



Lent 2016

Office for Social Concerns

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Latest Updates



PARTICIPATE IN CRS RICE BOWL Pope Francis has declared this Year of Mercy as an intentional time for Catholics to deepen our faith in Christ. CRS Rice Bowl highlights the beauty of the Lenten trio: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Catholic Relief Services is present in 100 countries worldwide, serving the poorest among us through CRS. For CRS Rice Bowl bulletin announcements and other resources (in English and Spanish), visit www.crsricebowl.org/parish or contact Erin Cordle, diocesan CRS director at 614-241-2540, socmailbox@colodioc.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.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE is February 10 to March 20. The Greater Columbus community will be uniting with hundreds from all 50 states 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 in Columbus. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace. For details, visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

Lent

Prayer Fasting Almsgiving



URBAN PLUNGE Students from the University of Notre Dame volunteer at J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs) as part of their 48 hour Urban Plunge. Nine ND students participated in the plunge visiting many social service agencies in Columbus. 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.

“The Church’s very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love.”

Pope Francis, Misericordiae Vultus, the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

S.O.A.P. – HUMAN TRAFFICKING EVENT -

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, Join S.O.A.P. (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution) as they team up with local organizations to educate hotels about the red flags for human trafficking just before the Arnold Classic comes to Columbus. The event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Martin De Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. To register visit www.soapuparnoldclassic.eventbrite.com.

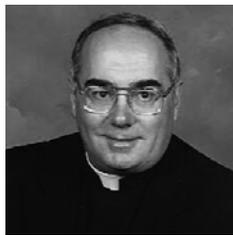
MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH

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.

Being Pro-Life in the Year of Mercy

DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, The diocesan Respect Life Conference is Saturday, March 5, 2016, at St. Joseph Church, 670 W. Main Street, Plain City. The theme is *Being Pro-Life in the Year of Mercy*. Keynote speaker is Fr. Kevin Lutz. Other speakers will cover the spectrum of care and concern promoting the dignity of human life. Conference 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.



**Keynote Speaker is
Fr. Kevin Lutz**

FEATURED SPEAKERS - RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

Fr. Kevin Lutz – Keynote Speaker
Pastor St. Mary's, St. Ladislav, Corpus Christi, Columbus
Being Pro-Life in the Year of Mercy

Tim Welch, CEO, Pregnancy Decisions Health Center - PDHC - *Guardian Angel Program*

Wendy Tarr, Society of St. Vincent de Paul - *Prisoner Reentry*

Natural Family Planning, Office of Marriage and Family Life

Other Topics include:

- **Pro-life elements of Laudato Si'** Pope Francis' latest encyclical letter on Care for our Common Home.

- **Parish Respect Life Program Resources**
- Latest updates on **legislation and advocacy efforts**.

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

SPIRIT OF HOPE GALA of Catholic Social Services will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus Museum of Art, 480 E. Broad 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, contact Mackenzie Burton at (614) 221-5891 or mburton@colscss.org, no later than February 20.

BENEFIT HOMELESS YOUTH IN COLUMBUS, MARCH

10, 4th Annual Dinner to Benefit Homeless Youth in Columbus. Thursday, March 10, 2016, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad Street, Bexley, Ohio. Did you know there are more than 1,500 homeless youth in Columbus? Agencies and organizations like the OSU Star House and Youth Empowerment Program work tirelessly for homeless children and youth, providing direct care, education, and developing long term solutions to end homelessness. Dinner and silent auction. Tickets \$50. To sponsor or order tickets, email klariviere93@gmail.com or 614-843-1114 or angela.yepdirector@gmail.com.

OHIO PRIMARY ELECTION IS TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Make your voice heard. Please vote. For Catholic resources, visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org



**JUBILEE
OF MERCY**

GOOD FRIDAY WALKING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAY, MARCH 25 The many facets of faith and justice will be the focus of the annual Walking Stations of the Cross. The walk begins with an opening prayer at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus, at 8 a.m., Friday, March 25, 2016. Participants will stop at locations in downtown Columbus to reflect on Jesus Christ's suffering and crucifixion linked to a current area of social concern. For details,, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (614)241-2565.

CCHD GRANT APPLICATIONS SOUGHT. Catholic

**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.

Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) funds are available for grass-roots, self-help community organizing and economic development projects designed and run by groups of low and moderate income people who want to take control of their lives and work to change conditions that cause poverty. The goal of the grants is to provide seed money to qualifying projects throughout the diocese. Completed applications must be postmarked or delivered to the Office for Social Concerns, 197 East Gay St, Columbus, OH 43215 by close of business on Thursday, March 31, 2016. Local CCHD grant application materials are available online at

<http://www.colsdioc.org/Offices/SocialConcerns,Officefor/Programs/CatholicCampaignForHumanDevelopment.aspx>

. For more information, contact Erin Cordle, diocesan CCHD director at 614-241-2540 or socmailbox@colsdioc.org.

