



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —
**CATHOLIC SOCIAL
ACTION OFFICE**



LOVE IN ACTION

A Principle of Beacons of Light

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

Now We Go On Mission

August is here, and with it comes the start of another school year, the resuming of parish activities, and the start of the fall harvest! We hope you all have enjoyed the summer and stayed cool.

This election season has been bizarre (to say the least), and God only knows what's going to happen in the last three months. Despite calls for greater unity and more peaceful language, the vitriolic, divisive language continues, and we as the Church have a moral obligation to seek understanding, compassion, and peace (while of course remaining true to our Catholic values). As we previously shared, we've gathered our election year (and beyond) work under one project name - '[Our Eucharistic Mission in a Polarized World](#).' You'll find information below about our series with Fr.

Aaron Wessman (*next session is on Thurs. 8/8 at 7:00pm at St. Bernard in Spring Grove Village*), the re-launch of iVoteCatholic, and other resources.

We pray for all those who are being affected by climate change, from the intense heat to the draughts to the earlier and more powerful hurricanes. We also pray for all those affected by the war and violence that is happening across the globe.

July brought us the completion of the powerful Eucharistic Pilgrimage and the capstone of the bishops' National Eucharistic Revival, the Eucharistic Congress. (For highlights of the pilgrimage as it came through Cincinnati, click [here](#)). Now it's time to carry this love out into the world. This third phase of the Eucharistic Revival, Going Out on Mission, runs through Pentecost 2025. Look for information in the coming months on how the archdiocese will be engaging the faithful in this critical work of the Church.

One other important date to note this month: August 15 is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you're up for a little road trip, the Catholic bishops have organized a statewide eucharistic pilgrimage to Carey, OH and the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation on Wed. 8/14. [Click here](#) for more information.

We humbly ask that you continue to pray for us. This continues to be an exciting and challenging year, and your prayers - and engagement! - will make our success possible. God help us!

If there's anything that we can do to support the work happening in your community, please let us know. We're trying to be more present to families of parishes, especially during the Beacons of Light process, and we'd love to (re)connect with you and work to build up God's kingdom of peace, justice, and kinship in your corner of the kingdom.

We will continue to send out Regional Updates with time-sensitive reminders and Action Alerts encouraging everyone to bring their voice and power to bear on important issues.

We wish you a wonderful month, and - as always - we look forward to seeing you soon as we continue to stand up for justice, solidarity, and

equity.

Peace and all good,

Tammie, Sr. Christine, Jill, Glen, & Andrew



Our Eucharistic Mission in a Polarized World

In January of 2012, Pope Benedict XVI stated that "The Church's witness, then, is of its nature public: she seeks to convince by proposing rational arguments in the public square. The legitimate separation of Church and State cannot be taken to mean that the Church must be silent on certain issues, nor that the State may choose not to engage, or be engaged by, the voices of committed believers in determining the values which will shape the future of the nation."

In September of 2013, Pope Francis emphasized this sentiment: "We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern."

The US Catholic Bishops, in Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, reinforces this call: "The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person." (#1913-1915)" (#13)

As we can see above, both on the global and national level we are called to engage in the political sphere and to do so guided by our faith and acting with grace and mercy. In the coming year (and beyond), we will face tremendous tumult and myriad challenges when it comes to politics, and our office will do our best to support you in this work by offering resources and guidance. To better highlight this support, we will be sharing these resources under the theme Our Eucharistic

Mission in a Polarized World. We invite you to engage with these resources and share them within your family of parishes and broader community.

To access any of these resources - current and forthcoming - please visit www.catholicaoc.org/faithfulcitizenship.

The Church's Mission in a Polarized World

The first three parts of our six-part series featuring Fr. Aaron Wessman, PhD, Glenmary Home Missioners went wonderfully. Thanks for all who attended in person and virtually! Fr. Aaron wrote a book titled [The Church's Mission in a Polarized World](#), and over the course of the series he will be exploring six themes in the book and connecting them to the blessed sacrament. You can definitely attend the next session(s) even if you missed the sessions.

All events will be hybrid - offered both in person and streamed over Zoom.

If possible, we'd love to have as many people as possible join us in person so we can have a more engaging Q&A and discussion at the conclusion of the talks.

<https://zoom.us/j/99177580089> | Meeting ID: 991 7758 0089 | Dial in: 312 626 6799

Please contact [Jill](#) with any questions about the series.

[Download the flyer here](#). Please share it far and wide!

The recordings of the talks can be found [here](#).

