



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



## **LOVE IN ACTION**

*A Principle of Beacons of Light*

## **OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER**

### **Fall is here...right?**

Technically, fall is here, but you wouldn't know it with these 85 degree days. Thankfully, all things pumpkin ARE here so at least commercially fall has arrived.

Despite the change in season, many difficult realities haven't changed: our migrant sisters and brothers continue to be in danger, farmers are struggling with drought, war and famine persist, and we're on the verge of a government shutdown.

And yet hope persists. We started the month with the Southeastern Catholic Rural Life Farm Mass - Archbishop Casey presided, it was a beautiful setting, and everyone had a wonderful time. The Southeastern CRL group also hosted their fall retreat - and it went great! We're at the tail end of the Season for Creation, and our Care for Creation Task Force has hosted a series of wonderful pilgrimages of hope. (If you haven't been able to attend one yet, you're in luck! The last one is this weekend on Sat. 10/4.) The Anti-Racism Task Force joined the pilgrimage train and held a wonderful event up in Carthage centered on the beautiful art exhibit sharing the story of the Randolph Freedpeople. We ended the month with an interfaith prayer service to stand in solidarity with migrants and refugees. Representatives from 10 different world religions participated, and we heard first-hand stories from someone who is a refugee and someone else who is an asylee. It was a powerful testament to the strength of our community.

Coming up in October, we've got our second Laudato Si' conference happening on Saturday, 10/11, at Xavier University. Look for details on registration below.

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 October, 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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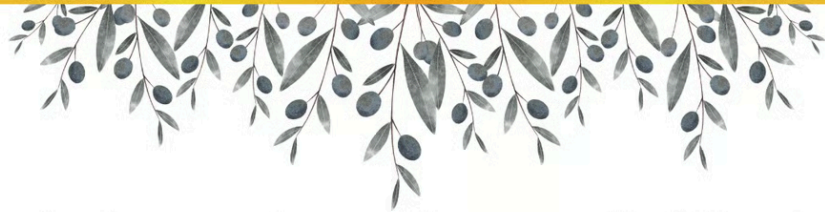




*The Archdiocese of Cincinnati presents*

# Creating a Hope-filled Future Together

## A Laudato Si' Conference



*Join us for a day of connection, education, and creating a more hopeful future for our Earth.*

**Saturday October 11, 2025**

**9:00am-4:30pm**



Keynote:  
Gail Worcelo, SEC

Xavier University,  
Health United Building  
1723 Cleneay Ave, Cincinnati



*For more information, contact Jillian Foster at [jfoster@catholicaoc.org](mailto:jfoster@catholicaoc.org)*



*Sisters of Charity*  
of Cincinnati



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Sisters of the  
**Precious Blood**

Sisters of  
Mercy



Hermanas de la  
Misericordia

**Click Here to Register**





# PILGRIMAGES OF HOPE FOR CREATION

Join the **Archdiocese of Cincinnati** as Pilgrims of Hope for Creation! Catholic communities across the U.S. are organizing local pilgrimages as sacred opportunities to pray for the grace to encounter Christ in Creation and renew our relationships with God, the Earth, and one another.



SAT  
SEPT 06  
9 AM

**Cincinnati Virtual Pilgrimage**  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur  
701 E Columbia Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45215

SAT  
SEPT 13  
9 AM

**Dayton NW Pilgrimage**  
Aullwood Audubon Nature Center  
1000 Aullwood Rd, Dayton, OH 45414

SAT  
SEPT 27  
9 AM

**Cincinnati Pilgrimage**  
Mill Creek and Lick Run Greenway  
Exact location TBD

SAT  
OCT 04  
9 AM

**Dayton East Pilgrimage**  
Mount Saint John  
4435 E. Patterson Rd, Beavercreek, OH 45430

SAT  
OCT 11  
9 AM - 4 PM

**Laudato Si' Conference**  
Xavier University, Health United Building  
1723 Cleaneay Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45212