**END THE USE OF DEATH PENALTY
ADVOCACY DAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 7**

Join Ohioans to Stop Executions on a legislative advocacy day at the Ohio Statehouse. Lend your voice to urge legislative leaders to end the use of the death penalty in Ohio. To register, visit www.otse.org

POVERTY SUMMIT – TUESDAY, APRIL 12, Save the Date for a summit on poverty *Barriers, Band-aids and Bridges*. The Office for Social Concerns will co-sponsor the event with other partners to address the issue of

poverty and efforts to alleviate it in our community. The program will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More details to come.

ADVOCACY DAY FOR DOWN SYNDROME NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT. – TUESDAY, APRIL 12, Ohio Right to Life is sponsoring a legislative advocacy day at the Statehouse for Ohio's Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act, legislation which could make Ohio the first state to protect babies with Down syndrome from abortion. To register, visit www.ohiolife.org/pro_life_legislative_day_2016 or call 614-547-0099 ext. 303.

OHIO INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT ACTION WEEK – APRIL 15-24, Join OHIPL in an interfaith week of action to care for God's creation. Prayer, education, and advocacy events. For more updates, visit www.ohipl.org.

J.O.I.N. BIBLIOBENEFIT – FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 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, TUESDAY, APRIL 26 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. The event will be held at the Easton Hilton. Individual tickets and tables can be purchased in advance by calling (614) 252-0731 ext. 1132, email: dhuff@svfc.org. Learn more at www.svfc.org/events/corcoran-awards.

DIOCESAN SENIOR CITIZENS DAY CELEBRATION TUESDAY, JUNE 6. The diocesan Senior Citizens Day Celebration will be held at St. Edward the Confessor Church, 785 Newark-Granville Road, Granville. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. Mass is followed by a luncheon. This annual event is a great opportunity for seniors to meet with other seniors from around the diocese. 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@colsdioc.org. Registrations are requested by June 1.

Resources

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

FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

is the U.S. Bishops' teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement represents guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. Pastors, lay and religious faithful, and all people of good will are urged to use this statement to help form their consciences; to teach those entrusted to their care; to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue; and to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching. To read the statement and for parish and school resources, visit <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship>. Additional resources are available through the Catholic Conference of Ohio as well, www.ohiocathconf.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

TEACHINGS ON THE DEATH PENALTY

The Catholic Bishops of Ohio issued a Death Penalty Education Brochure in 2015. The bishops invite the faithful to learn about the Church's teaching about this issue and participate in outreach of prayer, education and advocacy to end the use of the death penalty. To download the brochure, visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio's website at <http://www.ohiocathconf.org/Issues/category/death-penalty>.

ENRICHING OUR DIVERSITY – A PARISH OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND ORGANIZING MANUAL IN SUPPORT OF THE JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS CAMPAIGN

This resource explains the how to promote the Church's teaching of welcoming the stranger among us. USCCB Resource. <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/documents/JFI-Parish-Education-Organizing-Manual.pdf>

HOST A FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS PROGRAM

IN YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL

The Feast of St. Francis Program honors the patron saint of those who promote ecology. This is the saint whom Pope Francis took his name. The Feast of St. Francis is a great opportunity to reflect on our role in creation and encourage our neighbors to be better stewards. The guide includes:

- Short video
- Hand-on activities
- Advocacy
- Resources to take this work forward

By hosting a Feast of St. Francis event, you help spark a passion for climate solutions in your community. Your work is vital and important. Everything is provided to host a successful program in your parish online. To learn more visit

www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/act/feast_of_stfrancis.



LAUDATO SI' ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Visit the USCCB environment webpage for resources to promote Pope Francis' encyclical letter on ecology. Videos, discussion guides, bulletin inserts and so much more is available at www.usccb.org/environment.

STATEMENT ON PORNOGRAPHY – CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

The U.S. Catholic Bishops issued a new statement on pornography, Create in Me a Clean Heart. The statement provides basic catechesis on human sexuality and chastity, and explanation of why the production and usage of pornography is a sin, and overview of its effects in our society, a closer look at its effects on men, women, children, young people, marriages, and families, and a word of hope and encouragement to those who have been harmed by pornography use or in its production. The statement's main audiences are Catholic leaders and parents, but is also intended to be helpful for those who struggle with pornography use and all people of goodwill

who want to work together for a culture of purity and respect for all women and men. To read the text of Create in Me a Clean Heart along with other USCCB resources on pornography, visit <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/pornography/index.cfm>.

