States in observing a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on Monday, January 23rd. All are invited to attend. For more information about the Church’s teaching on pro-life issues, visit the U.S. Bishops’ website at [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-2540.

### ROE REMEMBRANCE AT OHIO STATEHOUSE -

**JANUARY 23** Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor the annual Roe Remembrance event on Monday, January 23 - Noon to 1 p.m., at the Ohio Statehouse following the 10:30 a.m. Respect Life Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral. The program will be held in the Statehouse Atrium. Please allow extra time for new Statehouse security measures. Stickers, signs, and weapons are not permitted inside the Statehouse. For additional information, please visit Greater Columbus Right to Life online at [www.gcrtl.org/roe.html](http://www.gcrtl.org/roe.html).

**NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE** For those planning on traveling to Washington, DC, for the March for Life, the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will be the night before, Thursday, January 26, 2017. For details visit, [www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/index.cfm)

### MARCH FOR LIFE & WASHINGTON EVENTS

The annual March for Life’s date is shifted a to Friday, January 27, 2017, due to the Presidential Inauguration being the week before. In addition to the March for Life, thousands will participate in other gatherings in the DC area. For a Listing of Washington, DC, area events, [www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/index.cfm).

### ADVOCACY ISSUES BRIEFING WEBINAR

Plan to join USCCB on February 7, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. for a special Advocacy Issues Briefing Webinar. The briefing and advocacy resources will prepare us to take our issues of concern to our U.S. Senators and Representatives in their home district offices during the Congressional Recess week of February 20-24, 2017. More information to come.



**CRS RICE BOWL** Catholic Relief Services’ Rice Bowl is a Lenten faith formation program for use in parishes, schools, religious education programs and by families and individuals in the home. Using CRS Rice Bowl materials, participants prepare to celebrate Christ’s resurrection by reflecting and acting on His mission of love for those in need. Pray together; give things up, or fast in solidarity with those who hunger; learn about our global community and the challenges of hunger and poverty around the world; and give sacrificial donations to those in need. CRS Rice

Bowl ensures that the Catholic community of the United States is present in nearly 100 countries worldwide, serving the poorest among us through CRS. For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org) or visit the CRS website at [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org).

**SPIRIT OF HOPE GALA** of Catholic Social Services will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N. High Street, Columbus. The annual event benefits Catholic Social Services' fourteen programs designed to strengthen individuals and families, provide crisis relief, and help seniors age with grace and independence in the 23 counties of Central and Southern Ohio. To purchase tickets, call (614) 221-5891 or visit [www.colscss.org](http://www.colscss.org).

**THE VOCATION OF AGRICULTURE: TO TILL & KEEP GOD'S CREATION.** Saturday, March 25, 2017, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Joseph Church Parish Hall, 670 W. Main St., Plain City, Ohio. Please join with Catholic rural leaders

throughout Ohio as we dialogue and reflect upon the important vocation – call – of being a farmer. We will examine the many blessings and challenges that face life on the land. Panelists from the fields of faith formation, agribusiness, environment, and public policy. If interested in attending, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-2540 or [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org).

**GOOD FRIDAY WALKING STATIONS OF THE CROSS** 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 14, 2017. 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.

**Resources** For additional resources visit <http://socialconcerns.colsdioc.org>.

**ADVENT DIGITAL RETREAT: HOLY FAMILY, REFUGEE FAMILY** This digital, 10 minute retreat from Catholic Relief Services can help us prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas. Use this retreat to take some time out of the busyness of the season to pause and reflect on how we can welcome Christ into our world, especially by recognizing his face in the refugees of today's world [www.crs.org/resource-center/holy-family-refugee-family-digital-advent-retreat](http://www.crs.org/resource-center/holy-family-refugee-family-digital-advent-retreat).

**ADVENT CALENDAR – ONLINE VERSION.** USCCB's online Advent calendar can help individuals and families fully enter in to the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ. [www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cfm?utm\\_source=advent&utm\\_medium=shorturl&utm\\_campaign=advent](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cfm?utm_source=advent&utm_medium=shorturl&utm_campaign=advent)

**TEN TIPS FOR COPING WITH HOLIDAY STRESS & REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES.** The NCPD Council on Mental Illness has these articles available on their Advent 2016 newsletter. To view the newsletter, visit [www.ncpd.org/views-news-policy/news/minetworknews](http://www.ncpd.org/views-news-policy/news/minetworknews). For more online resources of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, visit [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org).

