



Catholic Charities Social Concerns

Dear Friend in Christ,

As I was preparing for the upcoming Parish Social Ministry (PSM) Gathering on June 8th at St. Mary of the Knobs parish, I listened again to Archbishop Thompson's keynote address that he gave at the PSM Gathering last August. ([Listen to talk HERE.](#)) He gave a great talk about Catholic Social Teaching and emphasizing that to live our faith more fully, we must participate in gospel, sacraments and service. But, he also spoke about how our current culture and our Catholic faith often clash when it comes to the concept of Rights and Responsibilities. Sadly, there is a growing trend toward a culture that wants its "rights" but not the "responsibilities" that go with them.



[Catholic Social Teaching](#) defines Rights and Responsibilities in this way: "Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected, and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society."

During his keynote address, Archbishop Thompson spoke about the danger of living in a culture of seeing through the eyes of "either/or", instead of a culture that emphasizes "both/and". He got straight to the point when he asserted that when we live in a culture of "either/or" or "black and white", we can fall into the temptation of forming judgements that may close our minds and hearts to learning from each other, which eventually can translate to the start of demonizing each other.

He went on to say that our Catholic faith emphasizes the mentality of "both/and". We are called to uphold the dignity of all people, but to do that there will be times when we will need to stand in the "breach of the divide", which can be filled with challenges and tension.

Our newest Catholic Charities - Social Concerns ministry called [CARE \(Catholic Accompaniment and Reflective Experience\)](#) is a great example of standing in that “breach of the divide”.

If you are not familiar with **CARE**, it developed out of the need to care for our immigrant neighbors who are facing fear and uncertainty as they navigate the extremely complex US Immigration system. No matter where you stand politically on how to fix our broken immigration laws, at the heart of the matter are people - men, women and children who attend our parishes, our schools, and live in our neighborhoods. For so many of our immigrant brothers and sisters, living in the US is the only life they have known.

Since the kickoff of the CARE Program this January, I have already seen so many beautiful stories of accompaniment. I have seen fears diminish between both those who are being accompanied and those who are doing the accompanying. I have seen friendships form between people who belonged to the same parish, but attended different Masses based on the language of the Mass. I have seen tears flowing from the eyes of undocumented men and women as they exclaimed “I just didn’t know anyone cared about me.” I have seen tears running down the faces of those who are walking with them as they say, “Thank you for sharing your story, my life has changed because of you.”

If you are interested in learning more about the [CARE Program](#), please scroll down to find additional information. If you are interested in learning more about the incredibleness of Catholic Social Teaching, please click [HERE](#).

And with regard to “breaching the divide”, I firmly believe that when we become responsible for each other, whether that is through praying for one another, accompanying each other in our time of need, or speaking up on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves, we will begin to see that divide become smaller and smaller.

My prayer for all of us is that we never forget to rely on the Holy Spirit who accompanies us each day; and that in those times of our lives when we need accompaniment, we will be richly blessed by those who walk with us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Theresa Chamblee

Catholic Charities - Director of Social Concerns

[Visit our Website - Catholic Charities - Social Concerns](#)

**Featured Social Concerns
Ministry**

CARE Program

Catholic Accompaniment and Reflective Experience



What is the CARE Program?

The [Catholic Accompaniment and Reflection Experience \(CARE\)](#) is a new pilot initiative that was launched by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Office of Catholic Charities, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Migration and Refugee Services in the fall of 2018.

The CARE Program is committed to connecting Catholic volunteers and parishes with fellow community members who are undocumented immigrants, unaccompanied children, and their families in need of accompaniment and emotional, social service, and spiritual support when integrating into their communities or attempting to comply with immigration proceedings such as reporting to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for check-ins or attending immigration hearings.

Why is it important to support our immigrant neighbors and their families?

The Catholic Church approach to migration and immigration is rooted in the Gospel, Sacraments and in the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching.

CARE is the pastoral response to the uncertainty and fear that many of our immigrant neighbors are experiencing.

“This atmosphere of welcoming is increasingly necessary in confronting today’s diverse forms of distancing ourselves from others. This is profoundly evidenced in the problem of millions of refugees and exiles, in the phenomenon of racial intolerance as well as intolerance toward the person whose only “fault” is a search for work and better living conditions outside his own country, and in the fear of all who are different and thus seen as a threat.”

