



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



## LOVE IN ACTION

*A Principle of Beacons of Light*

## NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### CELEBRATING THE SAINTS AND ALL SOULS

November is here, and it's of course our opportunity to celebrate the lives of those saints - officially recognized and not - and ask for them to guide, intercede for, and pray for us. And we also take time to remember the souls of the faithfully departed, asking them as well to support us on our earthly journeys.

November is also Black Catholic History Month. We encourage you to consider the wonderful contributions of Black Catholics to our Church. You might consider ordering these [small booklets](#) about each of the African-American candidates for sainthood. You could also print off this [bookmark](#) from the USCCB that introduces these candidates. On a related note, we can celebrate that earlier this year the USCCB moved the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism to a [permanent subcommittee](#). For more information and resources, check out the [subcommittee's webpage](#).

Tragically (and predictably), our migrant sisters and brothers continue to suffer and be in danger. Check out below an opportunity on Th. 11/13 to join Catholics around the country in prayer and witness, standing in solidarity with immigrants and refugees.

We also hold in prayer all those who have been adversely affected by the government shutdown. As individuals and families go without paychecks, the instances of hunger, homelessness, and despair increase, and the effects ripple across our community. And of course war and famine persist, though we certainly pray that the ceasefire holds between Palestine and Israel.

On the flip side, we celebrated a wonderful season of creation. Special recognition goes out to Jill and her teams for successfully pulling off multiple pilgrimages of hope and a wonderful Laudato Si' conference at Xavier. Let's build on that energy and success and continue to care for all that God has given us.

This month, besides the 11/13 prayer service, we also have our annual **Fair Trade Sale** to benefit CRS (11/22). See below for more details. This is also when we hold our annual **CCHD collection**. Please look for publicity in your families of parishes - especially on 11/8-9 - and donate on 11/15-16.

Thanks in advance for your prayers and support!

We humbly ask that you continue to pray for us. 2025 continues 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 wonderful November, 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



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# PRAYERFUL WITNESS FOR IMMIGRANTS



*On November 13, 2025, Catholics across the U.S. are invited to join in a national day of prayer and public witness for our immigrant brothers and sisters. Ohio Catholics are standing in solidarity.*



**SCAN to view**  
all OH events



In Cincinnati, the primary event will be held at:

Holy Trinity Church  
2420 Drex Ave., 45212

6:30pm



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[Click here for more information](#)



# CCHD COLLECTION WEEKEND 11/15-16



CATHOLIC  
CAMPAIGN FOR  
HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT

For the ninth year, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) collection coincides with the World Day of the Poor. Last year, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, \$68,000 collected in our Archdiocese funded seven (7) local organizations. Through CCHD, our dollars make lasting change for the poor and vulnerable in our own communities.

- CCHD appeal weekend is Saturday, November 8th and Sunday, November 9th.
- The collection weekend is Saturday, November 15th and Sunday, November 16th.

Please contact [Glen Glenn](#) with any questions about the collection.





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# Fair Trade Sale

**INCLUDES**  
**FOOD DRIVE**  
**(NONPERISHABLE ITEMS)**  
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**ETHICALLY SOURCED**  
**COFFEE | TEA | CRAFTS**  
**CHOCOLATE | CLOTHES**  
**JEWELRY | HOME GOODS**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 22, 2025**  
**9AM-2PM**

University of Dayton Curran Place  
1700 S. Patterson Blvd, Dayton, OH 45409

*The Food Drive will benefit local food pantries.*



## Supporting Our Rural Communities through Prayer

The 2025 growing season has presented challenges and losses to many farmers, farmworkers, and others who derive a living from the land. Floods, droughts, fires, and immigration and tariff policy decisions that have left the land and its people in dire

situations for years to come. Close to home we also know that the costs of production have increased affecting the prices and the outcomes farmers depend on for their families and those who work with them. Those who work on the land to provide food for all need our prayers, support, and participation in assuring that they and the land may be cared for and continue that all may eat.

## Prayer for the Harvest

God of all creation, with unending love you brought forth the earth and shared your breath with all creatures. You sustain us and nurture us with your own hand. Bless the men and women (farmers, shepherds, ranchers, fishers, vintners) who work with you to feed and nourish your people. In these challenging days be with them as they struggle to derive a just living from the land. Help us to companion all those affected by weather and actions that remove them from their livelihood as owners or farmworkers. May all of us, growers and consumers, be faithful stewards of your creation. Keep harvesters safe and healthy as they perform their tasks. May they know the respect and support of their parishes and communities as we work together to bring justice to all God's people on the land that He gave us in trust and stewardship. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

## Suggested Intercessions

For all who work the land, that they may be safe in their harvesting and may derive a just livelihood for themselves and their families, we pray...

