

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



LOVE IN ACTION
A Principle of Beacons of Light

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO SUMMER!

We hope everyone had a wonderful end to the Easter season, a joyful Pentecost, and a celebratory end of the school year.

Tragically, our world continues to struggle: unjust immigration practices here and abroad, wars in the Middle East and beyond, assaults on our environment, and more. We ask God for strength, resolve, compassion, and hope, guiding us to continue our work honoring and protecting human dignity and all of God's creation.

This month we host the third event in our series on the [Saintly Seven](#) - the seven African American candidates for sainthood. We're thrilled to welcome Bishop Joseph Perry, the postulator for the cause of Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton. Just like the first two sessions, this event will be in person and livestreamed. The third session is **Monday, June 29, at 7:00pm** at the [St. Andrew Parish in Milford](#). See below for more information.

As you know, it's another big election year. To support our parishes, schools, and Catholic communities, we've updated the [iVoteCatholic website](#). We hosted two relaunch webinars, and you can [see the recording here](#). More information is below!

Thanks in advance for your prayers and support!

We humbly ask that you continue to pray for us. 2026 will continue to be a 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 Action Alerts encouraging everyone to bring their voice and power to bear on important issues.

We wish you a joyful start to summer, a wonderful Juneteenth ([Cincinnati](#) | [Dayton](#)) and Father's Day, and - as always - we look forward to seeing you soon as we continue to stand up for justice, solidarity, and peace.

Peace and all good,
Catholic Social Action team



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The Saintry Seven



Back row: Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Venerable Henriette DeLille, Father Augustus Tolton, Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange
Front Row: Friar Martin De Porres Maria Ward, Servant of God Julia Greeley, Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman

Celebrating the Seven African American Candidates for Sainthood

Were you aware that there are seven African American candidates for canonization? The lives of these holy men and women span the nearly the entire existence of the United States as an independent nation—from Pierre Toussaint, born in 1766, through Thea Bowman, who died in 1990. It will be a truly thrilling day when we celebrate the canonization of the first African American saint!

To grow awareness of the lives of the Saintry Seven over the coming months, the Archdiocesan Anti-Racism Task Force is organizing seven sessions throughout the Archdiocese to talk about their lives, their causes for canonization, and the experience of Black Catholics in this nation. The sessions will be in-person and live-streamed so that everyone can join in the conversation and reflection. In conjunction with the presentations, each candidate will be featured in the Catholic Telegraph as well. The series will conclude in November, Black Catholic History Month—reminding us that a single month is not sufficient to honor the contributions that Black Catholics have made to our Church and our nation since before its founding.

For information on the series, please check out this [webpage](#). It will be updated regularly as information becomes available. You can register for the event(s) on that page (encouraged but not required).

- The third presentation will be on Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton on Monday, June 29, at [St. Andrew \(Milford\)](#) at 7:00pm. [Download the flyer here](#).
- The fourth presentation will be on Servant of God Sr. Thea Bowman on Tuesday, July 7, at [Salem Heights, home of the Sisters of the Precious Blood](#), at 6:30pm. [Download the flyer here](#).
- The fifth presentation will be on Servant of God Julia Greeley on Sunday, August 23, at [Lehman High School in Sidney](#), at 12:45pm (with lunch beforehand). (Please

do register for this one (if you plan to attend) so we can have the right amount of food.)

All are welcome to join, and you can attend one or as many as you're able.

THE SAINTLY SEVEN

Black Candidates for Sainthood



VENERABLE
FR AUGUSTUS TOLTON

Monday, June 29, 7:00pm

St. Andrew Church

552 Main St, Milford, OH 45150

RSVP Here



or join the Zoom!



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI
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Contact Andrew Musgrave for more information

amusgrave@catholicaoc.org | (513) 263-6691

<https://zoom.us/j/91370876545>



iVoteCatholic

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 with our morals, our faith; 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](#) and help yourself and your community face the coming election with faith, compassion, and a commitment to loving your neighbors.