OUR EUCHARISTIC MISSION IN A POLARIZED WORLD

A series with Fr. Aaron Wessman, Glenmary Home Missioners, based off his book [The Church's Mission in a Polarized World](#). Christ heals the divisions in our churches, our communities, and among our family, especially along political lines.

Join us in person or online (link at the bottom)

All presentations will be recorded and found here: <https://tinyurl.com/434yh3bn>

THURS, MAY 23
7:00 PM

Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains, Synod Hall

THE EUCHARIST: AN
ANTIDOTE TO POLARIZATION

THURS, JUNE 20
7:00 PM

Bellarmino Chapel, Xavier University

AN OVERVIEW OF
POLARIZATION IN THE U.S.

In collaboration with Xavier University and Bellarmine Chapel

WED, JULY 24
AFTER 7PM MASS

St. Michael, Spinner Ave, Sharonville

POLARIZED REPUGNANCE OR
EUCHARISTIC PRESENCE

In collaboration with the Liturgy Office

THURS, AUG 8
7:00 PM

St. Bernard, Derby Ave, Cincinnati

POLARIZED EXCLUSION OR
EUCHARISTIC FELLOWSHIP

In collaboration with the Respect Life Office

WED, SEPT. 11
7:00 PM

Immaculate Conception, S Smithville Rd, Dayton

POLARIZED DOMINATION OR
EUCHARISTIC SACRIFICE

THURS, OCT. 24
7:00 PM

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Hamilton Mason Rd, Liberty Township

POLARIZED DESPAIR OR
EUCHARISTIC HOPE

In collaboration with the Mission Office and Glenmary Home Missioners



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —
CATHOLIC SOCIAL
ACTION OFFICE

For more on this series and Faithful Citizenship:
www.catholicaoc.org/faithfulcitizenship

LIVESTREAM LINK at
<https://zoom.us/j/99177580089>

Meeting ID: 991 7758 0089

Dial in: 312 626 6799



iVoteCatholic

iVoteCatholic is back!!

We again find ourselves in an election year where the country is deeply divided and unable to find common ground, and neither party (nor any candidate) fully represents

our Catholic commitment to life and dignity.

Thankfully, we don't have to rely on a party platform to tell us how to vote; in fact, we aren't called to vote Democrat or Republican. We are called to vote **Catholic**, and the archdiocese has a resource to help you do that: iVoteCatholic.org. On this website, you'll find information about key issues – the life and dignity of the human person, care for creation, love for people who are poor and vulnerable, etc. – as well as resources to use in liturgies, meetings, classrooms, and homes.

Check out iVoteCatholic.org and help yourself and your community face the coming election with faith, compassion, and a commitment to loving your neighbors.

*If you have any questions, please contact **Andrew**.*



Farm Bill

In late May, the USCCB sent [a letter to Congress](#) - co-signed by multiple agencies - on the Farm Bill, both supporting some aspects and advocating for change in others. The Farm Bill touches on a number of areas, including access to food, support for farmers, and foreign aid. It is a massive bill, renewed every five years, that touches the lives of tens of millions of people.

We STRONGLY encourage you to reach out to your elected officials and encourage them to keep the different components of the Farm Bill in line with our commitment to the dignity of all people, special care for the poor, the dignity of work, care for creation, and solidarity with sisters and brothers around the world.

For greater accessibility, Pat Hornschemeier, leader of our Southeast Rural Life conference, has drafted a consolidated version of the USCCB's letter. You can [download the letter here](#). Please edit the letter as you see fit, sign it, and send it to your elected officials. Share the letter with your networks as well and encourage them to send letters as well.

You can also take action by signing this [Action Alert](#) from the USCCB that specifically asks Congress to protect SNAP in the Farm Bill.

For additional resources, please check out the materials from Bread for the World, one of our strong partners in Farm Bill advocacy.

[Bread Statement on House and Senate Farm Bill Frameworks - Bread for the World.](#)

[Bread Statement on House Farm Bill - Bread for the World](#)



Come Share Catholic Faith in the Country!

You are invited to join us for an outdoor Mass at the farm home of Byron and Dawn Brodt on **Friday, September 6 at 7:00 pm**. Their farm is located at **10550 State Route 247, West Union OH 45693**. The Mass is being sponsored by Our Lady of the Hills Family of Parishes. In case of inclement weather, Mass will be moved to Holy Trinity Catholic Church in West Union. Please bring a chair and a snack to share. For more information, contact Patrick Hornschemeier, Chairperson of Southeast Catholic Rural Life, 513-752-0647.



