



September 2012

# Office for Social Concerns

## *Catholic Diocese of Columbus*

# Latest Updates

## September 3 - Labor Day

The 2012 Labor Day Statement by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is available online. The statement is titled *Placing Work and Workers at the Center of Economic Life*. To read the statement online, go to [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2012.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2012.cfm). For more information about the statement, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

## September 13 – Theology on Tap

Columbus Theology on Tap will be Thursday, September 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. at El Vaquero, 3230 Olentangy River Road. The presenter will be Jerry Freewalt speaking on the topic of ‘Faithful Citizenship.’ Join other young adults from the Diocese of Columbus to enjoy food, drinks, and a Catholic speaker. All you need is money for food & drink, and a desire to gather and learn. Please contact [cbustheologyontap@gmail.com](mailto:cbustheologyontap@gmail.com) with your questions.

## September 20 – Public Forum on Legislative Redistricting: What Serves Citizens Best?

Come to a public forum on Legislative Redistricting: What Serves Citizens Best? In November, Ohioans will decide the fate of State Issue 2. The forum will take place on September 20, 2012, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Whetstone Library, 3909 N. High Street, Columbus. Featured speaker is Emeritus Professor Paul Beck, OSU Department of Political Science. Q & A and discussion will follow the 30-minute presentation. The forum is sponsored by the non-partisan group Citizens for Public Discussion.

Forming  
Consciences



for  
Faithful  
Citizenship

## September 26 to November 4 – 40 Days for Life

The Greater Columbus community will be uniting with hundreds of cities 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 between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace. For more information, [www.40daysforlife.com/columbus](http://www.40daysforlife.com/columbus).

## September 29 - Friends of the Poor Walk

The fourth annual Friends of the Poor Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 29 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 Patti Aellig at (614) 314-4235 or [columbusfriendsofthepoorwalk@live.com](mailto:columbusfriendsofthepoorwalk@live.com).

### October is Respect Life Month

October is Respect Life Month and Sunday, October 7, 2012, is Respect Life Sunday. "Faith opens our eyes to human life in all its grandeur and beauty." is the theme of the 2012-2013 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 which provide an overview of the pressing life issues of today are available online on the U.S. Catholic Bishops' website at [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).

### October 3 – Meet the Candidate Night

The diocesan Office for Social Concerns and Black Catholic Ministries partner with the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government (FCCGG) to provide events in Franklin County that give voters opportunities to get to know the people and issues that will appear on the ballot. The Consortium is a civic group that accepts no support from political, governmental, or commercial interests, thus insuring that its tradition and reputation for scrupulous non-partisanship is maintained.

This year, eight events are planned, including one on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the All Saints Academy near Christ the King Catholic Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus. Most events begin with an informal "meet-and-greet" at 6:30pm, followed by the Candidates' Forum at 7:00pm. For more information contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns: (614) 241-2540 or [socmailbox@colsdio.org](mailto:socmailbox@colsdio.org), or visit the FCCGG website [www.franklincountyconsortium.com](http://www.franklincountyconsortium.com).

### October 5 – Breakfast with the Bishop

Catholic Social Services Annual Breakfast with the Bishop will be held on Friday, October 5, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High Street, Columbus. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Program begins at 7:45 a.m. and concludes at 9:15 a.m. Speakers for

the event are Bishop Frederick F. Campbell and Paul Pfeifer, senior associate justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio. All proceeds from the breakfast will support the vital programs and services of Catholic Social Services. Individual tickets are available for \$40. Inquires about purchasing tickets or event sponsorship can be directed to Merry Ralston at (614) 857-1236 or visit the CSS website at [www.colssc.org](http://www.colssc.org).

### October 9 - Institute for Maturing Spirituality Luncheon

The diocesan Office for Social Concerns and the Institute for Maturing Spirituality are offering an informational meeting for senior citizens to learn more about the institute. The meeting includes a complementary lunch, a sharing of ideas for senior citizens programs in spirituality, and a viewing of sample institute webcasts. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. To RSVP, please call (614) 416-1910. Registrations are requested by Friday, October 5. Free parking is available. For directions, visit [www.martindeporrescenter.net](http://www.martindeporrescenter.net) or call the center at the number listed above.

The Institute for Maturing Spirituality offers programming in the areas of spirituality and holistic wellness designed especially for adults in the second half of life, for their families, and for professionals who minister to their needs. Facilitating intergenerational dialogue is an ongoing theme of the institute's programming.

