



Catholic Charities Social Concerns

Dear Friend,

February is a unique month. It is shorter than all the other months and once every four years it rebels and adds a day to its uniqueness. Some call February the month of “love” with Valentine’s Day falling in the middle of it. But there is another day in February that I would like to call special attention to and that is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

I admit that I sometimes struggle with Lent. It can be difficult to be reminded of our death, our need for repentance and conversion, and secretly, I am not so good at fasting. Lent is also about a radical love so powerful that it can humble us to our knees. A love that Christ wants to freely give us; but the catch is we need to be willing to accept it.

In thinking about this radical love, I call to mind a personal story that Fr. Bob Robeson shared during one of his homilies.

The story goes something like this...



During Fr. Bob’s days at Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary, the seminarians would often do service projects in the community. One such place was the Cathedral Soup Kitchen where hot meals and bags of food were offered to the homeless in the area. It was during a day of service that Fr. Bob found himself handing out groceries to those in need when a visibly angry man came up and demanded that he be given more cereal boxes than what was allotted to each person. Fr. Bob explained that everyone was only allowed so many cereal boxes or they wouldn’t have enough to give to everyone who stood in line. The man became belligerent and loud, demanding that he be given more cereal boxes. Fr. Bob shares that it was at this point that he felt his temper begin to rise. He admitted that he was just about to let his anger take over when Lucia, a petit older woman who ran the soup kitchen, walked up, gently placed her hand on this man’s hand, and while looking him in the eyes said,

“Someday you will recognize all that we do for you, and you will be grateful, because you will recognize we do this because we love you.”

Fr. Bob shared that in that moment it felt like everything stood still. As everyone around them stopped to watch what this man would do, he just looked at Lucia...and began to cry. Through his tears he shared his story of abandonment, loss and a series of bad choices that left him feeling hopeless. He told how his wife had left him, and his children wouldn’t speak to him. He was homeless and he just lived to get to the next day. Through his tears this man shared his pain, as Lucia gently held his hand.

As I reflect on all that I am going “to do” this Lent—prayer, fasting and almsgiving—I cannot help recalling Lucia’s words and realize that these words were meant for me too. This man’s story is a little bit of my own story—a story of stubbornness, ungratefulness, anger or unkindness that I have been guilty of showing during my lifetime.

Lucia’s words could easily also be God’s words to each of us:

“Someday you will recognize all that I do for you, and you will be grateful, because you will recognize I do this because I love you.”

And as I contemplate these words, I realize Lent is our love story. It is the story of God's love that He continues to shower upon us, even when it can be hard for us to receive that love or to show that love to others.

My prayer for each of us this Lent is that we experience, and accept, the radical Love of God in all that we do; and that we are inspired in our relationships with our families, our parishes, our schools, and our communities to love others as God first loved us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Theresa Chamblee

Catholic Charities - Director of Social Concerns

PS: Make sure you scroll down to learn more about our new Archindy Anti-Trafficking Ministry and our expanded CARE Ministry. You have the power to change lives!!

Visit our Website - Catholic Charities - Social Concerns

Roundtable on Unaccompanied Children

Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

ROUNDTABLE ON UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

Catholic Charities in partnership with Bethany Christian Services is seeking to provide an avenue for churches and community leaders to gain understanding on some of the world's most vulnerable people:
unaccompanied children.

Join us for a light breakfast and a round table discussion on the journey to the US, the trauma faced by these children, the aspects of reunification, and the role of government and supporting agencies.

**THURSDAY MARCH 12, 2020
9-11:30 AM
1400 N. MERIDIAN ST.
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 462020**

Space is limited, so please RSVP to Theresa Chamblee at tchamblee@archindy.org or 317-236-1404 by March 9, 2020

Each year, thousands of children from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador make the dangerous journey to cross the border into the United States.

But why would they do that?!

And what happens to them when they get to the U.S.?

Please join Catholic Charities, as part of our [CARE Ministry](#), in partnership with [Bethany Christian Services](#), to learn more about unaccompanied children who cross our southern border and how you can make a difference in the lives of these children.

Please join us at the...