MY HOUSE COLUMBUS - LOCAL INITIATIVE ON PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION

My House is a local initiative that works on protection, support, and prevention. It is a valuable resource for the protection of families, an avenue of healing and support for those who have been harmed by pornography's destructive affects, and a deepening understanding of the beauty of our sexuality. For more information, visit www.myhousecolumbus.net or call the confidential hotline at 888-989-9886.

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

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is Dec. 8, 2015 to Nov. 20, 2016. A two page handout is available at www.usccb.org/jphd.

Action Alerts

For current action alerts visit <http://socialconcerns.colsdioc.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. FEDERAL: www.nchla.org

HUMAN LIFE ACTION CENTER, a project of National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, Inc., (NCHLA). Since our founding in 1974 they have:

- Enabled the grassroots to advocate at the federal level for pro-life legislation;
- Educated citizens about the need for a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution;
- Created pro-life legislative networks; and
- Worked closely with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in support of their pro-life legislative agenda.

Today, the threats to human life, born and unborn, not only continue, but have expanded to include attacks on our freedom of conscience. It is wrong for government to force Americans to violate their religious and moral beliefs in respect for life. The need for concerned citizens to speak out is greater than ever. Visit www.humanlifeactioncenter.org and take action.

IMMIGRATION REFORM With a the upcoming election, immigration reform will be a key issue in the debate. The immigration system is broken. Visit the USCCB's Justice for Immigrants Campaign website for the latest action alerts and education resources,

Add this to your To Do list.



www.justiceformigrants.org.

DEATH PENALTY It looks as though executions will not take place in Ohio in 2017 until the state finds a way to determine a new method of lethal injection. However, the Ohio General Assembly will debate a bill on mental illness and the death penalty. 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.

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS UPDATE. In response to the terrorist attacks in Paris, there is growing pushback not to welcome Syrian refugees into the United States. However USCCB's migration chair called for continued welcome and the urgency to work for peace, www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-157.cfm. For talking points from USCCB Migration & Refugee Services about Syrian refugee resettlement in the wake of the Paris attacks, visit <http://files.ctctcdn.com/f9bc2f39201/810ce5c8-75b4-4967-8a0f-b6451b87a09b.pdf>.

For other information and resources visit:

CRS website: <http://www.crs.org/media-center/current-issues/syrian-refugees>,

USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/syrian-refugee-crisis.cfm>

or contact Erin Cordle, diocesan CRS director, at 614-241-2540, ecordle@colsdioc.org, or socmailbox@colsdioc.org for a list of ways to respond.

RETURNING CITIZENS Thank you for your advocacy efforts! The Ohio General Assembly passed the Fair Hiring Act which would help returning citizens in the job application process.

There are many other legislative issues on criminal justice that need your advocacy, visit www.usccb.org/jphd.

CATHOLICS CONFRONT GLOBAL POVERTY Join Catholic Relief Services' CCFP and receive action alerts on important international humanitarian

assistance. A current focus includes urging Congress to pass the Green Climate Fund. This fund will help developing countries to mitigate impacts of climate change. To join CCFP, visit www.confrontglobalpoverty.org.

Receive action alerts and upcoming events via email, socmailbox@colsdio.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.coldsdioc.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

Year of Mercy Speaker Series

Presented by St. Mary Magdalene Church and the diocesan Office for Social Concerns

Saturday, February 13 @ 5pm

Feeding/clothing the poor: Heather Swiger of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (soup supper)

Saturday, March 12 @ 5 pm

Sheltering: Monica Siemer of The Lamb Catholic Worker (soup supper)

Saturday, April 9 @ 9:45 am

Fiber Ministry: Erin Cordle of the Office for Social Concerns (simple breakfast)

Wednesday, May 18 @ 12 noon

Care for Creation: Jerry Freewalt of the Office for Social Concerns (brown bag lunch)

Tuesday, June 21 @ 7 pm

Welcome the Stranger: Angela Johnston of the Office for Social Concerns (desserts)

Thursday, July 21 @ 12 noon

Care of the homebound (brown bag lunch & learn)

Tuesday, August 16 @ 7pm

Reentry for prisoners: Chris Money (pretzels & beer)

Sunday, September 11 @ 12 noon

Forgiveness: Rachel Muha of "Run the Race Club" (coffee & donuts)

Saturday, September 24 @ 10 am

Reconciliation: Fr. Wagner Reconciliation Day

Monday, October 31 @ 9 am

Feeding/clothing the poor Lisa Keita of J.O.I.N. (tea & cookies)

Saturday, December 3 @ 10 am

Bury the dead: (cocoa & cookies)

All events are at St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave. Columbus, OH 43204

A call ahead would be appreciated to help us plan – 614-274-1121 ext. 13

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