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For more information, contact Jillian Foster  
[jfoster@catholicaoc.org](mailto:jfoster@catholicaoc.org)

For more on Pilgrimages of Hope go to  
[www.catholicpilgrimagesofhope.org](http://www.catholicpilgrimagesofhope.org)

[Registration and  
Information Here:](#)

\*these pilgrimages will  
not be on foot



## 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.



## 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.



## DEEPENING COMMUNION IN A POLARIZED WORLD

November 4-6, 2025 | St. Meinrad, IN

Designed for Catholic theologians, students of theology, and Church leaders, this convocation brings together recognized leaders from differing perspectives to model healthy discourse, seek common ground, and make recommendations for how to build unity in a deeply divided Church.

**[Click here for more information.](#)**



## 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

***Emily Branscum, Ass. Director of Respect Life Ministries***

### **A Pillar of Hope**

This past month I was blessed with the opportunity to participate in a pilgrimage to Spain. We spent a significant amount of time in Zaragoza at the [Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar](#). Like most of our readers, I had never heard of Our Lady of the Pillar before, but my encounter with her was quite profound. I couldn't help but reflect with her on the nature of hope and our work spreading the Gospel of Life.

In 40 AD, [Our Lady miraculously appeared to St. James the Greater](#) while he was preaching in what we would now call modern-day Spain. This event marked the first-ever Marian apparition, even though it was technically a bilocation, since Mary was still alive at that time. What struck me most about this apparition was how timely her

support was for her adopted son. She appeared to St. James at the very moment he was losing hope.

St. James had been preaching to the people in this region for a long time. He was facing the kind of discouragement and lack of fruitfulness that our readers are likely familiar with. Though our current problems and circumstances are different, the nature of sin has stayed the same. While we face unprecedented violations against human dignity via abortion, IVF, and assisted suicide, the root causes of these crises persist: loss of meaning, identity, community, and purpose. These are the very wounds St. James encountered while preaching to the people of Spain. He had the unique advantage of having personally met and been disciplined by Jesus of Nazareth, yet he was unable to convince the people that Christ was their Savior and their God.

Hopelessness can be quite an invasive species. It seeps into our hearts, our emotions, our thoughts. We lose sight of the things of heaven and give in to the culture's pervasive narrative of darkness, isolation, and death. The cure to this despair is simple, though; we need only reorient ourselves to Christ. Our Lady appeared to St. James to remind him of this truth. But she did not come alone; she carried with her the Christ Child, the very embodiment of hope. She appeared as any loving mother does, at the moment her child was in dire need. Her maternal gaze captured his heart and recentered it on her Son. She also shared words of consolation, assuring him that "The faith you establish here will be firmer and last longer than the pillar I stand upon."

St. James built a chapel to Our Lady over that pillar, and then, newly inspired, he continued his mission. Just two years after this encounter, St. James would return to Jerusalem and become the first martyr among the apostles. What great hope he must have received from Our Lord through Our Lady, hope that endured even unto death. Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, the newly appointed chairman of the USCCB's Pro-Life Secretariat, recently addressed pro-life diocesan directors at a national conference. In his remarks, he shared three anchors of hope we can cling to when we face desolation or discouragement. He encouraged us to participate in and with the Eucharist, to rededicate ourselves to personal prayer and silence, and finally, to look to Mary. Perhaps as we continue our work in pro-life ministry, we can follow Bishop Thomas's advice with renewed vigor, inspired by such a strong example of hope in Our Lady of the Pillar's appearance to St. James. We know that the special love that drew her to St. James draws her to us, too. The fruits of our labors may not be seen or known to us in this lifetime, but just as assuredly as her pillar still stands in that ancient basilica in Zaragoza, our work will not be easily forgotten or destroyed.



## **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*

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

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

Sent to: [amusgrave@catholicaoc.org](mailto:amusgrave@catholicaoc.org)

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