Roundtable on Unaccompanied Children

Thursday, March 12, 2020

9-11:30 AM

1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

The event is FREE,
if possible

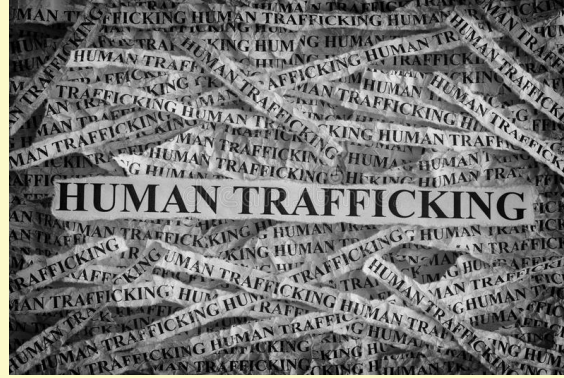
please RSVP to Theresa Chamblee
at Tchamblee@archindy.org or 317-236-0414

Download the flier [HERE](#)

NEW Archindy Anti-Trafficking Ministry



The International Labour Office estimates that there are approximately 25 million men, women, and children subjected to labor or sex trafficking worldwide. It is important to understand how to prevent and recognize incidents of **human trafficking within our own communities.**



To learn more on how you and your parish can make a difference in preventing and combating human trafficking, **please attend one of our two Archindy Catholic Charities Anti-Trafficking Ministry Information Events.**

North Diocesan Event

May 9, 2020

9am - 12pm

Our Lady of the Greenwood

Madonna Hall

345 S. Meridian Street

Greenwood, IN 46143

South Diocesan Event

May 16, 2020

9am - 12pm

St. Augustine

Parish Hall

315 E. Chestnut St.

Jeffersonville, IN 47130

For More Information - Click [HERE](#)

Space is limited, so please RSVP to Theresa Chamblee at tchamblee@archindy.org or 317-236-1404

St. Josephine Bakhita
Patron Saint of Trafficked Persons

Stations of the Cross



**Walking the Stations of the Cross
with St. Josephine Bakhita**

**April 3rd
6pm**

**Nativity Catholic Church
7225 Southeastern Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46239**

Additional Stations of the Cross

[Walking the Stations of the Cross with St. Josephine Bakhita](#)

[Praying the the Stations of the Cross for Victims of Human Trafficking](#)
[En Espanol](#)

Catholic Relief Services Global Emergency Update



Catholic Relief Services is pleased to share the following end-of-year highlights of our major emergency response and recovery activities that took place in 2019, as well as a forecast of the most urgent humanitarian needs - and opportunities for global impact - in 2020.

To find out how YOUR GENEROSITY and PRAYERS have aided our brothers and sisters around the world, please click on our [GLOBAL EMERGENCY UPDATE](#).
[En Espanol.](#)

This work is possible thanks to the generous support of private and public donors, the dedication of our local partners, and the unwavering presence of Caritas (Catholic Charities) and the Catholic Church.

A Refresher on Catholic Relief Services?



GLOBAL EMERGENCY UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

Catholic Relief Services is pleased to share the following end-of-year highlights of our major emergency response and recovery activities that took place in 2019, as well as a forecast of the most urgent humanitarian needs and opportunities for global impact in 2020. This work is possible thanks to the generous support of private and public donors, the dedication of our local partners, and the unwavering presence of Caritas and the Catholic Church.



LEARN AND PLAY
Children play outside a CRS child friendly space in Kufunglong-Balukhal Expansion Site—the world's most densely populated refugee camp. These spaces are safe places in which children affected by crises can learn and play. In Bangladesh, CRS works with Caritas Bangladesh to assist Rohingya refugees. Read more about our urgent priorities on page 3. Photo by Sami Farouq for CRS

2019 END-OF-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

VENEZUELA Since 2015, the country has experienced a progressive decline in food production capacity, resulting in food shortages, hyperinflation, the collapse of the health system and social unrest.



Children are receiving health and nutrition checks and support at Caritas Venezuela centers. Photo courtesy of Caritas Venezuela

In partnership with Caritas Venezuela, CRS has supported Venezuelans with food, housing, medicine and mobile medical clinics, clean water, hygiene kits, and cash for families to buy necessities. Manantí, a town in the north, has been particularly affected by crises with children and pregnant women. 14 clinics received stocks of medicines, and vulnerable Venezuelans benefited from more than 15,000 hot meals. Across the region, CRS and our partners are helping Venezuelan refugees meet basic needs, find safe shelter and access social services.

THE BAHAMAS Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas on September 1, 2019, and swept through the northeastern islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama over the next two days, leaving 85 people dead and 262 missing, and destroying more than 15,000 homes. CRS is supporting Caritas Antilles and the Archdiocese of Nassau to assist people on Grand Bahama with shelter and social and emotional recovery.



Founded in the aftermath of World War II by the U.S. bishops, Catholic Relief Services is an international humanitarian organization that seeks to end poverty, hunger and disease. We are now one of the most trusted international relief and development agencies in the world. We work in 100 countries and reach more than 136 million people each year.

