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Did you know that Catholic Charities in our diocese served more than 54,000 people last year?

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# Parish Social Ministry

## ~Life, Justice, Charity and Peace~

OFFICE OF PEACE & JUSTICE/PARISH SOCIAL  
MINISTRY  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

### *Eucharist: Body of Christ, Broken for the World*

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life” (Lumen Gentium, #11). In the Eucharistic liturgy and our prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, we encounter God’s presence in personal and profound ways. But the Eucharist is also social, as Pope Benedict XVI reminds us in *Deus Caritas Est*: “A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented.”

The Eucharist, celebrated as a community, teaches us about human dignity, calls us to right relationship

with God, ourselves and others, invites us to community and solidarity, and sends us on mission to help transform our communities, neighborhoods and world.



***“A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented.”***

Church teaching, rooted in both Scripture and Tradition, emphasizes both the personal and social natures of the Eucharist.

The USCCB has recently released 2 publications about the Eucharist. Use these two handouts to explore and understand how the Eucharist both transforms us and sends us on mission.

See <http://www.usccb.org/campus/prayer-eucharist.shtml> for more information.

## Parish Social Ministry Training Day a Success!

On Saturday, September 25, more than 80 parish social ministers from around our diocese attended the annual Parish Social Ministry Training Day entitled “Our Journey Together.” These attendees spent the day in workshops learning how to be more effective parish social ministers. The keynote was given by Larry DiPaul, Director of Life and Justice for the Diocese of

Camden, and Co-Director of the Romero Center in Camden, NJ. In his talk entitled “Parish Social Ministry: Living the Gospel,” Larry inspired attendees to enthusiastically answer the call to follow Jesus to the “lands of darkness in our world.” After all, in the Gospel Jesus asks us to follow him 87 times. In addition, he stated, “If I can recommend anything in terms of parish

social ministry... it’s the relationship with people who have different stories than your own. It’s a miracle. It’s the passageway to repentance, self-awareness, conversion, transformation, and glory.”

**Join us next year for the  
Parish Social Ministry  
Training Day on  
Saturday,  
October 1, 2011!!**



*“Besides the good of the individual, there is the good that is linked to society: the common good. It is the good of all of us... To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity.”*

**Caritas in Veritate, Pope Benedict XVI, 2009**

St. Jude, Hampstead, NC had 50 parishioners attend a Parish Social Ministry Workshop



## Catholic Campaign for Human Development

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) helps people to lift themselves out of poverty. It invests in the dignity of people living below the poverty line. The programs support self-sufficiency and self-determination for people who are working to bring permanent change to their communities. The monies used to fund the programs are collected each year in November.

The philosophy emphasizes empowerment and participation for those in poverty. By helping the poor to participate in the decisions and actions that affect their lives and communities. CCHD empowers them to move beyond poverty. Since 1970, CCHD has provided nearly 8,000 grants to self-help projects developed by grassroots groups of poor persons nation-wide. Each year CCHD distributes national grants to more than

300 projects based in local communities. In addition, hundreds of smaller local programs are funded through the 25 percent share of the CCHD collection retained by dioceses. The program's successes and the relationships developed have significantly changed the lives of the poor in our country.

\*All funded projects must conform to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Applications are reviewed by the local pastor, the diocesan CCHD committee, and approved by the Bishop.

### CCHD Funded Local Grants, 2010:

- Step Up Ministry Life Skills Program, Raleigh
- Wake Interfaith Hospitality Aftercare Program, Raleigh
- Feed His Sheep/Stellar Peer Recovery Ministry, Clayton

- Hoke Reading/Literacy Council, Raeford
- Durham Congregations in Action, Durham for Yo-Program
- Catholic Charities Active Parenting Project, Fayetteville
- St. Julia's Language Institute, Siler City
- Voces Latinas, Wilmington

### CCHD Funded National Grants, 2010-2011

- Triangle CAN
- Community Success Initiative

**Diocesan Grant Total- \$90,000**

This year the annual CCHD Collection will occur during Masses the weekend of November 13 & 14. Please ask your Pastors for more information and let him know if you are willing to assist with the collection.

## St. Jude— Parish Social Ministry

On October 9th, St. Jude in Hampstead, NC, hosted a Saturday morning workshop on Parish Social Ministry. Sister Joan Jurski of the Office of Peace & Justice/Parish Social Ministry facilitated a

discussion which included the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching, Faithful Citizenship, and more. After a discussion of the Churches long standing tradition of service and our Baptismal call to help others, especially those most vulnerable, the attendees reflected on how the work of St. Jude lives out

the social mission of the church in ministries at the parish. In closing, those in attendance discussed how to better communicate, coordinate, and involve others to maximize the impact of the great work already done at the parish.