If you missed the re-launch webinars, you can find the recording and the slides [here](#).

[Register Here](#)



Praying in Solidarity

The Archdiocesan Immigration Task Force has developed a new initiative, an effort to peacefully and prayerfully stand in solidarity with our immigrant and refugee sisters and brothers.

We are encouraging people to go and pray - either outside of the Butler County Jail (where ICE detainees are being held) or the ICE office in Blue Ash.

You can find all of the information on this webpage - [Praying in Solidarity](#) - but, simply put, this is an opportunity for groups - no matter the size, faith tradition, or frequency - to stand in witness to and solidarity with those who are being affected by the "climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement." *US Bishops Special Message on Immigration*.

This is prayer, not a protest, so no signs/posters. People will be standing together, witnessing and praying in solidarity.

On the webpage, you'll find forms to fill out if you're looking to organize an event, whether one-time or repeated, as well as one to give feedback after your event(s).

- The ITF will be meeting on the **4th Monday of every month at 12:30pm outside of the Blue Ash ICE office**. All are welcome. **(June 22, July 27, and so forth)**

- The Ohio Sisters Justice Network will be praying outside the **Blue Ash ICE Office the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm**. Again, all are welcome.

- There will also be prayer (hosted by the St. Stephen family) at the **Butler County Jail every Tuesday at 10:00am**.

If you have any questions, [please let us know](#).

"We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation..." -US Bishops Special Message on Immigration

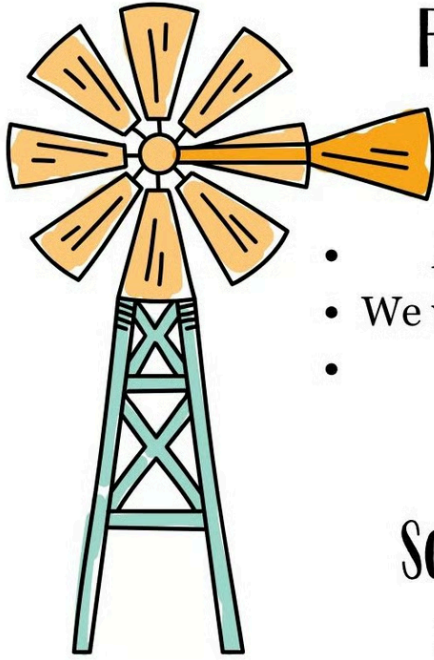


Donations Needed to Support Immigrants

The Immigrant Dignity Coalition is seeking donations to support immigrants who are in need of basic resources (e.g. food, diapers, etc.) If you're willing and able to contribute, please [click here](#) to learn how to donate.



2026 FARM MASS



FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026, 7:00PM

Come Celebrate with us!

- Archbishop Robert Casey will preside
- We will recognize new Century Family Farms
- Enjoy refreshments afterwards

Please bring your lawn chairs!

SCOTT AND SHELLY HARTINGS FARM
345 CRANBERRY RD, ST. HENRY



Questions? Contact Jillian Foster at jfoster@catholicaoc.org | 513-448-8994.





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

Is your family of parishes 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, please contact Mary Anne Bressler at mbressler@ccswoh.org.



Retreat in the AoC

The National Association of Catholic Social Action & Mission (NACSAM) is thrilled to announce that **registration is open** for the second Retreat and Immersive Summer Experience (RISE) event scheduled to take place this summer from June 29 - July 2, 2026 at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, OH. This year's theme is *Our Reckoning and Our Hope: Racial Justice and Reconciliation* and will examine the spirituality of racial justice efforts with immersive experiences in Cincinnati and nearby Kentucky. From these experiences, participants will have an opportunity to pray, reflect, and develop a call to action that will inspire efforts in their respective agency, diocese, or parish. [Click here for more information](#) or [contact Andrew](#).

Now with commuter and day rates!