Why would immigrants and their families need accompaniment now?

Our immigrant neighbors face the challenge of navigating the extremely complex US Immigration system, but without support or assistance, this task can seem almost impossible.

With the new interpretation of who is now considered a priority for ICE apprehension and removal or deportation many individuals in the undocumented immigrant community who were not previously priorities for removal are now priorities and their families are afraid to engage in daily life or attend their ICE check-ins or immigration court proceedings for fear that they might be targeted for removal and be forced to be separated from their families. These policy changes have already resulted in many cases of undocumented individuals around the country arriving for their ICE check-ins and being told to prepare for deportation or in some cases actually being deported.

How can I get involved?

Accompaniment may entail standing beside someone on their journey and spiritually supporting them throughout that process, but it may also take the form of smaller actions that can assist and provide comfort and support. Acts of accompaniment might include:

- Assisting undocumented immigrants who are required to check in with ICE on a semi-regular basis or the continual support of an immigrant family as a family member attends their mandatory immigration hearings and court proceedings.
- Assisting an unaccompanied child and their parents to enroll the child in school.
- Giving a family a ride to a medical appointment or helping them receive an identification card.
- Just being present to listen to an individual's stories.
- Offering to pray with individuals.
- For other examples please see the resource [10 Things You Can Do To Accompany Immigrants](#).

Accompanying an individual through these daily acts can provide comfort, spiritual and emotional support. It can build solidarity between Catholic volunteers and immigrants and their families as well as build bridges of understanding and mutual interest within communities.

Parishes can host an information session to learn more about the CARE Program and how to create a CARE Parish Team that centers around accompaniment, and building awareness, solidarity and public support for new policies that support immigrant families.

[For More Information](#), please contact:

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Catholic Social Teaching

Principles of Migration

- I. People have a right to find opportunities in their homeland.
- II. People have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families.
- III. Sovereign nations have a right to control their borders.
- IV. Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.
- V. The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected.

[For more information on Catholic Teaching regarding Immigration, visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(USCCB\).](#)

Save the Date



**Parish Social
Ministry Gathering
South
June 8th, 2019
9am to 12pm**

When
Saturday, June 8th

Why the Parish Social Ministry (PSM)

9am to 12pm

Gathering might just be what you have been waiting for!

Where

St. Mary of the Knobs Catholic Church
5719 Saint Marys Road
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119

Doors Open at 8:30

Morning Refreshments will be served

Who Should Attend?

Priest, Deacons, PLC's,
Parish Staff, Parish Volunteers,
and ANYONE interested
in the work of loving their
neighbors.

- If you have ever had the urge to do more within your parish but you don't know where to start?
- Do you feel like it is always the same 10 people doing all the work?
- Are you interested in learning practical skills to make ministry within your parish thrive?

These are just some of the items we will be discussing together at the PSM Gathering.

RSVP

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(There is no fee for the event, but we need to know how many to expect to have enough materials on hand.)

Highlights of Your Great Work

Roncalli High School Lenten Almsgiving Program



(Pictured above is Roncalli students Joseph Woodruff, Kara House, myself, Abby Conway and Jeff Traylor, Director of Campus Ministry)

A Big, Big Thank You to the students, staff and families of **Roncalli High School** for their overwhelming generosity on behalf of our brothers and sisters in need around the world!!

Throughout the six weeks of Lent, **Roncalli collected \$15,909 for the Catholic Relief Services - Gift of Hope program. Can I get an "AMEN"!!**

Through Roncalli's support of the **CRS - Gift of Hope** Program, children will receive the gift of education, expectant mothers will receive the gift of prenatal care, communities will receive the gift of clean water through wells and sanitation stations, and families will receive the gift of farm animals that are needed so they can sustain their families.

Thank You!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Ministry Highlight Refugee and Immigrant Services



Don't Miss this INCREDIBLE celebration!!

