



May 2013

Office for Social Concerns

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Latest Updates

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

According to the National Institute of Health, in a given year about 1 in 4 people has a diagnosable mental disorder, while 1 in 17 has a severe mental illness. As a faith community, we can offer spiritual comfort and promote understanding. The National Catholic Partnership on Disability produced a wonderful DVD & resource booklet *Welcomed and Valued: Supporting People with Mental Illness in Parish Life*, visit www.ncpd.org/ministries-programs/specific/mentalillness or contact NCPD at (202) 529-2933. Support your local NAMI group. Franklin County's NAMIWALK will be held on June 1 at OSU's Fred Beekman Park. For details, visit www.namiwalks.org/franklincounty. Please donate or form a team today.

May 11 – Respect Life Conference



The Diocesan Respect Life Conference will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013, at St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Rd., Columbus. Featured speaker is Deacon James Keating, Ph.D. of Creighton University. Dr. Keating will speak on the interior healing that is necessary for an effective pro-life witness and

about authentic intimacy in marriage. Participants will also learn about efforts around the diocese to promote the dignity of all human life in the areas of prayer, education, pastoral outreach, and advocacy. Mass begins at 9 a.m. Conference is from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$15 which includes lunch. To register, send a check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, Ohio 43215; (614) 241-2540 or socmailbox@colsdio.org.



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

May 15 – Feast Day of St. Isidore the Farmer

This day is an opportunity to stand in solidarity with farm families, agricultural laborers, and migrant farmworkers. We all eat. We all benefit from the fruits of their labor. Please pray for our farming community. For more information about Catholic rural life activities and resources, visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio's Rural Life webpage at www.ohiocathconf.org/rural/rural_main.htm or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

June 4 – Senior Citizens Day Celebration

The Diocesan Senior Citizens Day Celebration will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, at St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus. Bishop Frederick F. Campbell will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. Mass will be followed by a luncheon. Registration for the celebration is \$10. This annual event is a great opportunity to meet with seniors from around the diocese. To register, please 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 30.

June 21-23 – L.E.A.D. Institute

The LEAD Institute (Leaders Empowering Adolescent Disciples) is a 3-day program offered by the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for parish youth ministry teams – youth leaders and their parish adult leaders. This is a high energy training weekend that will teach individual leadership skills along with forming a team plan to grow a parish youth ministry program. This year staff of the Office for Social Concerns will be the featured speakers focusing on developing youth involvement in justice and service, and advocacy. For more information, visit www.colsdio.org/Offices/OfficeofYouthandYoungA

[dultMinistry/YouthMinistry.aspx](#) or contact OY&YAM at (614) 241-2565.

July 13 – St. Stephen’s Community House’s BRAVO! For the Children

St. Stephen’s Community House’s annual BRAVO! For the Children event will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2013, at St. Charles Preparatory School, Walter Center, 2010 E. Broad Street, Columbus. Based in the Columbus Linden neighborhood, St. Stephen’s provides child care; comprehensive services for seniors; emergency services such as food, utility and prescription assistance; and educational and counseling resources for youth and families. The BRAVO! event helps support the vital programs of St. Stephen’s Community House. Questions and ticket requests can be directed to Renea Williams at (614) 294-6347.

U.S. Catholic Bishops Call for Another Fortnight for Freedom on June 21 to July 4

In December, when the U.S. Catholic Bishops announced the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty (www.usccb.org/life-marriage-liberty), they also announced a second Fortnight for Freedom. As before, the Fortnight will take place again from June 21 (the vigil of the feasts of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher) to July 4 (Independence Day). Archbishop William Lori, Chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, states that there are three reasons why this year’s Fortnight is so important:

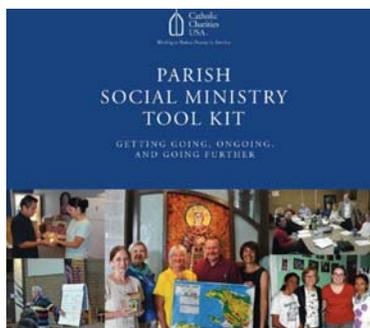
- **First**, the Supreme Court’s rulings on marriage redefinition, which could have grave implications for religious freedom, will almost certainly be issued during the Fortnight.
- **Second**, by the time of the Fortnight, the effective date of the HHS mandate – August 1, 2013 – will be scarcely a month away, and the Administration’s decision on the shape of the final rule will likely be imminent. And unfortunately, as we now know after extensive study and analysis of the latest proposal, we are still far from receiving the relief we need through the regulatory process. So it will be important to keep the pressure on.
- **Third**, the success of a second Fortnight is essential to perpetuating a new movement for life, marriage, and religious liberty, highlighting the full range of ongoing religious freedom issues, here and abroad, and in so many other areas of law, such as immigration, adoption, and disaster relief. Similarly, it is important to show that it is not tied to any election year, but to the broader principle of religious freedom.