Congrats to St. Jude!  
What a great workshop!

## Buy Fair Trade for Holiday Shopping

*The holidays are right around the corner!!!*

When you buy Fair Trade items, you will be supporting workers around the world by giving them a living wage, better working conditions and community development opportunities. What better way to celebrate the birth of our Savior than to spread joy and dignity to those who need it most in our world.

**What is Fair Trade? How can I promote fair trade in my parish?**

Fair Trade is based on the principal that people should earn a fair profit for the items they produce. Fair Trade guarantees fair wages and provides access to technical and financial assistance and most importantly, connects these producers with consumers like us who understand that the choices we make every day have the power to make the trading system work better for our brothers and sisters around the world.



Catholic Relief Services promotes fair trade and fair trade products far beyond coffee and chocolate.

See [www.crsfairtrade.org](http://www.crsfairtrade.org) for more information.

Many of our parishes have had Fair Trade Festivals, workshops, and are even selling fair trade coffee after Mass. Contact our office for more ideas on how to get started or to share a best practice!

**A parishioner at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh, Sally is a Fair Trade Ambassador for Catholic Relief Services. Please contact Sally at 919-828-2607 or email: [sapoland@earthlink.net](mailto:sapoland@earthlink.net). She would love to talk to you!**

## Upcoming Events

January 15

North Carolina March for Life and Prayer Breakfast, Raleigh

Rally for Life, Nash Square

January 24

National March for Life, Washington D.C.

More information on both of the above events can be found (or will be available soon) on the Diocesan Pro-Life Office Website:

<http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/how/pro-life/>

Lent 2011

40 Days for Life

More information will be available in the new year!

April 30, 2011

**Celebrate God's Gifts Gala  
A Fundraiser for Catholic Charities,  
Diocese of Raleigh**

Cardinal Gibbons High School

More details will be available soon.

October 1, 2011

**Parish Social Ministry Training Day**

Watch for more information on 2011 Events on the Diocesan Website: <http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/home/>

## Calendar of Teachable Moments NOW Available!

We have created a calendar to assist Catholics in the Diocese of Raleigh to learn about special days, saints, and events which call us to reflect on Life, Justice, and Peace. The calendar is now complete for August 2010-July 2011. A Spanish copy of the calendar is available as well. See the link on our

website for a copy: [http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/how/peace\\_justice/index.aspx](http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/how/peace_justice/index.aspx).

The information in this calendar can be useful for Catholic Schools, Faith Formation Offices, Bulletin Editors, Parish Social Concerns volunteers, Pro-life

volunteers, and Family Life Coordinators.

We pray that the calendar will cause reflection, education, and advocacy throughout the school year beginning now and continuing for one full calendar year.



**"Injure not the poor because they are poor, nor crush the needy at the gate; For the LORD will defend their cause, and will plunder the lives of those who plunder them."**

—Proverbs  
22:22-23



Catholic  
Charities  
USA.

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## Poverty in NC: Women and Minorities Struggling

**1 in 6 North Carolinians overall are in poverty, according to the latest Census data.**

As a result of rising unemployment rates and declining hours, median household income in North Carolina dropped to \$43,674 in 2009, positioning the state as having the 38th lowest me-

dian income in the country, with Virginia, Georgia, and Florida all boasting higher median incomes. Nationally, North Carolina ranks 14th in the highest overall poverty rate and 13th for the highest child poverty rate. The jump in poverty in North Carolina comes amidst a recession that has caused dramatic de-

clines in state revenues, threatening the public services struggling families rely on. At the same time, the demand for these services—food stamps, child-care subsidies, community colleges—has surged.

(Source: NC Council of Churches)

## Catholic Charities USA: Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America

*Poverty in America is a moral and social crisis that threatens the health and well-being of our country. It's time to renew our commitment to action on behalf of the poor and vulnerable.*

Our long tradition of Catholic social teaching helps us think and act justly in the face of poverty. This teaching is rooted in the Bible. Catholic social teaching clearly defines poverty as a moral issue. Poverty is

a fundamental violation of human dignity and also a form of violence against the God who is present in every human person. The existence of extreme poverty amidst plenty is a serious violation of moral values and a threat to the good of society.

Catholic Charities USA urges Congress and the Administration to make decisions on programs based on the goal of reducing poverty. This

must be done by investing more in social welfare policies that strengthen Hunger/nutrition assistance programs, increase access to health care, promote greater economic security for the poor and vulnerable, and enable more people to get affordable housing.