And as the official overseas development agency of the Catholic community in the United States, we help Catholics in parishes, diocese and schools live their faith by participating in programs that work to end poverty and injustice.

Focusing on innovative programs in agriculture, health and emergency response, our partnerships with communities and Church institutions overseas continue to grow. Our 77 years of experience have enabled us to address urgent needs and develop sustainable solutions that help end poverty now - and for future generations.

EMERGENCY FACTSHEET FEBRUARY 12, 2020

ZIMBABWE DROUGHT CRISIS

Catholic Relief Services and our local partners are responding to an impending food crisis in Zimbabwe, where poor harvests mean families are increasingly struggling to get enough to eat.

CONTEXT
The Southern African country of Zimbabwe still recovering from Cyclone Idai that struck in March 2019 is facing a food crisis in its eastern provinces. Poor harvests and crop production over the last two years, combined with an overall economic decline, has led to a severe shortage of food reserves and income. In August 2019, the government of Zimbabwe declared a state of national disaster, and requested international humanitarian support.

An estimated 3.5 million people—over 60% of the population in rural areas—lack access to sufficient nutritious food. Because of the food shortage, the price of some staples is up. Inflation and food costs have increased by 40%, and most families cannot afford to purchase basic necessities.

Parents and women are drying up, affecting livestock health and leading to increased cattle deaths. People struggle to walk miles to water points, where they wait for hours. With the depletion of water reserves, communities that are at risk of famine are increasing.

A national assessment carried out by Caritas Zimbabwe found that 30% of families have not seen harvests since the 2015-16 season. More than 60% of families surveyed by Caritas reported that they are unable to afford essential needs such as food, clothing, shelter, medical services, and fuel. In total, combined with the rainfall at the start of 2020, we already had to intervene about opening up to 100,000 people to drought-affected areas.

“What if it can be found, a lot of food in Zimbabwe can come up to 100,000 tons more than it did a year ago.”
—Cathy Johnson, Caritas Zimbabwe member of CRS

HOW TO HELP
• Please visit our support page.
• Donate by phone: 1-877-8822-2266
• Donate by check: “Zimbabwe Through Caritas”
• Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Dept. 1790 Baltimore, Maryland 21207-5063




CRS AND CARITAS ZIMBABWE RESPONSE
CRS partner Caritas Zimbabwe is providing urgent relief to vulnerable Zimbabweans in Harare, Bulawayo, North and South provinces. Caritas plans for Caritas to support 17,000 people with critical food, nutrition and livelihood assistance.

CRS has supported thousands of families that provide a nine-month food supply for 1,000 people. We have also provided community meetings with training on water harvesting and soil retention techniques to prepare for the upcoming rainy season. CRS helps to raise funds for equipment, such as solar pumps, and other 10,000 people with clean water through restored and newly-erected boreholes. We will also support communities as they work to become resilient to drought.

CRS and Caritas partners are responding to real, linked crises that are increasingly prevalent for Zimbabweans nationwide given the logistical challenges of reaching them. Because of this local presence, Caritas disaster partners are better placed to reach people in need than most other agencies. Our experience, therefore, makes us of having Church structures and infrastructure in place on supporting people who would otherwise likely receive little or no assistance.



Emergency Fact Sheet - Zimbabwe Drought Crisis

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl



Bring Lent to Life

Through CRS Rice Bowl, we journey with members of our human family around the world, and commit our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving to deepening our faith and serving those in need.

Theme: Rice Bowl will use the scripture story of the miracle of feeding 5,000 from the Gospel of Mark. We are called to feed the hungry and CRS Rice Bowl invites us to reflect on the challenge of global hunger—and how proper nutrition gives young people the opportunity to dream.

Countries: This year, rather than focusing on one country each week, three stories of three girls from three countries (Honduras, Vietnam and Kenya) are woven throughout each week of Lent. Each week we'll learn something new about the girls and their lives.



**Me llamo Maria Ana.
My name is Maria Ana.**

Maria Ana is 16 years old. Serious and kind, she lives with her parents, four brothers and one sister in Honduras, a country in Central America. Her village, El Pinal, is surrounded by hills. Maria Ana speaks Spanish.

Tên tôi là Nguyen Thi Trinh.

My name is Trinh.H

Trinh is a hard-working, energetic 12-year-old. She lives in the farming community of Binh Dao, located outside of the city of Hoi An, Vietnam with her parents, two older brothers and younger sister. Her country is in Southeast Asia and is surrounded on three sides by water. Trinh speaks Vietnamese.



**Jina langu ni Yvone.
My name is Yvone.**

Ambitious and intelligent, Yvone is 11 years old. She lives with her grandparents, her aunt, three siblings and three cousins in Konjiko, a village in Kenya. Her community is located near Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa. The village is also close to the Equator, so it is very hot there. Yvone and her family speak Kiswahili and English.