### October 12 - Prison Ministry Gathering

A gathering of Catholic prison ministers will take place on Friday, October 12, 2012, at St. Patrick Church, 61 South Union Street, London, 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 efforts throughout the diocese. Please RSVP by Monday, October 8, to the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or email at [socmailbox@colsdio.org](mailto:socmailbox@colsdio.org).

## October 12 - Service Saturday - Catholic Social Services

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 13, 2012, starting at 9 a.m. 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? For more information about CSS Service Saturday, contact Stephanie Jursek at (614) 857-1216 or [sjursek@colscss.org](mailto:sjursek@colscss.org). Please RSVP by September 24 (to ensure receipt of a T-shirt).

## November 6 - Election Day

"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*). To read the statement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States" go to their website at [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org). Also visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio's website at [www.ohiocathconf.org](http://www.ohiocathconf.org) for the Ohio bishops' positions on state ballot issues. Please vote. Let your voice be heard!

**Candidate Forums** sponsored by the non-partisan Franklin County Consortium for Good Government will take place prior to the 2012 Election. For more information and locations, call (614) 241-2540 or go online at [www.franklincountyconsortium.com](http://www.franklincountyconsortium.com).

## November 18 - Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection will be on November 18, 2012, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. For more information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, visit the CCHD website at [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd) or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

## November 22 - Thanksgiving Day

"O GOD, source and giver of all things, who manifests Your infinite majesty, power and goodness in the earth about us, we give you honor and glory. For the sun and rain, for the manifold fruits of our fields, for the increase of our herds and flocks, we thank you. For the enrichment of our souls with divine grace, we are grateful. Supreme Lord of the harvest, graciously accept us and the fruits of our toil, in union with Christ Your Son, as atonement for our sins, for the growth of Your Church, for peace and charity in our homes, for salvation to all. Amen." This prayer and other resources for parishes are available online from the National Catholic Rural Life Conference at [www.ncrlc.com](http://www.ncrlc.com).

## Resources

For additional resources visit [www.socialconcerns.colldioc.org](http://www.socialconcerns.colldioc.org).

### Faithful Citizenship

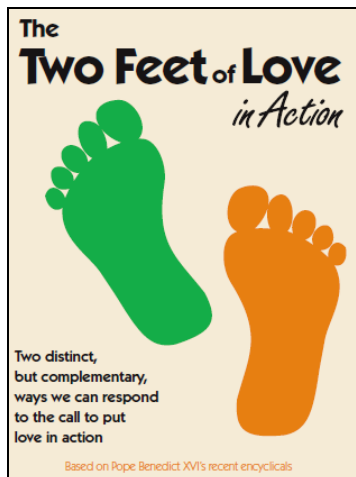
Campaign season is in full swing which provides us an opportunity to reflect on the priority issues for our nation. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reissued their statement *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which provides Church teaching about political responsibility and the important issues of our day. To read the statement and supplementary materials, visit [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org). To read about state level issues and faithful citizenship, visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio's [www.ohiocathconf.org/faithfulcitizenship/faithpolitics.htm](http://www.ohiocathconf.org/faithfulcitizenship/faithpolitics.htm).



### Poverty Tour Video

*Living in Poverty USA*, a video produced by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, helps viewers understand the challenges of living at the Poverty Line. To view the video, go to <http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/videos.cfm>. To learn more about the

Catholic Campaign for Human Development, contact the diocesan CCHD Director at (614) 241-2540 or [ecordle@colsdio.org](mailto:ecordle@colsdio.org).



### Two Feet of Love in Action

The USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development developed a newly revised model of the "Two Feet of Love in Action" which describes two distinct, but complementary, ways that we can put love in action. Social Justice and Charitable Works. For a copy of the handout and extensive session outline with activities and worksheets, go to <http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/resources-and-tools.cfm>.

### Care for Creation

The Catholic Conference of Ohio unveiled a new webpage on environmental justice entitled Care for Creation. It provides resources for families, parishes, schools, and other institutions. It includes perspectives on climate change, energy conservation, food & agriculture, hydraulic fracturing, fossil fuels, land use, and renewable energy. To view the resource, visit [www.ohiocathconf.org/I/Envir/envir.htm](http://www.ohiocathconf.org/I/Envir/envir.htm).

## Action Alerts

For current legislative action alerts visit [www.socialconcerns.colsdio.org](http://www.socialconcerns.colsdio.org).