Date: Thursday, June 20th

Time: 7:30am to 10:30am

**Location: Catholic Center, Assembly Hall
1400 N. Meridian St. - Indianapolis**

Join Us For:

Cultural Villages

Breakfast, coffee and tea from around the world
Music
Refugee Artwork
Entertainment
Children's Activities
Great Conversation

[Reserve Your World Refugee Day Tickets - HERE](#)

I AM SOOOOOO PROUD

Within a one week span, three of our Catholic Charities Agencies held wonderful events that celebrated the GENEROSITY of those who continue to give of their time and talent to support the work of Catholic Charities. I wanted to share some highlights from those events... because, well... I AM SOOOO PROUD!



St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities - New Albany

St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities - New Albany is celebrating their 40th Anniversary! Check out these incredible videos that were shown at the 40th Anniversary Gala on April 25th, 2019.

[St. Elizabeth - 40 Years in 4 Minutes](#)

Have your Kleenex ready as you watch the beautiful "[An Adoption Story: Layne, Brandy, Andy.](#)"



Catholic Charities - Terre Haute

Catholic Charities - Terre Haute opened their new 10,000 square-foot Food Bank on April 29th. At 10,000 square feet—more than double the space of its former foodbank—and with room to expand, the new facility will allow Catholic Charities Terre Haute to help even more of those in a food emergency or food-insecure situation.



Catholic Charities - Indianapolis



On April 30th, Catholic Charities Indianapolis celebrated their annual Spirit of Service Awards. Indy Car Driver - Ed Carpenter gave a great key note address on the beauty of service.

[Make sure you check out the videos of our Award Winners!!](#)

PS: Keep those Kleenex handy, each of these individuals are incredibly inspiring!!

FROM OUR FRIENDS



Pack Away Hunger is about

LIFE - CHANGING - NUTRITION

Pack Away Hunger is a non-profit organization dedicated to greatly improving the lives of children and others who suffer from hunger and malnutrition. The lack of proper nutrition creates serious health and developmental consequences for individuals and has far reaching implications for communities. In the United States 15.8 million children do not have regular access to healthy meals (1). In developing countries one out of six children -- roughly 100 million -- is underweight, the result of acute or chronic malnutrition (2). In a world with such vast resources, we think this is unacceptable.

To achieve our mission, we have partnered with The Mathile Institute for Human Nutrition to develop the most highly nutritious pre-packaged meals available. These meals are scientifically proven to meet the specific nutritional needs of children and other at-risk populations.

We're not alone in our desire to end hunger. Like-minded community organizations, businesses and individuals join our mission by purchasing the raw materials needed for these meals. The group then comes together to create the meals at a "packing event". The meals are then distributed to local food banks and pantries or to community feeding programs in emerging nations.

These powerful events are educational and fun! Participants often feel a sense of purpose, knowing the meals they pack with their own hands will meet a significant need for someone in their neighborhood or in a community around the world.

We believe this unique collaboration between nutritional science and community engagement offers a significant way to provide Life. Changing. Nutrition. to those in need.

Please join us to Pack Away Hunger.

[Learn more about how you can make an impact on ending HUNGER!](#)

Prayers of the Month

Your Wonder

(Magnificat)

O God, you are over all, in all, beyond all. Open our eyes to see the wonders that surround us; open our hearts to know the wonders of our brothers and sisters; open our lips to sing your praise. Restore all peoples in your image, who is Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Justice Prayer

(Justice for Immigrants)

Come, O Holy Spirit! Come, open us to the wonder, beauty, and dignity of the diversity found in each culture, in each face, and in each experience we have of the other among us. Come, fill us with generosity as we are challenged to let go and allow others to share with us the goods and beauty of earth. Come, heal the divisions that keep us from seeing the face of Christ in all men, women, and children. Come, free us to stand with and for those who must leave their own lands in order to find work, security, and welcome in a new land, one that has enough to share. Come, bring us understanding, inspiration, wisdom, and the courage needed to embrace change and stay on the journey. Come, O Holy Spirit, show us the way.

Amen.

Ministries of Catholic Charities Social Concerns

What is Social Concerns?

Social Concerns encourages the Community to grow in a deeper understanding of Catholic Social Teaching by providing resources and strategies for effective action in parishes, schools and surrounding communities. Most importantly, it

calls us to a deeper understanding in living out the Two Greatest Commandments, which is to Love God and to Love our Neighbors, both locally and globally."

Below are the Ministries that fall under Catholic Charities - Social Concerns.



Love Your Neighbor



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