USCCB Fortnight resources are now available at www.Fortnight4Freedom.org. Check back often, as this site will continue to be updated as more materials become available. For diocesan updates and events, visit www.colsdio.org/Offices/SocialConcernsOfficefor/ReligiousLiberty.aspx

Resources

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



New Parish Social Ministry Toolkit from Catholic Charities USA

A new toolkit from Catholic Charities USA offers strategies for parish social ministry tested in parishes and dioceses across the country. The toolkit aims to help you build a unique ministry that responds to the needs utilizing the gifts and interests of the parish. Access *Parish Social Ministry Tool Kit: Getting Going, Ongoing, and Going Further* at www.scribd.com/doc/113487543/PSM-Tool-Kit

Catholics Confront Global Poverty

USCCB and Catholic Relief Services partner through Catholics Confront Global Poverty to help Catholics pray, learn, act, and give to confront global poverty. Go to <http://confrontglobalpoverty.org>,

Ending Poverty in Community (EPIC): A Toolkit for Young Advocates

The toolkit is a series of lesson plans for teachers, religious educators and youth ministers at the high school and junior high levels that lead youth to creatively learn about poverty and its causes, then put faith in action by developing a community action project. Share EPIC with teachers, religious educators, youth ministers and others. For details, visit www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/who-we-teach/youth/ending-poverty-in-community.cfm.

Sacraments and Social Mission: Living the Gospel, Being Disciples

This color, 32-page booklet can help all Catholics to better understand the connections between the celebration of the sacraments and our social mission as followers of Jesus and members of the Body of Christ. To order through USCCB, go to www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1841 or for download visit www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments/sacraments-and-social-mission.cfm

Action Alerts

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

Project Life and Liberty Nationwide Postcard Campaign

The diocese will participate in the recently launched USCCB “Project Life and Liberty” nationwide postcard campaign. Postcards will be distributed to parishes. Below is text of the postcard. For more information, visit www.nchla.org.



Project Life and Liberty Message to Congress:

Dear Senator/Representative:

The new Congress should come together to respect life and religious freedom. Please support and strengthen laws that (1) prevent federal funding and promotion of abortion, and (2) protect rights of conscience in health care. Government must not force Americans to violate their religious and moral beliefs on respect for life when they provide health care or sponsor or purchase health coverage. As your constituent, I would appreciate a written response telling me how you will vote on these matters.

Immigration Reform: Now is the time.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urges that a reformed immigration system can protect human dignity and the nation at the same time. Now is the time to enact comprehensive immigration reform. USCCB's Justice for Immigrants Campaign launched a nationwide e-postcard campaign. For details, visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org. Below is text of the e-postcard.



Justice for Immigrants Message to Congress:

Dear Senator/Representative:

I agree with the U.S. Catholic bishops that now is the time to pass just and compassionate immigration reform. I ask that in the 113th Congress you support immigration reform that

- Provides a path to citizenship for undocumented persons in the country;
- Preserves family unity as a corner-stone of our national immigration system;
- Provides legal paths for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States;
- Restores due process protections to our immigration enforcement policies;
- Addresses the root causes (push factors) of migration, such as persecution and economic disparity.

I look forward to monitoring your public position on this vital issue to our nation. Our nation can no longer wait.

Farm Bill Update

The Farm Bill is very important to farmers and rural communities by supporting crop insurance, rural development, and conservation programs. The Farm Bill also includes food and nutrition programs such as SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps), emergency food assistance programs, and overseas food assistance aid. Please continue to urge Congress to pass a Farm Bill. 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 or www.ncrlc.com/news.aspx?ID=287.

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.



Ohio Budget Process - Your Voice is Needed

In mid-April, the Ohio House passed H.B. 59 – the Ohio budget bill. The Catholic Conference of Ohio is closely monitoring the state budget process. The conference is urging lawmakers to prioritize the poor and vulnerable, protect human life, promote fair tax policies, support families who choose Catholic schools, and support expanded health care (support the Medicaid Expansion). The Ohio Bishops along with the Catholic hospitals in Ohio are urging support of the governor's plan to expand Medicaid coverage which at this

point appears to be in jeopardy. Contact your state senator today. Your advocacy is needed. For background information, visit www.ohiocathconf.org.

Death Penalty in Ohio

The State of Ohio scheduled executions through 2015. Please pray for victims of violence, victims' families, death row inmates, and their families. Continue to urge the governor and members of the Ohio General Assembly to stop the use of the death penalty in our state. Visit www.ohiocathconf.org/1/DP/deathpenalty.htm.

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.