### Pass Respect for Rights of Conscience Act

Source: National Committee for a Human Life Amendment



On August 1, the Obama Administration's contraceptive and sterilization mandate went into effect. Congress must take action now to protect religious liberty and conscience rights. Contact your Representative and two Senators. Urge Members to support and work for enactment of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467) this year, whether as a free-standing bill or as part of other legislation.

#### Recommended Actions:

- Send an e-mail through NCHLA's Grassroots Action Center: [www.nchla.org](http://www.nchla.org).
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Additional contact info can be found on Members' web sites at: [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).
- Ask Members to support enactment of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act *this* year.
- Since Members monitor local media closely, write letters to the editor, especially in response to articles or editorials, and participate in radio or TV call-in shows.

#### Suggested Message:

"Please support and work for enactment of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467) this year. By amending the new health care law, this measure will ensure respect for conscience rights in the face of the Administration's contraceptive mandate that went into effect for most employers August 1. The mandate forces health plans to cover sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that can cause an abortion, even when employers and employees have moral or religious objections."



**Background:**

Under the new health care law, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) now requires most health plans under “preventive services for women” to cover services that many citizens find objectionable for moral and religious reasons. These objectionable services include sterilization, FDA-approved birth control (such as the IUD, Depo-Provera, ‘morning-after’ pills, and the abortion-inducing drug Ella), and “education and counseling” to promote these to all “women of reproductive capacity,” including minor girls. The HHS mandate allows only a very narrow exemption for a “religious employer.” Religious organizations providing education, health care and charitable services to all in need have a one-year delay in enforcement but do not qualify for the exemption. There is no exemption or delay for individuals, or for businesses owned and operated by individuals with moral or religious objections. Cardinal DiNardo, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, wrote to Congress on August 3 renewing the bishops’ call for prompt action. See: [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/conscience-protection/upload/Cardinal-DiNardo-s-August-2012-Letter-to-Congress-Regarding-Conscience-Protection.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/conscience-protection/upload/Cardinal-DiNardo-s-August-2012-Letter-to-Congress-Regarding-Conscience-Protection.pdf).

The Respect for Rights of Conscience Act provides protection of the religious beliefs and moral convictions of those who participate in the health care system. By incorporating protection of conscience rights into the new health care law, it will ensure respect for conscience in the face of the new contraceptive mandate. It must become law as soon as possible. Thanks!

For the latest updates, prayer resources, educational materials, and action alerts related to Religious Liberty and Conscience Protection, please visit the diocesan Office for Social Concerns’ website at [www.socialconcerns.colsdioc.org](http://www.socialconcerns.colsdioc.org).

**House Committee on Agriculture Advances Farm Bill**

Source: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Thank you for your advocacy for a Farm Bill that feeds the hungry, preserves creation, supports small family farmers and helps rural America thrive.

*“Liberation from the yoke of hunger is the first concrete expression of the right to life.”*  
Pope Benedict XVI



**Update:** Thank you for your continued advocacy for a Farm Bill that protects hungry people, preserves creation, supports family farmers and helps rural communities thrive. On Thursday, July 12, the House Committee on Agriculture passed by a vote of 35-11, the *Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act* (FARRM), the Committee’s version of the Farm Bill. In these past weeks, we have worked together to remind Congress that the moral measure of our nation’s agriculture policies is how they serve “the least of these.” See a recent letter by the USCCB, Catholic Relief Services and the National Catholic Rural Life Conference expressing their hopes and concerns regarding the House’s Farm Bill proposal at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/agriculture-nutrition-rural-issues/upload/house-agriculture-committee-2012-07-10.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/agriculture-nutrition-rural-issues/upload/house-agriculture-committee-2012-07-10.pdf).

**What’s in the Committee Version of the Farm Bill?** In light of our common principles and priorities, the House Committee Bill both improves on some programs but also fails to protect other essential efforts to help hungry people in need. Here are some of the provisions contained in the Committee’s proposal:

- **Domestic Hunger and Nutrition: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (SNAP-formerly Food Stamps): The majority of cuts to domestic hunger and nutrition programs is from the SNAP program and exceeds \$16 billion over ten years. The Committee bill makes these reductions by unfairly restricting who is eligible to receive food stamps. These cuts will reduce the benefits of approximately 2 to 3 million low-income Americans including some of the most vulnerable children, seniors, people with disabilities and workers still struggling in this economy. To cut programs that feed hungry people in the midst of economic hardship is as the bishops recently stated, “unjustified and wrong.” On a positive note, the

Committee bill calls for increased funding for **The Emergency Food Assistance Program** (TEFAP) which helps parishes, charities and food pantries reach out to hungry people in need with emergency food aid.

