

Catholic Social Action

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Catholic Social Action is the large family of office staff and parish leaders who generously serve on numerous commissions, committees and task forces. Together, we empower Catholics in the Archdiocese to celebrate and live out the Gospel call for life, human dignity, and care for God's creation through Catholic Social Teaching formation, organized social ministries, and opportunities for public advocacy and action. We give thanks for all that God has done this year! May we all find the joy and courage to be effective agents of transformation in the year ahead.

Archdiocesan Level Ministry

ARCHDIOCESAN SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION

This body of leaders from across the Archdiocese advises the office and the Archbishop on all our work, including this year in areas of the archdiocesan mission and prayer, building intercultural competencies, pastoral social ministry, strategic planning, CCHD, CRS, racism and climate change.

ISSUE ORGANIZING

Staff and volunteers directly organized or co-sponsored activities on these issues:

Care for Creation/Climate Change (advanced by the Archdiocesan Climate Change Task Force):

- National Catholic Climate Covenant's "From St. Francis to Pope Francis to YOU!" program, used by several parishes this Fall, which incorporated local video footage of environmental justice.
- Op-eds and letters on the U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan.
- With MSJU and other Catholic groups, "Climate Change, Global Security, and the Common Good" panel.
- Weekly care for creation bulletin inserts, sample intercessions and prayers to all parishes.

Death Penalty (advanced by Dayton Weavers of Justice Death Penalty Task Force):

- With Catholic Social Services, 2014 Distinguished Speaker at St. Charles Church (Kettering), where Bud Welsh, whose daughter was killed in 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, spoke on restorative justice and forgiveness.



Comprehensive Immigration Reform Advocacy

- Prayer vigils in Dayton for those executed and victims' families.
- Hosting of Miami Valley Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) local chapter meetings.
- OTSE's panel presentations on Ohio Supreme Court's Death Penalty Study Task Force at Mount St Joseph U., St. Joseph Church in Wapakoneta and St. Teresa Church in Springfield.

Food Sufficiency and Hunger (advanced by Dayton Weavers of

Justice Legislative Advocacy/Food Sufficiency Task Force):

- Immersion tours into Dayton's West Side to learn about food deserts in urban communities;
- Partnership with Dayton Regional Green/Partners for the Environment Food Team.
- With Catholic Charities, planning for an archdiocesan-wide anti-hunger campaign in Oct. 2015.

Justice for Immigrants (advanced by the Cincinnati Advocates for Justice Immigration Task Force):

- Public statements from Archbishop Schnurr on comprehensive immigration reform and on welcoming the unaccompanied migrant children.

Join the Action!

Contact us at
csa@catholiccincinnati.org
to sign up for:

- ⇒ Catholic Social Action Alerts (Cincinnati); Social Justice Updates (Dayton/North)
 - ⇒ St. Francis Pledge Update (Care for Creation newsletter)
 - ⇒ CCHD/CRS Parish Promoter Update
 - ⇒ Or on Facebook: 
- www.facebook.com/csacinci

Catholic Social Action 2014 Annual Report: Archdiocesan Level Ministry, continued

Justice for Immigrants, cont...

- Cincinnati Mayor's Immigration Task Force to advise the mayor on how to develop a more "immigrant friendly" city.
- With other community groups, meetings with Hamilton Co. Sheriff Neil and Cincinnati Chief Blackwell to establish friendlier, local immigration policies.
- UC Catholic Studies' lecture on Church teaching and migration by the USCCB's Kevin Appleby, with opening comments from Bishop Binzer
- Voices of Immigrant Experience for Welcome Dayton.
- Member of Dayton Latino Immigrant Rights Advocates.
- After 2 years with us, the education of 1,000+ local people about Church teaching on migration by our JFI Coordinator, Dave Scharfenberger, including the collection of nearly 4,000 postcards for immigration reform to Congress.
- January National Migration Week to over 100 parishes.
- Fast 4 Families Rally at Xavier U.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

→ **Congress:** This year, we met with local and DC offices of Senators Brown and Portman and Congressmen Boehner, Chabot, Turner, and Wenstrup. Parishioners produced hundreds of phone calls, letters and emails to promote the U.S. bishops' positions on immigration reform, support to the undocumented migrant children, the "cliff effect" of

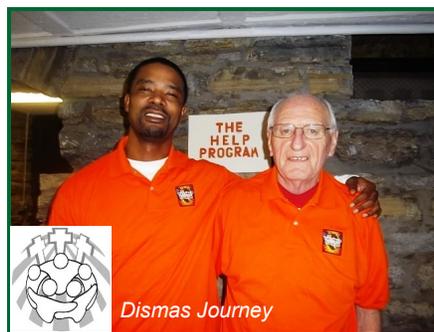
Intercultural Competencies/

Racism: Dayton efforts and prayerful responses to the shooting of John Crawford III at a Walmart by Beavercreek police.