Advocacy Opportunities

Proposed Legislation to Prohibit State-Funded Death: HB 72 & SB 134

Legislation has been introduced into both Ohio chambers which would prohibit state funding of intentional termination of human life at any stage and circumstance in Ohio. This first-of-its-kind legislation reinforces current law banning state funding for abortion, abolishes the death penalty, and expands protections against assisted suicide by linking these prohibitions together in Ohio Revised Code.

Click the bill numbers below for summaries and status updates on each bill:

- **House Bill 72:** sponsored by [Representative Adam Mathews](#) (R-Lebanon) and [Representative Jean Schmidt](#) (R-Loveland)
- **Senate Bill 134 :** sponsored by [Minority Leader Nickie Antonio](#) (D-Lakewood) and [Senator Steve Huffman](#) (R-Tipp City)

Click [here](#) to read the letter from the OH bishops to all OH legislators advocating for support for these bills.

Reach out to your legislators and encourage them to support these bills!

Stop Unjust Treatment of Immigrants

The U.S. bishops urge Congress to demonstrate its support for religious liberty on a bipartisan basis by (1) ensuring respect for what are commonly referred to as sensitive locations, especially houses of worship, and (2) mandating consistent access to religious and pastoral services for all immigration detainees.

Complete [this action alert](#) to join with the bishops in calling for immigration enforcement that respects human dignity and religious freedom for all.

Protect Us from Coal Ash Pollution

"The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently proposed amendments to the Coal Combustion Residuals Regulations is a direct threat to our waterways and the health and well-being of our neighbors across the country, particularly the most vulnerable.

The Catholic Climate Covenant is collecting electronic signatures on this joint comment through June 10, 2026. They will submit this comment and all signatures to the Federal Register for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on June 11, 2026."

[Add Your Name Here](#)

Protect International Humanitarian Assistance

Support our global family in poverty by advocating for U.S. international humanitarian and development assistance. This funding provides lifesaving aid in emergencies and supports long-term development to help families and communities become more resilient and create a brighter future.

Lift your voice today!

Support Religious Workers & the Communities They Serve

An increasing number of priests, religious sisters and brothers, and others serving the Church throughout the United States will be forced to abandon their ministries if policymakers do not act soon. Unfortunately, many churches, schools, and other Catholic institutions have already had to part with men and women who served in our country for years because of challenges with the Religious Worker Visa Program.

Tell Congress to act now!



From the Respect Life Office

Bob Wurzelbacher, Director of Respect Life Ministries

Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

This Lent, I began a **33-day consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with my family**. Like many families with teenage children, our schedules are full: school events, sports, youth activities, work, and the ordinary busyness of daily life. What was supposed to be a 33-day journey has taken us much longer. Some nights we missed readings. Some prayers were rushed. Sometimes we simply had to pick back up where we left off.

But in a way, that has made the experience even more meaningful. Consecration is not about perfection. It is about intentionally inviting Christ deeper into the life of the family.

When we started, I had no idea that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops would later encourage all families across the country to consecrate themselves this year to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 12, the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Through this national invitation, the bishops are encouraging Catholics to prepare with a novena and renew trust in the love and mercy of Christ.

Looking back, I can already see how this journey has changed our family. The consecration led us to do several things we had rarely done together before. On Divine Mercy Sunday, we went to confession together as a family. On another day, we also spent time in Eucharistic adoration together, sitting quietly before Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. In a noisy world filled with distractions, that silence became a gift.

Perhaps most meaningful of all was one simple exercise: each member of the family independently came up with specific ways to pray for every other member of the family. Those prayers became deeply personal. They moved beyond general intentions into a genuine act of love and sacrifice for one another.

The Sacred Heart devotion reminds us that Jesus does not love humanity in some distant or abstract way. He loves us personally, intimately, and sacrificially. His Heart burns with love for every family, including families that are busy, imperfect, distracted, or struggling. That is precisely why this consecration matters.

At a time when family life can feel fragmented by technology, schedules, anxiety, and division, intentionally dedicating our homes to the Sacred Heart creates space for grace. It encourages families to pray together, receive the sacraments together, and grow together in holiness.