God has made humans stewards of creation. That all may work to protect what God has made - land, water, forests - for generations to come, we pray...

That government leaders may see the dignity and value of each person and acknowledge the societal contributions of those who provide food for all as they prepare legislation that affects the lives and well-being of all who work the land, we pray...





## 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](mailto:mbressler@ccswoh.org).



## Food Drive for the Eucharistic Year of Mission

As we conclude the Eucharistic Year of Mission, we'd like to encourage all families of parishes and schools to join the Food for All Campaign and hold a food drive during the holiday season. We know that many of you already do food collection during this time, and we'd like to ask folks to this year connect the



collection to our Eucharistic Year of Mission and Food for All Campaign.

[Click here](#) for more information. You can also contact Jillian Foster at [jfoster@catholicaoc.org](mailto:jfoster@catholicaoc.org) with any questions.



## Business Canvassing for Immigrant Rights

If you're interested in being proactive in supporting our immigrant and refugee community members, here's an opportunity.

Folks will be trained to go out into the community and encourage small and medium businesses to stand in solidarity - in legal ways - with their refugee and migrant employees, customers, and neighbors.

If you're interested, please contact [Andrew](#). We will be scheduling training sessions in the coming months.



## Service Opportunity for Young Adults

Our friend Tom Hollywood, formerly of Catholic Relief Services, has shared information about a great service opportunity for young adults:

Good Shepherd Volunteers (GSV)

GSV offers a transformative year of service for young adults passionate about uplifting families and communities. Our work is focused on improving the well-being of marginalized women, youth, and children and is rooted in our 4 core tenets – community, spirituality, social justice, and simplicity.

If you'd like to learn more, [www.gsvolunteers.org](http://www.gsvolunteers.org) or 917-832-7870.



## 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!

## Support Religious Workers and 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 parishes, schools, and other Catholic institutions have already had to part with men and women who served them for years because of challenges with the Religious Worker Visa Program.**

The bipartisan [Religious Workforce Protection Act \(RWPA\)](#) (S. 1298/H.R. 2672), recently introduced in both chambers of Congress, would provide relief for religious workers in this situation and further the free exercise of religion in the United States for the benefit of all Americans.

[Act now!!](#)

## 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***

### **Bishops Urge End to Shutdown, Call for Life Protections in Health Care**

As the federal government shutdown drags on, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is calling for an immediate reopening of government operations—while also urging Congress not to neglect moral and life-protecting principles in the process. In an **October 2025 letter to lawmakers**, the bishops reaffirmed that Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits are “an important tool for ensuring affordable access to health care for millions of Americans.” However, they warned that the subsidies must not fund insurance plans that include elective abortion coverage, emphasizing that federal dollars should “support life, not end it.” Republicans in Congress have pressed for a “clean” continuing resolution—one that reopens the government immediately and delays negotiations over ACA subsidies. They argue that Democrats are using the shutdown as leverage to force an extension of those subsidies. Democrats, meanwhile, contend that this is their only opportunity to ensure that subsidies remain in place before open enrollment, claiming delay could threaten coverage for millions of lower-income Americans. The bishops’ message bridges these partisan divides. They urge an end to the shutdown, noting that the most vulnerable—families relying on food programs, low-income workers, and government contractors—are suffering. Yet they also insist that any agreement must protect conscience rights and the sanctity of human life. Some may argue that abortion funding is already prohibited by the long-standing Hyde Amendment, which bars federal funds from paying for elective abortions. However, because the ACA premium tax credits are appropriated through the Treasury Department, not through the Labor–Health and Human Services spending bill to which the Hyde Amendment applies, it may be possible for certain insurance plans to effectively sidestep Hyde’s protections. At the very least, since the ACA language allows insurance companies to collect surcharges to help pay for abortions, it still muddies the water and raises serious moral objections, **such as happened in Maryland**. The bishops are calling for an end to this loophole. Republican leaders have also claimed that the dispute involves providing “free health care to illegal aliens.” **This claim is basically false, or at best, misleading**. Under current federal law, immigrants who are in the country without legal status are not eligible for Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace coverage or for federal health-care subsidies. The only federal health-care assistance available to undocumented immigrants is emergency medical care, where hospitals are required to treat anyone in a life-threatening situation regardless of status; those hospitals may later receive limited reimbursement through Medicaid’s emergency-services provisions. What this issue is truly about, is immigrants who are **lawfully present** under certain temporary or humanitarian statuses—such as refugees, asylees, individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), or some parole programs. These groups are legally in the U.S. and many previously qualified for ACA