Recipes: There will be three meatless meal recipes, one from each country. Archived recipes are available on the Rice Bowl website.

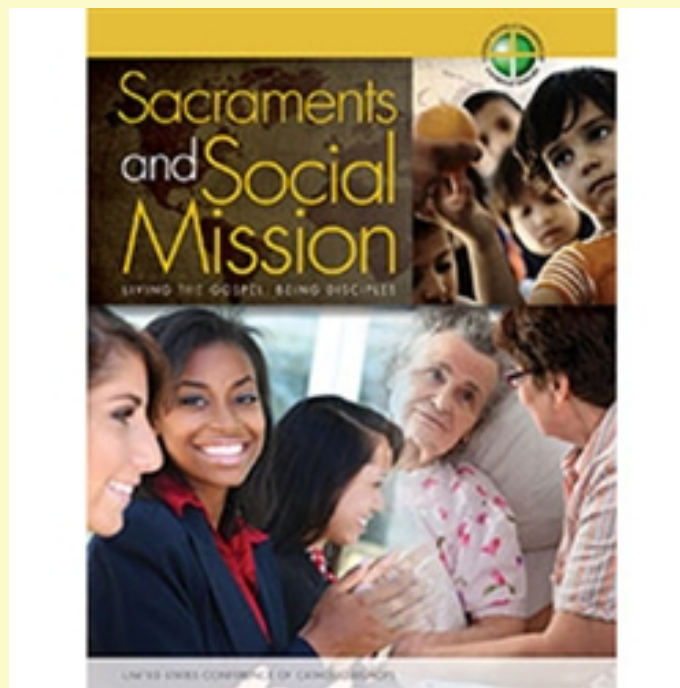
Website: The [Rice Bowl website](#) has a new look this year as well, but all the same great resources are available.

Videos: Check out the [CRS Rice Bowl - Stories of Hope](#) videos. Also, there are many [Rice Bowl videos](#) available online (in English and Spanish), including a Holy Week video and “how to” videos like How to Talk to your Pastor, How to Kick Off Rice Bowl and a video about the 25% that stays in the diocese.

Social Media: CRS Rice Bowl Facebook Group contains the most content on the main English and Spanish channels. Twitter is no longer active.

To Learn More - Visit CRSRiceBowl.org

Catholic Social Teaching Sacraments and Social Mission



In *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), Pope Benedict XVI writes that "love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is an essential to [the Church] as the ministry of the sacraments and the preaching of the Gospel" (no.22). Proclaiming the Word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity, he says are "inseparable" (no.25). In other words, there is an essential connection between our faith and the way we put love into action in the world.

This guide is for priests and lay ministers, teachers and students, adults and young people, and those who are preparing for the sacraments. It is a for all Catholics who seek to better understand the connections between the celebration of the sacraments and our social mission as followers of Jesus and the members of the Body of Christ.

Each of the Seven Sacraments is laid out in an easy to read, two page format with reflection questions for each sacrament.

Download the entire USCCB Document [HERE](#).

To download each Sacrament individually, click [HERE](#) and scroll down to the middle of the webpage.

Call For Volunteers

Transportation and Light Meals Needed



Catholic Charities Refugee & Immigrant Services help resettle our brother and sister refugees to the Indianapolis area. Soon after arrival, adult clients begin taking classes to help them on their path to self-sufficiency. We need volunteers to help with transportation in the mornings and/or afternoons. We also need help providing a light lunch two days a week. Prayerfully consider this wonderful experience!

Please contact Beth Carney at ecarney@archindy.org or (317)236-1592 for more information. (A recent copy of your Safe & Sacred will need to be provided)

Catholic Charities News



Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank Celebrates 40 Years!! '

To learn how you can be a
part of the celebration - Visit [HERE](#)

Annual National Association of Letter Carriers
Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive
Saturday, May 9, 2020



**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE**
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020

Fill a bag with non-perishable food and
**leave it by your mailbox by 9:00am
on Saturday, May 9, 2020.**
*(Bags will be delivered to homes the week before
the Food Drive by your Letter Carrier.)*

Recommended items:

Peanut Butter and Jelly • Hearty Soups
Canned Chicken or Tuna • Canned Fruit in Juice
100% Fruit Juice • Canned Vegetables • Grains
Iron rich Cereal • Whole Grain Cereal
**No glass containers*

You can also donate funds at ccthin.org
or by check to: Catholic Charities,
Attn: NALC, 1801 Poplar Street,
Terre Haute, IN 47803.
For more information, please call
Catholic Charities at (812)232-1447.



