



Catholic Charities Social Concerns

Dear Friend,

The New Year is finally here!! For many of us, the month of January means fresh starts, new projects to tackle, renewed hope, and for those who are brave, it means New Year's resolutions that typically start with the mantra "this year I mean it!"

The Catholic Church also likes to use January to bring attention to many of the issues that affect the Dignity of the Human Person. Did you know that within the month of January we have

[Poverty Awareness Month](#), [World Trafficking Prevention Month](#), [National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness](#), [National Migration Week](#), [National Day of Prayer for Life](#), and

[Catholic Schools Week](#)? Someone once asked me

why the Catholic Church uses January to focus on so many issues at the same time. I really didn't have an answer for them,

but if I had to guess, it is to help us start the year by remembering how many of our brothers and sisters walk a difficult path that can be easily overlooked.



Within this newsletter you will find some resources to increase your education on issues that affect the dignity of the human person, some tangible activities for individuals, families, parishes and school communities which can help make a difference, and some prayer resources that will help us along the journey.

In thinking about Poverty Awareness Month, I would like to share with you a story that has impacted me regarding St. Teresa of Calcutta. For those of you who have heard one of my social concerns presentations, this story may sound familiar to you as it is one I often tell. It is a story that reminds us that kindness can be one of the most effective tools of living and evangelizing our faith.

The story is told from the perspective of Fr. Leo Maasburg who often traveled with Mother Teresa.

"I remember an incident in one of the Sisters' houses in Rome. A drunken beggar tottered to the convent door and, so as to stand up halfway straight, leaned for a long time on the doorbell. When a Sister hurried to answer, he snapped furiously at her, 'Sister, I'm hungry! When are you going to give me something to eat? I've been waiting here forever. What do you do all day that I have to wait here so long? Get going and bring me something!'

"The mealtime was long since over, but the Sister turned around and went to the kitchen to prepare something for him. While she was making his lunch, an idea occurred to her: She put a bar of chocolate into his lunch bag and brought the bag to him. He took it, murmured something like, 'That sure took a long time,' and staggered toward a nearby tree. Then he opened the bag and looked at it for a long time. Right on top was the chocolate.

"Suddenly he was quite sober; he stood up and went back to the Sisters' house, this time tottering less. He gave a short ring on the bell. Another Sister opened the door. The beggar, who moments ago had been so rude, asked politely whether he might talk for a moment with the Sister who had prepared

the lunch bag for him. Someone fetched her and when she appeared at the door, the beggar looked at her with his tired eyes and said, 'Sister, now tell me something about your Jesus.'

My prayer for each of us as we begin this new year is that we experience the grace of God as we see Him in all those we meet, and that we each experience the beauty...and sweetness of a chocolate bar.

Sincerely in Christ,

Theresa Chamblee

Catholic Charities - Director of Social Concerns

PS: Make sure you scroll down, the CRS Matthew 25 Rice Bowl Grant Application Process is now open.

Visit our Website - Catholic Charities - Social Concerns

Poverty Awareness Month Resources



*"I want a Church
which is poor
and for the poor."
-Pope Francis,
Evangelii Gaudium*

During Poverty Awareness Month, join the U.S. Bishops, the [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) and the Catholic community in the United States in taking up Pope Francis' challenge to live in solidarity with the poor! In addition to the [calendar](#), [longer daily reflections](#) are also available. Share [this liturgical aid](#) with parish leaders to incorporate Poverty Awareness Month into the liturgy. All of these resources are also [en Español](#). You can [sign up](#) to have the daily reflections emailed to you during Poverty Awareness Month!

Also, check out Poverty USA and look at this [Poverty Map](#) that shows the levels of poverty in the nation and in your specific county.