marketplace coverage and subsidies. Many of these 1.5 million who are legally here but are not U.S. citizens, will lose their marketplace coverage or access to Medicaid in 2026, if it is not restored. There is certainly disagreement among party leaders about who among these statuses should qualify for marketplace coverage, but that is not the same as claiming it is about “illegal aliens”, which is an entirely different category. While the U.S. bishops did not say anything about this immigration status debate in their most recent letter, they have generally supported ensuring that all persons lawfully present in the country—including those in vulnerable or transitional immigration categories—have access to basic health care coverage consistent with human dignity. Ultimately, the USCCB’s position remains nonpartisan but deeply principled: end the shutdown, protect the poor, and ensure that health-care funding aligns with moral law. As their letter concludes, “Health care is not just about policy; it is about human dignity. It must protect life at every stage.”



## From the Office for Persons with Disabilities

*Fr. Charles Onumaegbu, Chaplain for Deaf Ministry*

### Deaf Retreat: Ask, Seek, Knock...Matthew 7:7

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”... Matthew 7:7. In a world full of noise, silence can be sacred. For the Deaf community, silence is not a limitation, it’s a language, a culture, and a way of life. It’s also a powerful space to encounter God. This is just the truth of what we expect as we prepare for our Deaf retreat under the deeply spiritual and empowering theme: “Ask, Seek, Knock.”

While contemplating on where to host this year’s Deaf retreat, the Church of Ascension in Woodman Dr, Kettering quickly came to my mind. A serene environment away from daily distractions, ready to play host many Deaf Catholics from Cincinnati, Dayton, Kentucky, Columbus, Michigan, interpreters, and Deaf ministry leaders to experience a deeper connection with God. Slated to take place on Saturday, October 18, this retreat promises to be special not only because of the theme but the way it has been structured to enrich the participants visually, communally, and spiritually. It begins at 8:30 am with registration, followed by other activities like talks on the theme, group sharing, Rosary, Adoration, Confessions, and a Holy mass at 3:00 pm. While the registration is free and still going on, I encourage our Deaf brothers and sisters to make use of this opportunity to attend this beautiful event and an encounter with the Lord. The verse from Matthew 7:7 is more than just words; it was a visual prayer. Every session, every worship time, every conversation in sign language reflects the invitation Jesus gives to all of us: to ask boldly, to seek intentionally, and to knock persistently.

#### **ASK: Lifting our prayers with hands and hearts.**

In the Deaf community, asking doesn’t always come with spoken words. During this retreat, participants are encouraged to “ask” God from their hearts through signed prayers, silent meditation, and group discussions. We ask a favor from God because of the level of trust we have in Him.

#### **SEEK: Searching for God’s presence.**

To “seek” God is to look deeper, not just for blessings, but for God’s presence in every part of our lives. Participants will have the opportunity to relate with the experience of some biblical characters who also sought God in uncertain times like Moses, Hannah,

and the blind and the Deaf men Jesus healed by Jesus.

### **KNOCK: Taking the Next Step**

Knocking takes courage. It's an act of faith, of reaching out even when we're unsure of what's behind the door. The retreat will also encouraged participants to knock on God's door not just for themselves, but for their families, churches, and the Deaf community. "God opens doors no man can shut," Rev. 3:8.

A retreat of this nature is not only going to bring about individual growth, it aims to foster unity through vision and voice, build a stronger, united Deaf Catholic Community, promote visual worship, and inclusive communication through which everyone will be seen, heard, and valued. Our group sharing will center on the lessons from the Gospel of Matthew 7: 7 and how to apply them in our day-to-day living. God is not far. He invites us to ask with confidence, seek with our whole heart, and knock without fear. In silence, in sign, and in spirit, we heard God say: **"Welcome. I have been waiting."**



## **Our Team**

### **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*

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