ccthin.org



St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities 702 E. Market Street
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All. New Albany, IN 47150

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
AND RESERVE YOUR SEATS TODAY!**

Giving Hope
Changing Lives
ANNUAL GALA

Thursday, April 23, 2020

THE GALT HOUSE

140 N. 4th Street • Louisville, KY 40202

Social Hour begins at 5:30pm • Dinner at 7:00pm

2020 Spirit of Hope Award Recipients

Joan Cahill • Paula Robinson

Emcee: Angie Fenton of Extol Magazine & WHAS11

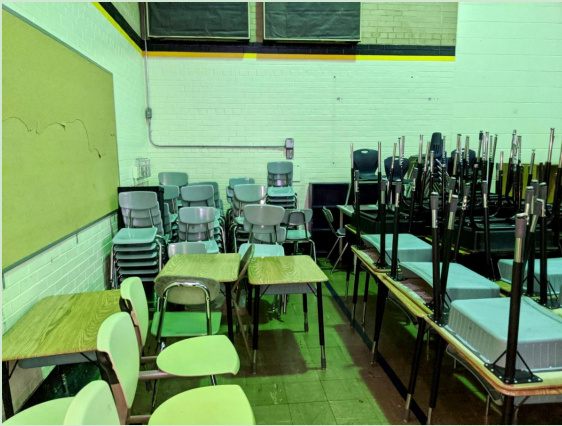
Please RSVP by email:

info@steharities.org by April 3, 2020

Desks & Tables In Need of a Home

St. Andrew Catholic Church is looking for homes for School Desks, Bleachers, and possibly some long folding tables. If you are interested in learning more about these items.

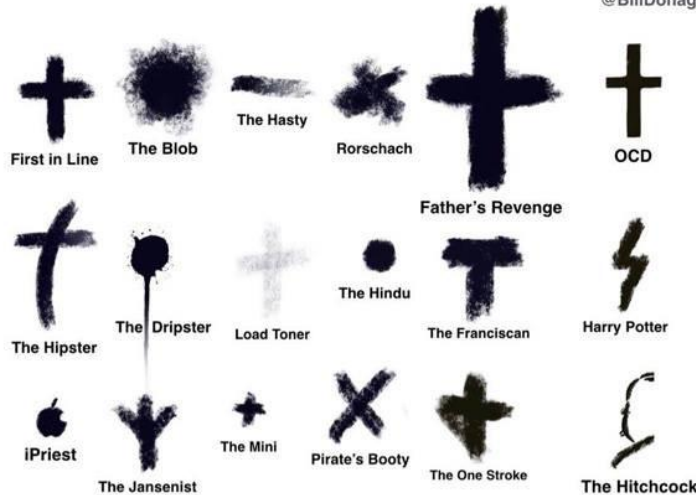
Please contact Theresa Chamblee at Tchamblee@archindy.org.
Please put in the Subject Line of email: St. Andrew Desks



A Little Ash Wednesday Humor

A Catholic Guide to Ashes, *Extended Edition*

@BillDonaghy



Reflection for February

USCCB - Communities of Salt and Light
(1994)

“The most important setting for the Church’s social teaching is not in a food pantry or in a legislative committee room, but in prayer and worship, especially gathered around the altar for the Eucharist. It is in the liturgy that we find the fundamental direction, motivation, and strength for social ministry. Social ministry not genuinely rooted in prayer can easily burn itself out. On the other hand, worship that does not reflect the Lord’s call to conversion, service, and justice can become pious ritual and empty of the gospel.”

Prayer of the Month

Life and Dignity of the Human Person Prayer

God of all life,
Help us to appreciate the great gift that is human life
formed in your image, a reflection of your holiness.
Help us to recognize you
in all whom you have created:
children not yet born,
families affected by poverty and war,
people of different abilities,
people from other lands, and
all who are victims of hatred and racism.
Help us to bear witness to the dignity of all whom you have created,
regardless of stage of life,
or wealth,
or ability,
or color, or creed,
for every person is fully equal in your loving eyes.
Share with us your holy knowledge
that we are all your children,
each bestowed with inherent dignity.
May your justice reign forever!
Amen.

(From USCCB)

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.



CARE
Catholic Accompaniment
and Reflective Experience

**Archdiocesan -
Catholic Charities
Anti Trafficking
Ministry**

Catholic Charities - Social Concerns | Theresa Chamblee
317-236-1404 | fax 317-261-3375 | Tchamblee@archindy.org www.Archindy.org/socialconcerns



Catholic Charities | CELEBRATING
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All. **100 YEARS**