7th Annual Festival of Faiths

On **Sunday, August 25**, the 7th annual Cincinnati Festival of Faiths will be held at the **Cintas Center on XU's campus from 12-5pm**. EquaSion, one of Cincinnati's preeminent interfaith organizations, hosts this powerful event which is the city's largest interfaith celebration. It's a gathering of 34 faith traditions and 13 world religions from the Greater Cincinnati area. It's an exhibition with great food and entertainment, and admission is free. For more information, check out <https://equasion.org/about-the-festival-2/>.

If you're interested in volunteering, we'd love to have your help. Shifts are available throughout the day with different lengths and opportunities. [Volunteer](#) for an hour or two, and then enjoy the festivities.

The festivities will conclude on Thursday, 8/29, with a **Peace Walk at Ault Park**. You can find more information [here](#) and sign up to volunteer [here](#).

[Click here for information on the Sacred Connections program.](#), an extended part of the festival that lasts throughout the year.

(Sr. Christine, Andrew, and Glen at the 2023 Festival of Faiths.)



What We Have Seen and Heard - 40th Anniversary of the Pastoral Letter Fr. Clarence Rivers - 20th Anniversary of his Death

In the fall of 2024, two important anniversaries will highlight the great contributions of African American Catholics in the Church. We join the African American Pastoral Office in three events honoring these anniversaries.

On Monday, September 9 - The Feast of St. Peter Claver - Archbishop Schnurr will celebrate mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Peter in Chains at 7:00pm to honor the 40th anniversary of the pastoral by the 10 Black Catholic U.S. bishops.

On Friday & Saturday, November 22 & 23, an academic symposium titled, Seeking for a City, will be held at Curran Place on the campus of the University of Dayton with session.

On Sunday, November 24 - The Feast of Christ the King - Cardinal Wilton Gregory will celebrate mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Peter in Chains at 11:00am to honor the 20th anniversary of Fr. Clarence Rivers passing.

For more information, check out the [website](#). For questions, contact [Deacon Royce Winters](#).



A Vision for Love in Action: Becoming Communities of Salt & Light

Is your parish ready to take your visioning for Love in Action to the next level? The Department of Life, Dignity, & Charity is offering a 3-part series Love in Action opportunity to help your parish family Love in Action team understand why this vision is important, how this vision has developed in the history of the Church, what are the larger and small local organizations with which your parish can cooperate, and how to build on what you already have going on in your parishes (along with your resources of time, talent, and treasure) to create a growing vision of Love in Action in your parish family. This series is only offered on the deanery level so we invite you to ask your pastor if he is interested in bringing this series to your deanery and how he might work with the other pastors and families in his deanery to bring it to fruition. If you would like more information about the series, please contact Mary Anne Bressler at mbressler@ccswoh.org.



The image is a promotional poster for a concert. The main title is "Share the JOURNEY" in large, bold letters, with "Share the" in black and "JOURNEY" in blue. Below it is the subtitle "A Concert for Compassion". The date and time are "SEPT 28 7:00 PM" in a blue circle. The location is "Bellarmine Chapel, 3801 St. Francis Xavier Way, Cincinnati, OH 45207". Logos for Bellarmine Chapel, Saint Xavier Church, The Pierson Young Project, and OCP are at the bottom. To the right is a collage of photos showing a church interior with people performing and an audience.

Bellarmine Chapel will once again host the seventh annual Share the Journey: A Concert for Compassion **on Sept. 28th at 7:00pm**. The concert will be live and livestreamed and will raise funds for four organizations on the front line of working with immigrants and refugees. This year's concert's feature performer will be Jesse Manibusan. The initial event was inspired by the 2-year global campaign called "**Share the Journey**" launched by Pope Francis in 2017 to heighten global awareness of the arduous journey facing migrants, immigrants, and refugees throughout the world, and to invite Christians to share the journey with them in a spirit of compassion and hope. The intent of the concert is to raise awareness of issues faced by immigrants, provide assistance to organizations working with migrants, and offer hope to all of us as we address these issues. Additional information can be found at [Share the Journey Concert: A Concert for Compassion - Bellarmine Chapel](#)



Advocacy Opportunities

The Catholic Conference of Ohio recently shared updates on several pieces of legislation being considered in Columbus. Please consider reaching out to your elected officials and letting them know your support or opposition to these bills.

