



Office for Social Concerns

Catholic Diocese of Columbus

September 2011

Upcoming Events

September 5 - Labor Day

The 2011 Labor Day Statement by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is available online. The statement is titled *Human Costs and Moral Challenges of a Broken Economy*. To read the statement online, go to www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement.cfm. For more information about the statement, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

September 11 - The Catholic Church Remembers

911. For years, those numbers simply meant a call for help. Now they also remind us of September 11, 2001, the date of the worst terrorist attack on the United States of America and one of the deadliest days ever on American soil. To mark the tenth anniversary of 9/11, USCCB has gathered reflections and remembrances from clergy who ministered to victims and their families, and others who were impacted by the tragedy. They also have liturgical resources for parish and diocesan observances and links to bishops' statements and other materials for reading and reflection. To visit the USCCB website, go to www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/september-11.

Ohio Interfaith Prayer Service

On the 10th anniversary of 9/11, people will gather as communities of diverse faiths "to pray for all affected by the tragedy; honor the creative human responses; promote peace and interfaith harmony; and foster unity among people of Ohio."

Sunday, September 11, 2011
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Atrium of the Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio



Catholic school administrators and teachers distributing food at St. Lawrence Haven in Columbus.

Service Learning and Catholic Schools

The Office for Social Concerns and Catholic Schools Office taught a week-long service learning session to 66 Catholic school administrators and teachers in June. Participants in this year-long course learned how to apply strategies to help students live out their faith and learn through service to their community. The Office for Social Concerns offers day-long service retreats for juniors and faculty members at several Catholic high schools. During these retreats they volunteer at Catholic service agencies and community programs. Since 2005 the office led nearly 4,000 students and faculty members on service retreats.

September 18 – October 9 – Pray for the DREAM

The USCCB's Justice for Immigrants Campaign is asking dioceses, parishes, families, and others to "Pray for the DREAM" in support of the DREAM Act, which would address the status of thousands of undocumented youth in the U.S. and allow young people to access in-state tuition. To participate,

Catholics can choose any weekend between September 18 and October 9, to plan events and/or incorporate petitions, homilies, and prayers in support of DREAM Act eligible students and youth. For resources visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org or contact the Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.

September 20 – Webinar on Physician Assisted Suicide and People with Disabilities

On Tuesday, September 20, 2011, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability will host an online webinar "Threats to the Lives of People with Disability, Part II: Physician Assisted Suicide." This webinar will feature presenters Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities; Fr. Dan Mindling, OFM Cap, Theologian, Academic Dean, Mount St. Mary's Seminary; and Sr. Janice McGrane, SSJ, author, national presenter, disability advocate. Jerry Freewalt, Program Director, Office of Social Concerns, Diocese of Columbus will serve as moderator. The webinar runs from 4 to 5 p.m. and is free to those in the Diocese of Columbus since the diocese is an affiliate member of NCPD. Registration information can be found at www.ncpd.org/webinars or by calling NCPD at (202) 529-2933.

September 24 - Friends of the Poor Walk

The third annual Friends of the Poor Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 24 at the DeSales High School track in Columbus. Our Friends of the Poor Walk Committee, headed by Patti Aellig, has been working diligently in making plans for our 2011 Walk since last fall. The Walk offers a very easy way to raise funds for your conference-- with over \$40,000 being raised in each of the last two years. Besides it is a great way to meet other Vincentians from around the diocese--- as well as Bishop Campbell who will be our Honorary Chairman. The walk begins at 10AM to give Vincentians outside of the Columbus area time to get to the event. However, Patti Aellig can help organize a walk locally. Just give Patti Aellig, 614-314-4235, a call to get information about organizing a local Friends of the Poor Walk.

September 30 - Catholic Social Services Breakfast with the Bishop

Catholic Social Services Annual Breakfast with the Bishop will be held on Friday, September 30, 2011, 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 David C. Bianconi, chairman of Progressive Medical, Inc. All proceeds from the breakfast will support the vital programs and services of Catholic Social Services. Individual tickets are available for \$40. To inquire about purchasing tickets or event sponsorship, please contact Karen Washbush at (614) 857-1236 or kwashbush@colscss.org.

October is Respect Life Month

October is Respect Life Month and Sunday, October 2, 2011, is Respect Life Sunday. "I came that all might have life, and have it to the full!" is the theme of the 2011-2012 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.

November 8 - 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. Also visit the Catholic Conference of Ohio's website at 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 2011 Election. For more information and locations, call (614) 241-2540 or go online at www.franklincountyconsortium.com.