#### FAIR TRADE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS OR EPIPHANY

Who knew creating new opportunities for disadvantaged producers abroad could be as easy as shopping? CRS Fair Trade Program creates opportunities for you to bring the values of our faith to bear in the marketplace and to make consumer choices that help lift our brothers and sisters around the world out of poverty. CRS works with fair trade partners to bring fair trade handcrafts, coffee, and chocolate to thousands of communities across the United States. Order gifts online, [www.crsfairtrade.org](http://www.crsfairtrade.org). Contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns to link with a CRS Fair Trade Ambassador at (614) 241-2540 or [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org).

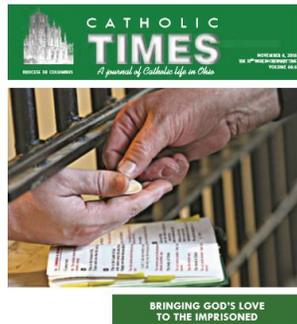


#### WE ARE SALT AND LIGHT

We Are Salt and Light includes resources as a catalyst for both the New Evangelization and the continuing development of vibrant communities living the Gospel in the United States. This USCCB online resource provides a wealth of information on how to promote Catholic Social Teaching in parishes and schools. [www.wearesaltandlight.org](http://www.wearesaltandlight.org)

**CARE FOR CREATION - START A CREATION CARE TEAM & HOST A FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS PROGRAM IN YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL** By starting a creation care team and hosting a Feast of St. Francis event, you help spark a passion for solutions in your community and around the world. Everything is provided to host a successful program is online. To learn more visit [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org).

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A RETURNING CITIZEN** You can make a real difference for a person who is reentering society from incarceration and live out a Corporal Work of Mercy. Read the **November 6<sup>th</sup> issue of the Catholic Times** for an article about the growing reentry ministry in the diocese, visit <https://www.colsdioc.org/Offices/TheCatholicTimes.aspx>. For the latest updates on the Second Chance Act Reauthorization, visit [www.usccb.org/jphd](http://www.usccb.org/jphd).



**HEROIN AND DRUG ADDICTION: START TALKING** Families in Ohio are suffering from heroin and other drug addiction. In 2014, the Ohio Bishops issued a statement on Prescription Drug and Heroin Addiction in Ohio and encouraged Catholics to participate in the Start Talking program. To read the statement visit [www.ohiocathconf.org](http://www.ohiocathconf.org). For the Start Talking Program, visit <http://starttalking.ohio.gov>.

**GLOBAL SOLIDARITY - BUILD BETTER LIVES IN YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY, AND IN THE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE GLOBE.** Catholic Relief Services offers parish resources to engage the Catholic community. Food Fast, Confront Global Poverty, Helping Hands, CRS Education. Visit [www.crs.org/get-involved/parish-and-diocesan-leaders](http://www.crs.org/get-involved/parish-and-diocesan-leaders) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns to learn more at 614-241-2540 or [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org).

**RESPECT LIFE – BY SOCIAL NETWORKING** Did you know USCCB has graphics for you to use in social networking or newsletters to promote Respect Life messages and articles? Make a post today. <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2016/social-media-toolkit-2016-17-respect-life-program.cfm#serene>.



**DEATH PENALTY - EXECUTIONS TO RESUME IN JANUARY** The Catholic Conference of Ohio created an educational resource for use in parishes and schools about ending the use of the death penalty. To download the resource, visit [www.ohiocathconf.org](http://www.ohiocathconf.org). Ohio is currently considering legislation to prohibit executions of individuals suffering from severe mental illness. For resources, visit <http://oamie.org>.

**CATHOLICS CONFRONT GLOBAL POVERTY** Join Catholics to confront poverty and human trafficking. Advocate for the care of refugees and those displaced by disasters. Visit [www.confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org).

**ST. PEREGRINE FUND - FOR CANCER PREVENTION AND CURE** A Catholic way to help fight cancer. Please give generously to this fund. For more information, call 614-241-2540 or [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org).

## Action Alerts

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

**ALTHOUGH THE ELECTION IS OVER, OUR WORK IS NOT.** As local, state, and federal governments transition to a new year, our voice is crucial to keep public officials accountable to the issues we hold dear as Catholics.

## Add this to your To Do list.



Advocate for life and dignity of the human person and proper care for God’s creation. Encourage others to sign up for our **Information and Response Network** to receive actions into the New Year. Email us at [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org) to sign up.