



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



LOVE IN ACTION

A Principle of Beacons of Light

JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

Summer is here!

Welcome to June! We hope that you had a wonderful Easter season and a joyous Pentecost. For those of you who are parents or are otherwise connected to schools, we also hope the school year ended well.

Now that the presidential primary season is over, we are fully into the election season. We're all aware that there is a LOT going on with the candidates, and we continue to be (increasingly?) divided. It's truly devastating to read and hear all of the vitriolic, hate-filled language, and we as the Church have a moral obligation to address this reality, seeking always for understanding, compassion, and peace (while of course remaining true to our Catholic values).

As we shared last month, we've decided to gather 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, the re-launch of iVoteCatholic, and other resources.

There are three other important dates coming up this month:

- Juneteenth (the official final end of slavery in 1865) is celebrated on the 19th. For more information on the holiday, check [here](#). For information on Juneteenth in Cincinnati, check [here](#) and [here](#).

- June 20th is World Refugee Day. You can check out the [UN Refugee Agency](#) for ways to honor all those people around the world seeking a safer place to live.

Eucharistic Pilgrimage

- On the 27th, our northern area [Rural-Urban Farm Mass](#) is happening at 7:00pm on the Auglaize County Fairgrounds. More details and the sharable flyer are below.

Next month, the Eucharistic Pilgrimage comes through our Archdiocese. Check [here](#) information on all of the celebrations happening between July 1-8.

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 summer, 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 part of our six-part series featuring Fr. Aaron Wessman, PhD, Glenmary Home Missioners went wonderfully. Thanks for all who attended! In case you missed it, Fr. Aaron has written 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.

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



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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



Depolarizing Ourselves

We are living in a divided nation. Even our church is divided, especially among political lines, and the two sides can barely speak to each other in civil dialogue. We may even consider a person on the “other side” an enemy. For people of faith, civil discourse begins in recognizing the image of God in our conversation partner. Since we are all children of God, our approach should involve mutual respect. Respect, not agreement, is an essential key for a healthy discussion. This

free workshop addresses how we may inadvertently be complicit in, or possibly even encourage, polarization.

Tuesday, June 25
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
St. Charles, Carthage

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

[Click here for flyer](#)

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'd like to learn more about iVoteCatholic - especially if you're a parish leader - please join us for a short virtual presentation. We'll offer the presentation twice, both times exploring the resources on the website, answering questions, and taking recommendations for how to make iVoteCatholic more helpful.

Tuesday, June 25, 1:30-2:15pm | Monday, July 1, 11:00-11:45am

To register, please click here.

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

iVoteCatholic



Rural Urban Mass

All Are Welcome!

Please join us for mass and the receivers of the Century Farm Awards this year, coinciding with 100 years of the Catholic Rural Life national office!

Thursday, June 27, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Auglaize County Fairgrounds: Piehl Arena

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS

Join us for refreshments, snacks, and square dancing afterwards.

[Click here for flyer](#)



Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati

Seeking a new Executive Director

The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC), one of our office's major partners in interfaith justice work in Cincinnati, is looking for a new executive director following the announcement of the departure of longtime ED Peg Fox. For more information, please [click here](#). And thank you so much Peg for your great and dedicated work!!



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.



Advocacy Opportunities

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](#)

[Action Alert for House Bill 259](#)

Additional Advocacy Help Needed in Butler and Warren Counties

If you live in Butler or Warren county, we especially need your help. We're looking for additional advocates to reach out the elected officials in those areas as they can play an important role in moving this forward. Please let [Andrew](#) know if you're able to help in this way (or even just make sure you complete the advocacy alerts above for your rep and senator).

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.



From the Respect Life Office

Bob Wurzelbacher, Director of Respect Life Ministries

Looking for ways to change the conversation and engage more viewers on your social media pages? Pro-Life Partners Foundation is an alliance of many pro-life organizations, such as 40 Days for Life, Students for Life, Sidewalk Advocates and others, that exists to serve the pro-life

movement. Their mission is to end abortion and to advance a culture of life from conception to natural death.

Through alliance building, financial support, and best practices, Pro-Life Partners Foundation optimizes resources and proceeds strategically. They aspire to charity in truth and seek enduring solutions. As part of that effort, Pro-Life Partners has just released a series of videos, created after much research compiled from several organization, designed to change the narrative about abortion and create a conversation not only about the dangers of abortion, but also the beauty of motherhood and fatherhood.

The goal is to get these videos in front of as many people as possible. They are free for you to share on social media everywhere. Share them on your personal pages, and ask your pastor if he will allow them to be shared on your parish social media pages. You can not only download each video, but you can also find graphics to use to share as well. Find all 11 of them at americanprolifemovement.com.



From the Office for Persons with Disabilities

Lisa Averion, Associate Director of Office for Persons with Disabilities

As we approach the lazy days of summer, parishes are planning Vacation Bible School. Volunteers are being trained, organizing materials, and preparing for the children to arrive. In Luke 18:16 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." How is your parish family preparing for those with special needs who will be attending? Is your registration form up to date so you are prepared? Here are a few tips so the week of VBS is fun for EVERYONE and your parish family creates a space of BELONGING!

- Communication: ask parents how to best communicate with their child
 - Signs, words, pictures, symbols, assistive devices
- Here are a few questions to ask parents prior to attending the week, then discuss with your VBS Team Leaders so you know how to meet the child's needs:
 - My child may be trying to communicate his/her need for _____ when he/she exhibits the following behavior(s): _____
 - If my child is frustrated, nervous, or upset, he/she usually does:
 - The following activities/scenarios have been trigger points for frustration or escalating behavior in the past:
 - If my child is frustrated or upset, here are ways to help him/her:
- Sensory Friendly Tips:
 - Visual Daily Schedule

- Sensory Friendly Space: include low lighting, headphones, soft music, weighted objects, wraparound seating, swing (if permitted), lava lamp, sensory pads, and more.

If your parish needs help setting up a space, creating a registration, or more information please contact Lisa Averion, laverion@catholicaoc.org. I am happy to visit your parish family, meet with your team and share resources.



Graduate Assistant Program Recruiting

Campus Ministry at University of Dayton is currently seeking faith filled individuals who have ministerial gifts and a desire to continue to be formed for service in the church. Our Campus Ministry Graduate Assistant Program is a unique opportunity to engage in direct ministry while studying for a Masters in theology or pastoral ministry.

The Campus Ministry GA program is designed to be a holistic formation experience, and we are seeking candidates who are looking to take the next step in their ministry formation and education. For more information about the program, including next steps if you feel called to apply, [please see our website](#). You can also contact Kelly Adamson, the director of the program, at kadamson1@udayton.edu if you have any questions.



Who We Are

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

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