Refugees: Dayton's World Refugee Day, bringing together refugees for dancing, drumming, talent, fashion and fun!

Reentry/Criminal Justice (advanced by the Cincinnati Advocates for Justice Dismas Journey Task Force):

- With St. Vincent de Paul, AMOS Project, St. Joseph's Project WESTT, and St. Francis de Sales' HELP Program, Dismas Journey presentations to build solidarity between returning citizens and parishioners, at Our Lady of the Visitation, Order of Malta, Nativity, and IHM parishes
- With XU and Bellarmine Chapel, employment opportunities coalition for returning citizens.



federal safety net programs, international development assistance, religious liberty, no taxpayer funding of abortions in healthcare, peace in the Holy Land, Second Chances Act and Smart Sentencing Act.

→ **Ohio:** We likewise advocated in legislator meetings and gathered hundreds of communications from parishioners to advance the Ohio

Religious Liberty: Cincinnati/NKY "Crossing the Bridge for Life" rally.

- Fortnight for Freedom resources for religious liberty in healthcare, service to migrants and more.

Sr. Dorothy Stang: With Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and other offices, selection and presentation of the 2014 Spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang Awards to parish and school faculty and leaders who embody Sr. Dorothy's work with the poor and care for God's creation.

- Dayton prayer service for the annual tree planting in honor of Sr. Dorothy.

World Peace:

- Jan. 1 World Day of Peace Masses, celebrated by Archbishop Schnurr at the Cathedral and Bishop Binzer at St. Benedict the Moor in Dayton.
- Archdiocesan-wide special collections and prayers to support peace and humanitarian relief in the Holy Land, Syria and Iraq.
- Support to the HOPE Program, a pilgrimage of Catholic School teachers to the Holy Land to build solidarity with Catholic schools in Palestine, Jordan and Israel.

bishops' positions on abortion, Ohio's energy efficiency and renewable energy portfolio standards, drug addiction, gun control, death penalty, fair hiring policies, and immigration policies.

→ **Election Day:** The Archdiocese endorsed in Hamilton Co. the Family Services and Treatment, Health and Hospitalization, and Cincinnati Public Schools Levies. In Montgomery Co., we endorsed with qualified support the Human Services Levy.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

(advanced by the Archdiocesan CCHD Committee):

CCHD is the U.S. Catholic bishops' social justice, domestic, anti-poverty program. Thanks to the generous contributions of parishioners during the collection each November, it funds agencies across the country that empower those struggling to break the cycle of poverty.

→ For this 2014-15 grant year, we allocated \$86,000 in local CCHD funds to 11 organizations in the Archdiocese and approved an additional \$96,000 in grants

to 4 local agencies from national CCHD. Last year's groups helped 3,500+ low-income people through employment, job training, educational and leadership development!

→ A new social media campaign was launched to promote the 2014 November Collection.

→ We reached out to potential applicants in Adams, Auglaize, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Highland, Mercer and Shelby Counties.

→ We participated in the grand

opening of CCHD-funded Community Blend Cooperative Coffee Shop.

→ St. Michael School (Sharonville) 8th Graders participated in our CCHD Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest.

→ With other reentry programs in Cincinnati, we designed and funded through CCHD a new Reentry Coordinator position at St. Vincent de Paul – Cincinnati Council.

→ We were blessed by CCHD interns, Kelsey Witzgall and Sr. Tracy Kemme!

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

(advanced by the Archdiocesan CRS Committee):

CRS is the U.S. Catholic bishops international, humanitarian relief and development organization, working in nearly 100 countries. Their work is made possible through parishioners' generous contributions during the collection two weeks after Easter and the CRS Rice Bowl program during Lent.

→ **CCHD/CRS Parish Promoters:** Currently in 97 parishes, these parish leaders help ensure CCHD and CRS receive special attention and support in their communities!

→ **CRS Rice Bowl:** Of this collection, 25% is kept here to address local

emergency needs. Based on the counsel of our parish promoters, \$21,750 went to 27 agencies in every region of the Archdiocese!

→ **CRS/Global Solidarity Conference:** The 2014 Conference, *Caring for All Life, All Through Life*, was held in March at UD and focused on a Consistent Ethic of Life from before birth to end of life. It explored challenges that life presents us as we try to follow Jesus in loving God and loving our neighbor.

→ **CRS Fair Trade:** Our December Regional Fair Trade Sale



CRS Fair Trade Sale

has been among the largest sales in the nation for the last 3 years, grossing \$15,512 last year! The event, hosted by St. Peter Parish (Huber Heights), is coordinated collaboratively by 13 Dayton-area parishes and our Fair Trade Ambassador, Deb Parker!