CCHD - Multimedia Youth Contest Creating on the Margins

*Teacher, Educators, Youth Ministers,
Campus Ministers, and Young Artists
Please Read*

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development
announces the 2020 contest

CREATING ON THE MARGINS

WHO? Students in grades 7-12

WHAT? Create a work of art about our Catholic response to poverty and unaffordable housing

WHEN? From now until March 2020

DETAILS? Visit www.USCCB.org/YouthContest

2020 Contest Theme: "More than a Roof"



The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Creating on the Margins Contest is a tool to engage young people in grades 7-12 in learning about poverty in the U.S., its root causes, and faith-inspired efforts to address poverty, especially through CCHD.

The theme of this year's contest is "More Than a Roof" and reflects upon how the crisis of unaffordable housing and homelessness affects both families and individuals in our communities. "A house is much more than a roof over one's head. It is a place where a person creates and lives out his or her life." – St. John Paul II

The contest is designed to be used *across disciplines*. Contestant art entries can be of any form—for example, video, short story, painting, song, photography, etc. The contest requires that students respond to four reflective essay questions. Youth in grades 7-12 are eligible to participate.

Schools and parishes submit **art entries, reflection essays, and permission forms** to the Archdiocese no later than **February 26, 2020**. The voting committee will select winners for each grade category (grades 7-9 and grades 10-12). Local winners will be honored at a Catholic Charities event and featured in *The Criterion*. The diocesan winning entries will be sent to the CCHD national office for judging in the national contest. The national CCHD office will then select a national grand prize winner and other winners. The national grand prize winner will be awarded his/her prize on the main stage of a national Catholic conference.

If you are interested in participating in this year's contest, please send the name of your school, a contact for the art contest, and any questions you may have to the **Catholic Charities Social Concerns Intern, Molly Smith** at msmith@archindy.org or call at (317) 236-1457.

To Learn More about the Archindy Multimedia Contest- [VISIT HERE](#)

National CCHD Contest Packets Information/ Instructions

[Young Artists / Artistas Jovenes](#)

[Educators/ Educadores](#)

Catholic Relief Services
Matthew 25
Rice Bowl Grants
Application Process NOW OPEN



Matthew 25:
CRS Rice Bowl Grant

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis - Matthew 25 Rice Bowl Grant application process is now open.

**Deadline to submit grant applications is
February 13, 2020**

[Download Application](#)

The Matthew 25: CRS Rice Bowl Grants are made possible through the generosity of those who participate (individuals, parishes, schools) in the Lenten **CRS - Faith in Action - Rice Bowl Program**.

Thirteen \$1000 Grants will be awarded to parishes, schools and faith-based organizations that are aiding in alleviating hunger and poverty within the Archdiocese. Examples would be soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters and mentoring programs for families or individuals in need.

When you give to CRS Rice Bowl, 75% of your donations support CRS' humanitarian relief programs in over 110 countries worldwide, assisting over 136 Million people each year. The remaining 25% of your donations go to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts here within the Archdioceses of Indianapolis as part of the MATTHEW 25: CRS RICE BOWL GRANT.

**Application Deadline: All Applications must be received via
email or mail by February 13, 2020.**



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.

Calendar: The [Rice Bowl calendar](#) has been redesigned with a new look that encourages families to study scripture and includes ideas to for discussion.

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.

Materials: To be good stewards of agency resources, **only print versions of the posters, calendars and bowls can be ordered through the online order form.** The Coordinators Guide and Educators Guide can no longer be ordered in print but are available for download from the website.

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 order more materials visit the [CRS Rice Bowl Materials page](#) or call 1-800-222-0025

World Trafficking Prevention Month

January is... National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
www.NationalDayCalendar.com

NATIONAL DAY CALENDAR

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month is upon us! According to the **White House's Presidential Proclamation**, "In addition to condemning human trafficking, 2020 highlights the 20-year anniversary of the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA).

How YOU can participate:

Download our **Human Trafficking Prevention Month and World Day of Prayer Tool Kit!** It offers a range of exciting and important ways for you to work to end human trafficking in your community and help fight modern slavery in your dioceses, parishes, and community groups. You will find human trafficking talking points, samples letters to the editor, community engagement ideas, social media, prayer intercessions, and more!

