



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



LOVE IN ACTION

A Principle of Beacons of Light

July 2026 NEWSLETTER

Happy Birthday America!

Summer - in all it's hot and sweaty glory - is here. We hope you all had a wonderful 4th and have been staying safe and hydrated.

This past month was a big one in the immigration world with at least two big decisions coming down from the Supreme Court: birthright citizenship was preserved but TPS was terminated for many countries - notably including our Haitian sisters and brothers. We pray for these folks as they face an uncertain and potentially dangerous future. In case you didn't see it, the bishops of OH released a [powerful and supportive statement](#) for our immigrant neighbors, and we encourage you to check it out and help to spread the message.

Speaking of statements, we were thrilled to see Gov. Mike DeWine release a [statement](#) supporting the abolition of the death penalty in Ohio. Brian Hickey, Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio, said, "We are confident, through the Catholic Church's teaching, that God does not want the state to execute defenseless human beings. Governor DeWine's comments and actions continue his pro life legacy in seeking to protect Ohioans from the very beginning of life to those who, at one time, blatantly disregarded the humanity of others and need to face justice. His focus on crime victims and their families also accords with

the Church's perspective that the state should focus on supporting them rather than perpetuating more violence." You can read Brian's full statement [here](#).

We continue to mourn the wars in the Middle East and beyond, assaults on our environment, and more. We ask God for 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 fourth event in our series on the [Saintly Seven](#) - the seven African American candidates for sainthood. We're thrilled to celebrate the life and legacy of Sr. Thea Bowman. Just like the first three sessions, this event will be in person and livestreamed. The fourth session is **Tuesday, July 7, at 6:30pm** at the [Sisters of the Precious Blood](#). See below for more information.

We're thrilled to welcome Cooper Jones, our new administrative assistant for both the Catholic Social Action and Respect Life offices. Cooper comes to us from the University of Miami in Ohio, and we're so excited to have him join the team. Welcome Cooper!

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 continued joyful summer, 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 Saintly 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 Saintly 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 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.)
- The sixth presentation will be on the Venerable Sr. Henriette Delille on Sunday, September 20, at [St. Benedict the Moor Parish in Dayton](#), at 1:30pm (mass is at 10:30am, lunch is at 12:00pm).

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

THE SAINTLY SEVEN

Black Candidates for Sainthood



Servant of God
Sr. Thea Bowman

Tuesday, July 7, 6:30-8:00pm

Sisters of the Precious Blood – Salem Heights
4560 Denlinger Rd. Trotwood, OH 45416

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](http://iVoteCatholic.org) 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](#).



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. **(July 27, August 24, 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



Catholic Conference of Ohio 250th Celebration Message

The Catholic bishops in Ohio released a statement as Haitians in Ohio awaited a Supreme Court ruling on their Temporary Protected Status. They wrote, "We reflect upon the promises of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and to worship God free from government intervention. We take seriously the truth that our rights come from God and recognize the great blessings that God has bestowed on our country. Therefore, as proud and faithful citizens of the United States, we need to take responsibility to support the common good of our country and to love our neighbors as ourselves." The bishops lamented the situation of Haitians in Ohio and across the U.S. who despite working hard to support their families, worshiping God regularly, and seeking to live in peace, "may be forced to abandon familial stability, jobs, and community due to policy decisions. We find no moral justification for terminating their Temporary Protected Status (TPS) without an alternative way to adjust their immigration status."

Click [HERE](#) to read the full message.

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.



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.



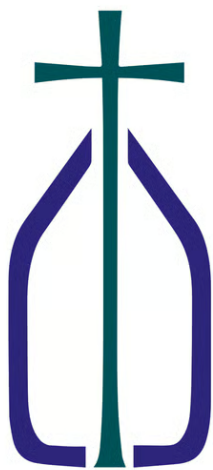
CATHOLIC
CAMPAIGN FOR
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

We are pleased to announce the **2026-2027 Catholic Campaign For Human Development (CCHD)** local grant recipients:

- **Cross Over Community Development (COCD)** - HEALTHCARE BRIDGE PROJECT
- **Leaders for Equality and Action in Dayton (LEAD)** - YOUTH IN ACTION PROJECT
- **Mission of Mary Cooperative** - NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
- **Robert O'Neal Multicultural Arts Center (ROMAC)** - ARTPRENEUR TEEN PROGRAM
- **St. Leo the Great** - MENTORING AND DRIVER'S EDUCATION PROGRAM
- **St. Vincent de Paul - Springfield** - COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR PROJECT

CCHD is an anti-poverty initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Donations to an annual collection *support work to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities.*

YOUR DOLLARS ARE MAKING CHANGE!