Governor DeWine Signs HB 50 into Law

House Bill 50 (sponsored by State Representatives Latyna Humphrey (D-Columbus) and Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati)), which creates a certificate of qualification for housing (CQH) for the formerly incarcerated, was signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine. The Catholic Conference of Ohio supported HB 50, noting that "Restoration demands that we respond

to the victims of crime with care and compassion, but the full administration of justice is impossible unless we also attend to the dignity of those returning from prison

CCO Opposes HB 451 on Remittance Transfer Fee

The Catholic Conference of Ohio opposed [House Bill 451](#) in the House Ways and Means Committee. HB 451 would levy a remittance transfer fee on money transmissions to a person outside the United States. Within the testimony, CCO notes that “HB 451 puts onerous restrictions on legal residents of Ohio and threatens their support of loved ones stuck in cycles of poverty and violence. ...these small remittances of \$200 to \$300 are the difference between survival and starvation.” Ohio residents should not need to pay an additional fee for fulfilling a Christian obligation to provide charitable resources to people in other countries. [Click here to view the full testimony >](#)

CCO Supports SB 242, Expanding the Charitable Use Property Tax Exemption

The Catholic Conference of Ohio testified in support of [Senate Bill 242](#) (*sponsored by State Senator Sandra O'Brien (R-Ashtabula)*) to expand the charitable use property tax exemption. “This change more faithfully reflects the purpose of existing property tax policies and incentivizes wider cooperation between religious and charitable institutions, including those affiliated with the Catholic Church and other faith traditions.” [Click here to view the full testimony >](#)

HB 7, the Strong Foundations Act, Passes the House

[House Bill 7](#), the Strong Foundations Act (*sponsored by State Representatives Andrea White (R-Kettering) and Latyna Humphrey (D-Columbus)*), a CCO-supported bill, passed the Ohio House of Representatives and will now go to the Ohio Senate. HB 7 supports Ohio mothers and babies in their first one thousand days to address maternal and infant mortality and to improve health, developmental, and learning outcomes

SB 198 Reported Out of Committee

CCO supported [Senate Bill 198](#) (*sponsored by Senators George Lang (R-West Chester) and Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville)*), which provides inmates with state identification cards and documentation upon their release relating to work experience, education, and trade skills passed out of the Small Business and Economic Opportunity Senate Committee. It will now go to the Ohio Senate floor for a vote.

End the Death Penalty in Ohio

The time is NOW to change state law.

Make your voice heard and urge your state legislators to support [Senate Bill 101](#) and [House Bill 259](#) to abolish the death penalty in Ohio. We cannot solve violence with more violence or obtain justice via the state of Ohio directly and intentionally killing a defenseless human life.

[Action Alert for Senate Bill 101](#)

Help Communities Affected by Climate Change

Urge Congress to support the Green Climate Fund and Development Assistance.

[Urge Congress](#) to address the impact of climate change by providing robust funding for poverty-reducing international assistance programs in the fiscal year 2024 budget, especially for the Green Climate Fund and Development Assistance.

Urge the Senate to Strengthen the Child Tax Credit

Every year, the Child Tax Credit (CTC) lifts millions of American families out of poverty and helps them live according to their dignity and with greater economic security. While the USCCB has long supported the CTC, the current credit must be improved because it excludes many of the poorest children. [Add your voice here.](#)

Stand in Solidarity with our Afghan Neighbors

Tens of thousands of Afghan nationals have now been resettled in communities across the United States, many of whom served alongside U.S. servicemembers. They are in need of a legal pathway to real and lasting safety. [Add your voice here.](#)

Urge Congress to Safeguard Children in Need and Ensure Communities Have Access to Religious Workers

The bill would relieve the backlog currently confronting special immigrant juveniles by exempting them from the annual caps for the employment-based, fourth preference (EB-4) visa. This would ensure that abused, neglected, or abandoned youth who are deemed eligible for relief by state courts no longer need to compete with adults relying on the same category of visas. It would also increase the availability of EB-4 visas for religious workers who serve communities across the nation. [Add your voice here.](#)



From the Respect Life Office

Eucharistic Revival: Repent, Encounter, Go Forth!

This past month I was honored to be able to attend the tenth National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. The congress was intended to be a cataclysmic moment of Eucharistic revival in our Church, one that should inspire us to radically obey the order to 'go forth'. The success of the congress will not be measured by the amount of people in attendance, the caliber of the talks given, or even how beautifully the liturgies were celebrated. Rather, its success will be measured by the response of ordinary Catholics and their efforts to faithfully carry out Christ's demand to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).