National Migration Week 2020 January 5 -11, 2020



Though National Migration Week will end January 11th, the resources in the USCCB/ JFI National Migration Week Toolkit can be used at any time during the year.

[Download the National Migration Week Toolkit](#)

Catholic Charities News



Soup Bowl Benefit

Catholic Charities - Terre Haute

February 1, 2020

from 3:30 to 7pm

Tickets: \$25 Handcrafted Bowl
Location: Maryland Community Church
Proceeds benefit Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank

For Tickets and info call 812-232-1447
or visit www.ccthin.org

From Our Friends



Archdiocesan 5th Annual Marriage Day Celebration

February 9, 2020
Mass at 2:00 pm
Reception to follow

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral
1347 North Meridian Street,
Indianapolis IN 46202

A Celebration for ALL married couples.
Registration:
www.archindy.org/weddingcelebrations



Office of Marriage & Family Life
1100 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 236-1521

Archdiocesan 5th Annual Marriage Day Celebration

Sunday, February 9th at 2:00pm will be the 5th Annual Marriage Day Celebration at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, hosted by the Office of Marriage and Family Life of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. All married couples are invited to attend the Mass with Mons. Stumpf and the reception to follow in the Assembly Hall of the Catholic Center with some light refreshments and a free dance lesson from "Naptown Stomp." No cost to attend

—
RSVP required at
www.archindy.org/weddingcelebrations.

We Promise

Black Catholic Couples Retreat

Saturday, March 7th is the "We Promise" Black Catholic Couples retreat, hosted by the Black Catholic Ministries of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and promoted by the Office of Marriage and Family Life. The retreat day features keynote speakers and authors Andrew and Terri Lyke (from Chicago, Marriage on a Lampstand Ministry) and will be held at St. Monica parish in Indianapolis. Suggested donation \$25. Contact Pearlette Springer for more information. RSVP: 317-236-1474 | PSPRINGER@ARCHINDY.ORG



Vigil for LIFE

Tuesday, January 21, 2019

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH
126 W. GEORGIA ST. INDIANAPOLIS, IN

7PM - 9PM *Eucharistic Adoration*



A NIGHT OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP
LED BY **Sarah Kroger**

& LOCAL PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF
HOPE AND HEALING AFTER ABORTION

This Event is free. Donations will be accepted for the Offices
of Human Life and Dignity, Archdiocese of Indianapolis,
and Family Life, Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

SPONSORED BY



RSVP: <https://vigilforlife2020.eventbrite.com>

Vigil for Life with Sarah Kroger

Tuesday January 21, 2020 7pm- 9pm
Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions,
praise and worship led by Sarah
Kroger and witness testimonies to the
hope and healing after abortion.



Indiana March for Life

Local Solemn Observance of the
Anniversary of Roe vs Wade Mass with
the Archbishop Thompson and Bishop
Doherty

January 22, 2020 10:30 am at St. John the
Evangelist Catholic Church 126 W. Georgia
Street Indianapolis, IN 46225

Followed by March to the Capitol Building
and Rally at the Steps.

March for Life

Wednesday January 22, 2020 12:00 pm

March will be from Georgia Street to the Capitol Building

Reflection for January

The Joy of the Gospel Evangelii Gaudium

Pope Francis - Apostolic Exhortation

200. Since this Exhortation is addressed to members of the Catholic Church, I want to say, with regret, that the worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care. The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them his friendship, his blessing, his

word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith. Our preferential option for the poor must mainly translate into a privileged and preferential religious care.

Prayer of the Month

Prayer for Work

Creator God,
thank you for providing us
with the gift to share our talents.
Provide our community, our nation, our world
the fortitude to provide work for all
which is decent and fair.
Make us faithful stewards
of your creation
to enhance the human dignity
of our global family.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit
now and forever.

Amen

(From Being Neighbor: The Catechism and Social Justice, USCCB, April 1998)

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.



we are one family under God



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



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OF INDIANAPOLIS
The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

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