**Catholic Charities
Southwestern Ohio**

Serve | Engage | Empower

People of Hope Mobile Museum

CCSWO is thrilled to welcome the People of Hope Mobile Museum, a nationwide storytelling experience that brings to life more than 40 powerful video stories of neighbors helping neighbors through Catholic Charities agencies. It is a free immersive, mobile exhibit open to the public! Especially notable is that one of CCSWO's own, Bob Miller, is featured in one of the stories.

Friday, July 17, 6:00-8:30pm

The Mobile Museum will be stationed just outside the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in downtown Cincinnati.

[Click here to learn more and register for this free event.](#)



PRAY FOR A CULTURE OF LIFE IN OHIO

Join the Catholic Conference of Ohio for a monthly Zoom event to pray the Divine Office, delve into Church teaching on important issues such as abortion, assisted suicide, and capital punishment, and learn how you can get involved to uphold the dignity of life in Ohio!

Every 1st Friday
11:00 – 11:45 am

beginning August 7, 2026

SIGN UP TODAY:

[Click here to receive the meeting call link](#)

Questions? Email mforson@ohiocathconf.org

"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then."

- Deuteronomy 30:19



[Click here to receive the meeting call link](#)



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.

In response to Gov. DeWine's recent statement calling for the abolition of the death penalty in OH, the Catholic Conference of Ohio said, "We join Governor DeWine in urging Ohio legislators to pass House Bill 72 and Senate Bill 134 to prohibit the State of Ohio from funding the intentional termination of human life—including abortion, assisted suicide, and State-sanctioned execution—and to abolish the death penalty in favor of life without parole."

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!](#)

Support Anti-Trafficking Legislation

The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2025 (H.R. 1144) was reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. It would:

- Reauthorize and strengthen existing anti-trafficking programs across numerous federal agencies;
- Establish a new Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program to help prevent the re-exploitation of trafficking survivors; and
- Require counter-trafficking strategies, activities, and efforts to be further incorporated into U.S. international assistance.

[Tell the House to reauthorize immediately!](#)



From the Respect Life Office

Bob Wurzelbacher, Director of Respect Life Ministries

A Moral Test of our Nation's Welcome

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision allowing the Trump administration to end Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian immigrants has understandably caused great concern among many Catholics. While the Court's ruling addressed a legal question about the authority of the executive branch and the limits of judicial review, it also highlights a deeper moral question that now falls squarely on our nation's elected leaders.

Temporary Protected Status is not an immigration loophole. It is a humanitarian program established by Congress that allows people already in the United States to remain and work legally when extraordinary conditions in their home country make a safe return impossible. Haitians first received TPS following the devastating 2010 earthquake, and subsequent administrations of both political parties repeatedly renewed those protections because Haiti continued to suffer from political instability, gang violence, natural disasters, and humanitarian collapse. Even today, the U.S. State Department continues to warn Americans not to travel to Haiti because of widespread kidnapping, violent crime, and the near collapse of civil order. It is difficult to argue that conditions have improved to the point that returning families is now safe.

The Catholic Church has long affirmed that sovereign nations have the right—and even the responsibility—to regulate their borders and immigration policies for the common good. At the same time, Catholic teaching insists that governments exercise this authority with justice and compassion, particularly toward those fleeing grave danger. This case is not about people who entered the country unlawfully. It concerns individuals who were legally admitted under a program created by Congress, who have lived and worked in our communities for years, raised families, attended our churches, paid taxes, and contributed to our economy. They accepted the invitation our nation extended because returning home was deemed too dangerous.

Ohio's Catholic bishops recently described efforts to end TPS protections for Haitians as “a moral failure.” In their joint statement, **America at 250: Freedom and the Common Good**, they remind Catholics that concern for migrants and refugees is not a partisan issue but a matter of human dignity rooted in the Gospel. They call upon our nation to pursue immigration policies that uphold both the rule of law and the dignity of every human person.