**Endorse the campaign today or read more about it online at <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>**



Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice is the primary theme for the 2011 National Migration Week, held January 2-8.

The materials created for National Migration Week provide an important educational resource that can be

used throughout the year by individuals, families, schools, and parishes to learn about the complex issues surrounding migration.

We invite you to download these resources directly from our website a [http://](http://www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/index.shtml)

[www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/index.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/index.shtml) or you can order them in bulk for a nominal price through the USCCB publishing office. To purchase National Migration Week material, please contact USCCB publishing at 800-235-8722 .

# Immigration Reform Update



In advocating on behalf of migrants, immigrants, and refugees, it is important to remember that the Catholic position is based on Catholic Social Teaching, which is derived from the Gospels and the words of Christ; statements and encyclicals of the Popes; and statements and pastoral letters of bishops around the world, including the U.S.

bishops. Understanding these teachings, which support the U.S. bishops' public policy positions on immigration, is helpful in understanding and defending these positions, especially within Catholic audiences.

The information about Immigration Reform is quickly changing and is always available at <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/index.shtml>, the

USCCB's office dealing with pending legislation on immigration issues. They also have a very useful parish kit on immigration.

Or, contact our office to find out what other parishes are doing to both assist the immigrants in our community as well as advocate for their fair treatment.

*"The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society."*

*Sharing Catholic Social Teaching, U. S. Catholic Bishops, 1999*

## USCCB Urges "Love Without Measure"

The theme of this year's Respect Life poster issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is, "The measure of love is to love without measure." This beautiful, Christcentered message empowers us to embrace all human life, regardless of the condition or stage of the person's life, from the moment of conception to natural death. We have work to do in this complicated, secular world, which often pulls us towards self-centeredness, immediate gratification and disrespect

for the gift of life. But we are invited to love without measure when situations require us to oppose cultural norms: abortion, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia. Each of these is an act of violence against the dignity of the human person, and we cannot turn away when our time, our courage or our money are needed in this cause. Love, the act of willing good for others, requires sacrifice and sometimes suffering. But God created human life out of love, and we are entrusted with the mission of welcoming life in that same loving

spirit. One of the ways we demonstrate this love is simply by our witness, our willingness to demonstrate publicly that Life is God's gift to us. Two wonderful opportunities for this witness will occur in January: **the Mass and Rally for Life in Raleigh on January 15, 2011 and the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 24, 2011.** Your presence is important! Please watch for more information on these events.

- Jacqueline Bonk, Director, Diocesan Office of Pro-Life.

## North Carolina Catholic Voice: An Opportunity for Advocacy

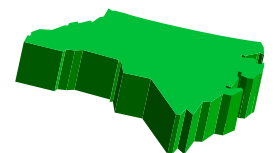
More than 800,000 residents of North Carolina profess the Catholic faith in the 187 parishes and missions of the Dioceses of Raleigh and Charlotte. Catholic Voice NC facilitates a grassroots effort by concerned Catholics in North Carolina to educate and influence our lawmakers.

When an important issue arises you will receive an e-mail alert with the option to contact your legislator to express your Catholic views.

**Register today, it's free!**  
Each of these issue areas are currently covered:  
- Respect Life

- Stem Cell Research
- End of Life
- immigration
- Family Life

**Go to the website [www.CatholicVoiceNC.org](http://www.CatholicVoiceNC.org) for more information and to register.**



**North Carolina Catholics CAN Make Difference!**



*“Our common faith in Jesus Christ moves us to search for ways that favor a spirit of solidarity.”*

*Strangers No Longer, Catholic Bishops of Mexico & U.S., 2003*



## Young Adult Mission Trip

Are you a medical professional, construction worker or engineer and interested in going to Honduras? Or maybe you just have a willing and helpful spirit and have been thinking about going on a mission trip?

Contact Robert Jones ([Rob.Jones@raldioc.org](mailto:Rob.Jones@raldioc.org)) with the Office of Evangelization - 919-821-9740 or Harriet Johnson

([harriet@nc.rr.com](mailto:harriet@nc.rr.com)) to learn more about the 2011 young adult mission trip. Any adult with previous mission experience may apply as a project leader, and young adults who are at least 21 years of age with no previous mission experience are especially encouraged to apply. An information meeting will be held Sunday, October 31 from

1:00-3:00 pm at Sacred Heart, Pinehurst. Applications are now being accepted and may be downloaded from the Diocesan website: <http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/how/youngadult/missiontrip/>.