The congress reminded us of three important things: that the Eucharist is what heals us, fuels us, and unites us. Revival starts with repentance. In order to share the good news of Jesus Christ, we must first repair the damage sin has caused in our own hearts. Sister Bethany Madonna of the Sisters of Life proclaimed this message in her talk Wednesday night. She shared several stories of healing, revealing that it was the Eucharist that broke open the addict's stubborn heart, and the Eucharist that gave new life to the post abortive woman. Jesus desires to heal and transform our hearts in the same way. It is often challenging for us to be so vulnerable with God, but Sister Miriam James Heidland reminds us that "The Lord is not overwhelmed by you. He loves you, and he sees you, and he's not deterred by anything."

The Eucharist is not static, it is a dynamic encounter with the living God, one that begins with repentance and ends in mission. As the Apostolic Nuncio Cardinal Christophe Pierre said in his opening remarks "Our encounter with Christ's real presence in the Sacrament opens us to an encounter with Him in the rest of our life. This means seeing Him everywhere we go." Gaining this 'Eucharistic Vision' of the world will help us encounter Christ in everyone we minister to, work with, and are challenged by. From the unborn, the homeless, the poor, the immigrant, the atheist, the abortionist and even those who mock us, hate us, and scorn us. With eyes open to these many 'Christs' among us, our efforts to serve this broken world will be radically transformed and united in and through the body of Christ.

The Eucharist is the cause of our healing, the source of our strength, and the bond that unites all of mankind. It calls us to action and to solidarity, to personal repentance and universal evangelization. The time for revival is now. As Monsignor James Shea put it, "It's time for faithful Catholics to stop trying to live for God. Instead, we should start living from him. The body and blood of the Lord is the source of our life, our energy, and our joy. So let's eat and drink here and every day to our heart's content and then let's rush out into a starving world and tell everybody we meet, 'Starving people, listen! We found where the food is!'"



From the Office for Persons with Disabilities

Lisa Averion, Associate Director of Office for Persons with Disabilities

How Faith and Action Can Support Mental Health and Well-Being

Mark your calendar and plan to attend an evening with Deacon Ed Shoener, President of the **Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers**. Last summer, our office along with Catholic Charities of Southwest Ohio received a grant to begin working with two Mental Wellness Ministry pilot parishes in the archdiocese. The grant was awarded by the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, and it has truly been a blessing to serve these communities. I meet monthly with the teams at St. Gregory the Great Family of Parishes (Immaculate Heart of Mary, Guardian Angels, and St. John Fisher) and Our Lady of Hope (St. Francis de Sales, Lebanon and St. Philip, Morrow) to plan events and discuss the needs of each parish family. The teams have been completing required training and are preparing to offer support groups and educational opportunities this fall. I have been overwhelmed by the level of commitment of our teams. Their dedication to planning and collaborating with existing ministries to reach those who feel isolated, alone, and abandoned must be commended. In a **recent article**, I shared events celebrated by both teams during Mental Health Awareness Month.

This ministry was born out of the pain of loss but is bringing so much healing to those with mental illness, caregivers, and survivors of suicide loss. Please plan to attend one of two evenings to learn more about Mental Wellness Ministry. Deacon Ed Shoener, President of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, will be presenting a workshop entitled, "Bridging the Gap: How Faith and Action Can Support Mental Health and Well-Being" on **September 11th** at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Cincinnati and **September 12th** at St. John the Baptist, Tipp City. I hope to see you there!

Please contact Lisa Averion, laverion@catholicaoc.org to learn more.



Who We Are

Andrew Musgrave

Cincinnati | Director

Jill Foster

Dayton | Regional Director

Glen Glenn

Program Coordinator | CRS, CCHD

Tammie Mers

Administrative Assistant

Sr. Christine Pratt

Eastern Area Coordinator

csa@catholicaoc.org | 513-263-6690

<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/catholic-social-action>

Follow us on social media!

X (TWITTER)

[@AoCincinnatiCsa](https://twitter.com/AoCincinnatiCsa)

YOUTUBE

[@CatholicSocialAction](https://www.youtube.com/@CatholicSocialAction)

INSTAGRAM

[@aocincinnati_csa](https://www.instagram.com/aocincinnati_csa)

FACEBOOK

[csacinci](https://www.facebook.com/csacinci)



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —
**CATHOLIC SOCIAL
ACTION OFFICE**

Catholic Social Action Office | 100 East Eighth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Sent to: amusgrave@catholicaoc.org

[Unsubscribe](#)

Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E 8th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202, United States