The bishops' invitation is not merely another devotional program to add to an already crowded calendar. It is an opportunity to place Christ back at the center of family life. You do not need to do everything perfectly. You simply need to begin.

I encourage every Catholic family to consider taking part in this consecration and novena. Start where you are. Pray together however you can. Go to confession. Spend time before the Eucharist. Pray intentionally for one another. The journey may take longer than expected, as ours has, but it may also become one of the greatest blessings your family experiences this year.

For information about the consecration and novena, visit [**USCCB Sacred Heart Consecration Page**](#).



From the Office for Persons with Disabilities

Fr. Charles Onumaegbu, Chaplain for Deaf Ministry

Behold the New Graduates of St. Rita School for the Deaf

In a moving celebration filled with pride, applause, and heartfelt emotion, St. Rita School for the Deaf honored two extraordinary graduates whose journeys embody determination, resilience, and hope for the future: Hunter Samworth and Fabian Jones.

Graduation is always a milestone, but for Hunter and Fabian, it represents far more than receiving a diploma. It marks years of hard work, perseverance through challenges, and the courage to dream boldly about what comes next. Surrounded by teachers, classmates, family members, and supporters who have walked beside them throughout their educational journey, both young men stood as shining examples of what can be accomplished through dedication and belief in oneself.

For Hunter Samworth, the future is filled with ambition and opportunity. Driven by a strong desire to learn practical skills and prepare for a meaningful career, Hunter plans to pursue a Certified Production Technician Certificate through the Tartan Tops Program at Sinclair College. His goal reflects not only determination, but also a commitment to building a life of independence, contribution, and personal achievement.

The manufacturing and production industries require focus, discipline, and technical ability, qualities Hunter has already demonstrated throughout his years at St. Rita. By taking this next step, he is opening doors to a future where his talents and hard work can shine. His journey serves as an inspiring reminder that Deaf students can thrive in

technical education and professional careers when given opportunity, support, and encouragement.

Fabian Jones is equally inspiring in his vision for the future. With a warm spirit and a desire to continue growing socially and personally, Fabian plans to attend an Adult Day Program where he will focus on developing life skills, communication abilities, and social connections. His next chapter is centered on building confidence, strengthening independence, and continuing to discover his potential in a supportive environment.

Fabian's story highlights the importance of lifelong learning and the many different paths that success can take. Success is not defined by one destination, but by progress, growth, and the courage to keep moving forward. Through his participation in the Adult Day Program, Fabian will continue building relationships, learning new skills, and creating a fulfilling and meaningful future for himself.

The accomplishments of Hunter and Fabian reflect the mission and heart of St. Rita School for the Deaf, a school community dedicated to empowering Deaf students to reach their fullest potential. Teachers and staff members have not only educated these young men academically, but have also encouraged confidence, self-expression, and belief in their abilities. Families, too, have played a vital role, offering unwavering love and support every step of the way.

Their graduation is more than a ceremony; it is a celebration of perseverance, community, and possibility. Hunter and Fabian remind everyone that barriers can be overcome, dreams can be pursued, and every individual deserves the chance to build a future filled with purpose and dignity. [OBJ]

As they leave the halls of St. Rita and step into new opportunities, they carry with them the lessons they have learned, the friendships they have built, and the confidence that they are capable of achieving great things. Their stories inspire not only fellow students, but everyone who believes in the power of education, inclusion, and determination.

The future ahead for Hunter Samworth and Fabian Jones is bright. Their journeys are only beginning, and already they are showing the world what strength, courage, and hope truly looks like.



Our Team

Andrew Musgrave

Cincinnati | Director

Jill Foster

Dayton | Regional Director

Glen Glenn

Program Coordinator | CRS, CCHD

(We're Hiring!)

Administrative Assistant

Sr. Christine Pratt

Eastern Area Coordinator

csa@catholicaoc.org | 513-263-6690
<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/catholic-social-action>

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ACTION OFFICE**

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

Sent to: amusgrave@catholicaoc.org

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