Advocates for Justice Immigration Task Force

Parish Collaborative Ministry

In the Archdiocese, 5 multi-parish, regional, social action "collaboratives" maximize our work.

→ **Greater Cincinnati Advocates for Justice:** Comprised of delegations from 35 parishes, this group gathered at the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Provincial House to select its priority

issues for the year: 1) immigration reform, 2) reentry for the formerly incarcerated and criminal justice reform, and 3) climate change. Parishioners greatly supported the work noted above through Issue Task Forces and helped these issues take root in the liturgy, education, stewardship, and social action

ministries of their respective parishes.

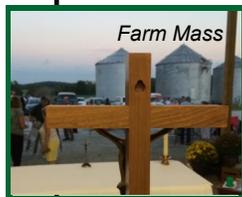
Greater Dayton Weavers of Justice: Through a similar process, this network of 27 parishes and Catholic institutions selected their priority issues: 1) legislative advocacy/food sufficiency and 2) the death penalty/restorative justice.

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→ **Springfield Social Action Committee:** Comprised of 8 parishes and Catholic institutions, this group hosted anti-death penalty panels, addressed local crime, and educated on Church teaching and climate change.

→ **St. Marys/Sidney Deaneries Catholic Rural Life:** This group hosted its annual Farm Mass, celebrated by Bishop Binzer in St. Henry. They organized two estate planning sessions to help family farmers preserve their farms and pass them on to their children. Through our Catholic Century Farm Registry this year, we recognized 24 farm families who've farmed the same land for at least 100 years! Our registry now has a total of 53 families!

→ **St. Martin Deanery Catholic Rural Life:** This group organized its annual Farm Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Schnurr in Adams County. They hosted their annual Local Foods Seminar in Georgetown and a presentation on "Faith, Food and Justice." They also hosted high school students for a "rural plunge" on family farming!



Parish Social Ministry Development and Support

Communities of Salt and Light: This 5-week training program helps parishes increase their understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and organization for effective parish social ministry. We offered courses at St. Susanna in Monroe, St. Columban in Loveland, Annunciation in Cincinnati, and St. Joseph in Wapakoneta.

JustFaith: In conjunction with Ignatian Volunteer Corps, Jack Jezreel (JF director) promoted this popular, national program at IHM in Cincinnati, St. Francis of Assisi in Centerville, and St. Michael in Fort Loramie.

Parishes: In addition, we offered parish ministry support and Church teaching on a variety of social justice issues to St. Anthony and Nativity in Cincinnati, St. John in West Chester, St. Maximilian Kolbe in Liberty Twp., St. Margaret of York in Deerfield Twp., Our Lady of Grace in Dayton, Bellarmine Chapel at XU, St. Julie in Hamilton, and Mary Help of Christians in Fairborn as well as to parish leaders at the Northern Area Catechetical Congress.

Schools:

- **"Accepting the Call to Catholic School Ministry":** We joined in the orientation of all new elementary and high school teachers in the Archdiocese to share the Church's social teaching tradition.
- **Primary Schools:** We offered in-services for school faculty, "Catholic Social Teaching in the Classroom," at Sts. Peter and Paul Academy in Reading and Our Lady of Lourdes in Greene Twp.
- **High Schools:** We facilitated social action advocacy with Carroll High School's summer workcamp. We also presented on immigration to Mercy High School, St. Ursula Acad., and Notre Dame Acad. in Northern Kentucky.
- **Colleges:** Presentations were offered on poverty and immigration at Mount St. Joseph University and on immigration at the University of Dayton and Xavier.

Diaconate Formation: The office presented to our deacons in formation on Church teaching and migration and on care for God's creation.

Priests: The office serves as an advisory member of the Presbyteral Council's Peace and Justice Committee.

Ecumenical and Interfaith

Catholic Social Action also serves as an initial point of contact for the Archdiocese on certain relations to other local faith communities. We enthusiastically join with many other faith partners to address the issues noted above.

In addition:

Ecumenical and Interfaith Groups: Staff and volunteers represent the Archdiocese's formal membership in several coalition groups: the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, Greater Dayton Christian Connections, and the Ohio Council of Churches.

Good Friday Walk for Justice and Peace: This annual, ecumenical walk follows the Stations of the Cross through downtown Dayton, tying in a variety of current issues.

Pentecost "Outpouring 2014": This 1st annual event at XU's Cintas Center successfully pulled in 3,000+ people from various Christian denominations to pray for an end to poverty and for healing in Cincinnati.

Nostra Aetate: Along with Xavier, U. and Jewish and Muslim representatives, we are launching activities in celebration of the 50th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate: The Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions*. This will include up to 50 interfaith service projects for youth and young adults in 2015!

Thank you for your support!