- **International Food Security and Development:** The House Committee provided \$2 billion to the **Food for Peace** program maintaining the minimum level of funding required for development and emergency food assistance. It also directed \$400 million in annual **Food for Peace** funding to long-term anti-hunger programs. The House proposal calls for new reporting requirements for implementers of international food aid programs to demonstrate their efficiency in providing aid to people in need overseas.
- **Conservation and Rural Development:** Conservation programs continue to be targeted for significant reductions at approximately \$6 billion over ten years. We continue to urge full funding for conservation and rural development programs such as the **Conservation Stewardship Program** (CSP), the **Rural Micro-Entrepreneur Assistance Program** (RMAP) and expanding broadband access to promote stewardship of creation and help rural communities thrive.
- **Subsidies/Crop Insurance:** The House Committee eliminates some agriculture subsidies such as direct payments, which have been provided to many large farm owners. This mirrors the Senate proposal and is a step in the right direction. However, the House bill further expands crop insurance in ways that mostly benefits large, agri-businesses over smaller farmers in need. Agriculture subsidies should be reduced overall and subsidized crop insurance should be targeted to small and medium-sized farmers, which truly need assistance. Savings from reductions to agriculture subsidies should be used to support hunger and nutrition programs that feed poor and vulnerable people.

**What's Next?** It is unclear what the next step will be for the Farm Bill as House Leadership has not agreed to bring the bill to the floor for a vote. Most of the provisions of the Farm Bill are set to expire on September 30, 2012, and if Congress is unable to agree to a Farm Bill reauthorization by that time, they will have to come up with some form of temporary extension in a continuing resolution (CR). For more information, including updates and alerts see the USCCB Farm Bill page at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/agriculture-nutrition-rural-issues/farm-bill.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/agriculture-nutrition-rural-issues/farm-bill.cfm).

We will keep you informed as the process moves forward and continue to ask you to raise your voices and join with us to remind Congress that our nation's agriculture priorities must help the "least of these" by promoting a Farm Bill that feeds hungry, poor and vulnerable people and promotes stewardship of creation. Again, we thank you for your hard work, advocacy and dedication.

## Immigration

*Statement of Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles  
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Migration  
On The Announcement of Deferred Action for  
DREAM Eligible Youth (June 15, 2012)*



On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), I welcome the announcement by President Obama today that, consistent with his executive authority, he will grant deferred action on a case-by-case basis to youth who entered the United States by age 15 and have not committed certain offenses. Many of these youth would qualify for immigration relief under the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

This important action will provide protection from removal and work authorization for a vulnerable group of immigrants who deserve to remain in our country and contribute their talents to our communities. These youth are bright, energetic, and eager to pursue their education and reach their full potential. They did not enter our nation on their own volition, but rather came to the United States with their parents as children, something

all of us would do.

We call upon the President also to review Administration deportation policies and more aggressively pursue the policy of prosecutorial discretion for other populations, a policy which was announced last year. Families continue to be deported and separated, causing undue suffering.

The action by the President today is no substitute for enactment of the DREAM Act in Congress. We encourage our elected officials of both parties to take this opportunity to work together to enact this important law, which would give these youth a path to citizenship and a chance to become Americans. We also renew our call for bipartisan efforts to enact comprehensive and humane reform our nation's broken immigration system.

*For more information about these issues visit the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).*

## Domestic and International Issues

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops urge action on a number of domestic and international issues which include conscience protection and religious freedom, domestic and international poverty assistance programs, and deficit reduction discussions. To view policy positions and action alerts, visit [www.usccb.org/jphd](http://www.usccb.org/jphd).

### 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](mailto:socmailbox@colsdio.org). Don't forget to visit our website at [www.socialconcerns.colsdio.org](http://www.socialconcerns.colsdio.org).



## Care Enough to Act

**Pray • Volunteer • Donate**  
**Support our Catholic Charities**

Today offers an opportunity to rediscover in a personal way the call to love of neighbor, especially those in need. In addition to the parish based efforts and organizations that serve the poor and vulnerable, we have several diocesan sponsored agencies and organizations that respond to need and act in our name. Our diocesan Catholic Charities include Catholic Social Services, J.O.I.N., St. Francis Center in McArthur, St. Stephen's Community House, St. Vincent Family Centers, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Visit the website [www.charities.colsdio.org](http://www.charities.colsdio.org) for more information.