The date of the trip is March 12-19, 2011.

## Cape Fear Deanery Arts Event

**Father Benedict Groeschel**, author, psychologist, and host of the television talk program, Sunday Night Live with Father Benedict Groeschel, will be the guest speaker at an Evening of Sacred Arts to benefit the Fr. Groeschel Scholarship Fund of the Institute for

the Psychological Sciences and the Pro Life Efforts of the Cape Fear Deanery.

This event will take place at St. Mark Catholic Church, Wilmington on Friday, December 3, 2010. It will begin with a Mass at 5:00 pm which will be followed by the

evening program featuring visual arts, performing arts, and music as well as some delightful food prepared by a local chef. Since there is limited seating, please reserve a seat today by calling Joan Clarke at 910-777-1025.

## International Adoption Meeting

Catholic Charities of Raleigh and Children's Home Society and Family Services of Minnesota are partnering to provide international adoption services to local residents. Representatives from both agencies will be here to dis-

cuss several programs, including adoptions from Russia, China, Ethiopia, and Korea.

Join us on Wednesday, November 3, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Library-Room 30 at St. Raphael Catholic

Church located at 5801 Falls of the Neuse Road in Raleigh.

Please call Catholic Charities at 919-790-8533 to register and for directions.

# Care of Creation: What can you and your parish do?

Our Holy Father challenged us in his World Peace Day 2010 message to take on more responsibility in caring for creation. We encourage you to continue educating yourself and your parish on issues affecting our environment.



Please see the sites below for some innovative and creative ways that Catholics are responding to the issue care of creation.

- Learn more about how

climate change is related to global poverty at the Catholics Confront Global Poverty Web site: [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty) or [www.crs.org/globalpoverty](http://www.crs.org/globalpoverty).

- Take the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor at the Catholic Climate Covenant Web site: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>.
- Take action to ensure that climate change policies protect poor and vulnerable people, and sign up to receive the most recent legislative updates/action alerts at [www.usccb.org/sdwp/takeaction.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/takeaction.shtml).
- Join with family, friends, or fellow parishioners to pray for solutions that care for creation and care for the poor! Access USCCB prayer resources at
- [www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/climate/](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/climate/).

*"... We are called to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" in the words of Scriptures (Matthew 5:13-16). This task belongs to every believer and every parish... The pursuit of justice and peace is an essential part of what makes a parish Catholic."*

*- Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish, USCCB*

## What are the Fruits of Parish Social Ministry?

Catholic Charities defines Parish Social Ministry like this- "Parish Social Ministry is an opportunity for the faithful to live the Gospel mandate to love and serve all people through an organized program at the local parish putting Catholic Social Teaching into action."

So, what will the fruits of effective Parish

Social Ministry be?

Parish Social Ministry:

- Builds community;
- Nurtures and intensifies the parish to live out the Gospel values and develop lay ministry;
- Addresses social and community needs through direct service, action for justice, and work for peace;

- Respects the different gifts and needs of parishioners
- Respects the different gifts and needs of various geographic areas;
- Recognizes the importance of joining in coalition with other groups to achieve the desired ends;
- Fosters a preferential option for the poor.
- And more!

## Catholic Relief Services Confronts Global Poverty



Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. CRS alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. See [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) for more information.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) call on **one million Catholics** in the United States to confront global

poverty. Advocate with us to end hunger, disease, conflict, and other issues that affect the lives of our brothers and sisters worldwide.

**Catholics Confront Global Poverty** would be a great project for the Social Justice or Social Concerns committee at your parish. Planning activities to educate the parish about poverty may encourage parish members to engage in advocacy with Members of Congress about the seven issues of focus at [usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://usccb.org/globalpoverty), details above. The many activities and ideas encourage

parishioners to pray, learn, share, and advocate for an end to global poverty.

See [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty) or [www.crs.org/globalpoverty](http://www.crs.org/globalpoverty) for more information about Catholics Confront Global Poverty and many, many resources. In addition, you can learn more about the people mentioned in the above list of actions!

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## *Advent Prayer*

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

AMEN.



*"In Advent, Christians relive a dual impulse of the spirit: on the one hand, they raise their eyes towards the final destination of their pilgrimage through history, which is the glorious return of the Lord Jesus; on the other, remembering with emotion his birth in Bethlehem, they kneel before the Crib."*

*-- Pope Benedict XVI -  
First Sunday of Advent,  
November 27, 2005*

*A Family Advent Calendar is available  
Please contact our office or see our website for a copy.*