It is worthy of mention that the Supreme Court's task is not to determine whether a policy is morally wise or compassionate, but whether the executive branch acted within the authority granted by the Constitution and laws enacted by Congress. Whether one agrees with the Court's legal reasoning or not, Congress possessed the authority throughout this process to modify the TPS statute or otherwise protect Haitians who had been lawfully living and working in the United States. It did not do so. The Court's decision therefore does not end the conversation. The administration bears responsibility for choosing to terminate Haiti's TPS designation, but Congress also bears responsibility for declining to exercise its constitutional authority to provide continued protection for people who remain unable to return safely to their homeland. As Catholics, however, we are not called simply to point fingers. We are called to respond with hope. We can pray for immigrant families living with uncertainty, support parish ministries that accompany newcomers, advocate respectfully for policies that protect vulnerable people while honoring the rule of law, and welcome those whom God has placed in our communities. Christ reminds us that when we welcome the stranger, we welcome Him. Our response to our Haitian brothers and sisters offers another opportunity to live that Gospel with both truth and charity.



From the Office for Persons with Disabilities

Bob Wurzelbacher, Director of Respect Life Ministries

Is There a Place at the Picnic Table for Everyone?

The parish picnic is in full swing. Children race across the lawn with snow cones in hand while volunteers serve hamburgers and hot dogs fresh off the grill. Laughter fills the air as old friends catch up under the shade of the trees. New parishioners are introduced, families enjoy games together, and everyone seems to be having a wonderful time. It is a beautiful picture of parish life.

Now imagine another family arriving. Their son is on the autism spectrum and becomes anxious when the music grows loud. Would they know there is a quiet place where he can take a break? An elderly parishioner using a wheelchair arrives. Can she easily reach the picnic tables, food line, and restrooms? A young adult with an intellectual disability hopes to join a game of cornhole. Will someone invite him to play? Parents of a child with Down syndrome look around, wondering if this is a place where their family will be welcomed—or simply accommodated.

These are important questions, because every parish gathering should reflect the truth we proclaim every Sunday: every human person is created in the image and likeness of God and is a beloved member of the Body of Christ.

Welcoming people with disabilities does not usually require major renovations or large budgets. More often, it begins with thoughtful planning and intentional hospitality. As your parish prepares for its next picnic, festival, or summer event, consider including a note on the invitation encouraging families to share any accommodations that would help them participate. Designate a volunteer to think specifically about accessibility. Make sure there are accessible parking spaces, clear pathways, and seating that can accommodate wheelchairs. Provide shaded seating for those who are sensitive to heat or have medical conditions.

Small adjustments can make a big difference. A quiet area away from loud music can be a blessing for children or adults with sensory sensitivities. Food can be labeled for common allergens. Games and crafts can be flexible enough that children of different abilities can participate together. Volunteers can offer to carry food trays or simply be attentive to anyone who may need assistance.

Yet perhaps the greatest barrier is not physical at all. It is the fear of not belonging. A warm smile. An invitation to share a table. Introducing yourself to someone you have not met before. Speaking directly to a person with a disability rather than only to a parent or caregiver. These simple gestures communicate something powerful: *You are part of our parish family.*

Our Catholic faith calls us to do more than welcome people through the church doors. We are called to build communities where every person knows they are loved, valued, and needed. As St. Paul reminds us, “The members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable” (1 Corinthians 12:22). Every parish is stronger because of the gifts and witness of its members with disabilities.

This summer, as our parishes gather for picnics, festivals, and celebrations, let’s make sure our hospitality reflects the Gospel we proclaim. Before the next parish event, consider these five simple ways to help every family know they belong:

- 1. Think about accessibility before the event begins.**

Designate someone on the planning team to consider the needs of parishioners with disabilities, from parking and seating to restrooms and pathways.

- 2. Create spaces for everyone to participate.**

Offer shaded seating, provide a quiet area for those with sensory sensitivities, and make games and activities flexible enough for people of different ages and abilities.

- 3. Invite families to share their needs.**

A simple note on the invitation asking if accommodations would help them participate lets families know they are not an afterthought—they are expected and welcomed.

4. **Practice the ministry of welcome.**

Introduce yourself to someone you don't know. Invite a family to sit at your table. Speak directly to people with disabilities, not just their caregivers. Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is genuine friendship.

5. **Remember why it matters.**

Accessibility is not simply about ramps, parking spaces, or quiet rooms. It is about recognizing the God-given dignity of every person and ensuring that every member of the Body of Christ can fully share in the life of the parish.

When every person knows there is a place for them—not only at the picnic table, but in the life of the parish—we offer a powerful witness to the Gospel of Life. That is a hospitality worthy of Christ Himself.



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