

SAINT CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CONCERNS

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

Volume 4 Issue 12



Thank you for signing up to receive information from the Saint Chris Social Concerns Committee (SCC). We appreciate your continued interest in the Social Concerns Committee and looking for ways to help others.

Many churches and nonprofits have suspended or modified volunteer efforts for health reasons due to the coronavirus.

We continue to offer suggestions and ideas for you to consider during these times.

Prayer, as you might expect, comes first. Listed next are **volunteer opportunities** and charitable actions, followed by **advocacy** involvement and education.

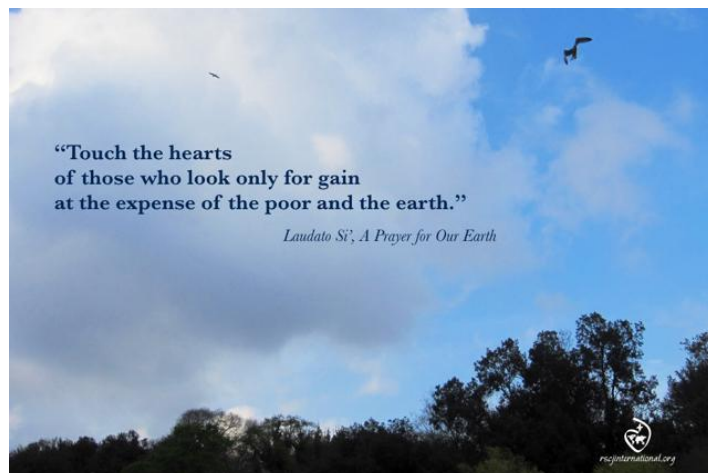
Please consider keeping informed of the changing situation and social concerns issues via our Facebook page. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/stchris-scc> (St. Chris Social Concerns Committee) to join. Just click on the box: **Join Group** on the main picture. If you have a problem, let us know.

We value your input regarding this newsletter. Please send ideas and comments to John Hosek: jjudehosek@gmail.com.

PRAYER FOR THE OCTOBER 2020

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH BY POPE FRANCIS:

All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest
of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters,
harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this
earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.



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Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

OCTOBER 2020 SOCIAL JUSTICE DATES (FROM THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER)

- *Fair Trade Month*
- *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*
- Respect Life (First Sunday in October)
- Catholic World Mission Sunday (Third Sunday in October)
- October 4th: Feast of St. Francis Assisi
- October 10th: World Day Against the Death Penalty & World Mental Health Day
- October 11th: Anniversary of the Opening of the Second Vatican Council & Feast of Pope Saint John XXIII
- October 16th: World Food Day
- October 17th: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- October 24th: Beginning of Disarmament Week & United Nations Day



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VOLUNTEER AND CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITIES

ST CHRISTOPHER PARISH

THE ROSARY AT ST. CHRISTOPHER

The rosary will be recited at 10:30 am on Tuesdays and 7 pm on Thursdays at the Centennial Park. Please remember to wear a mask. We hope you consider joining us!

ROCKY RIVER ASSISTANCE PACK AND SORT

Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the RRAP has limited the monthly Pack & Sort to Rocky River Women's Club members only.

However, you may drop off non-perishable items at Lake Road Market at 20267 Lake Road anytime. The needs for October are Evaporated Milk, Pumpkin Pie Mix, Pie Crusts, Stuffing, and Canned Yams.

The RRAP needs monetary donations to continue assisting our neighbors in need. Tax-deductible donations can be made online via PayPal: <http://www.rrwc.org/donation> or by checks made to Rocky River Assistance Program, mailed to: P. O. Box 16724, Rocky River, OH 44116. If more convenient, you can also mail grocery gift cards to RRAP. Giant Eagle, Heinen's and Target cards in \$25 increments are the most helpful.



SAINT COLMAN PARISH

For the foreseeable future, the Neighborhood Meal will be a to-go meal once a month. The next meal will be on October 24th.

We thank our dedicated volunteers who have worked hard to plan for a safe reopening of this vital program for our Parish and our neighborhood.

To donate, please send checks to St. Colman Church, 2027 West 65th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 441102.



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ROCKY RIVER/LAKEWOOD MEALS ON WHEELS

Rocky River Lakewood Meals On Wheels is continuing to deliver freshly made, nutritious meals during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have implemented strict sanitation procedures to protect our meal recipients, volunteers, and staff from contact with and transmission of the virus.

Planning ahead, we have given all our recipients a supply of non-perishable food to have on-hand in the event that we are forced to suspend our normal operations at some point in the future.

We have the capacity to serve more people who are finding it difficult to purchase or prepare healthy meals. If you or someone you know – friend, relative, neighbor – needs our service, please contact us at (440) 333-6298, and browse our website for more information.

We currently need more kitchen and delivery volunteers to work either on a regular weekly schedule or as substitutes. Kitchen volunteers work 8:30-11:30 M-F, while drivers work 11:30-12:30/1:00 M-F. Please contact Bob Burns for more information at bobb@mealsonwheelsrr.org or call the kitchen at 440-333-6298. Thank you!

For more information about Rocky River Meals on Wheels visit www.mealsonwheelsrr.org.



WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER

Important update regarding COVID-19:

Please check out the West Side Catholic Center at the following sites to keep informed of the status of their programs:

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON ITEM DONATIONS AND DROP OFF TIMES](#) (Donation hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-1pm. Two parcel limit.

[CLICK HERE FOR A FULL LIST OF UPDATES TO OUR RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAMS](#) (Resource Center hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm; Saturday, 9am-10am and 4:30pm-5:15pm for meals only)



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SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY



Please check out Saint Vincent DePaul at the following site to keep informed of the status of their programs:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/svdpcle/posts/?ref=page_internal

Donate safely and securely online today! Or to make a gift by mail, please make your check or money order payable to "St. Vincent de Paul Society" and mail to: St. Vincent de Paul Society Care Club, 1404 East Ninth Street – Third Floor, Cleveland, OH 44114.

Thank You! Click here to donate to a hunger center: <https://donate.svdpcle.org/hunger-center-donations/>

THE GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK

Volunteer Program Update: October 2020

We are thrilled to announce that we will be adding even more shifts to our volunteer schedule for the remainder of the year. We're planning to have the following onsite volunteer schedule available week-to-week for the rest of 2020:

Monday – 9am-12pm, 1-4pm, 5-8pm

Tuesday – 9am-12pm, 1-4pm, 5-8pm

Wednesday – 9am-12pm, 1-4pm, 5-8pm

Thursday – 9am-12pm, 1-4pm, 5-8pm

Friday – 9am-12pm, 1-4pm

Maximum group sizes for each of our onsite shifts may vary, and for the time being our largest cap on volunteer groups will be 25 total volunteers for a given project. The online sign-up should accurately reflect how many volunteers we are still recruiting for a given shift.

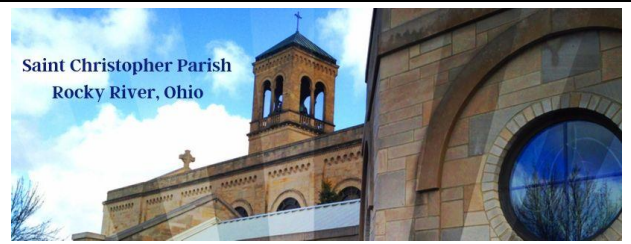
In addition to these onsite shifts, we are still recruiting volunteers to assist at our weekly Thursday food distribution events. These shifts will take place at the Muni Lot from 12-5pm each Thursday, and volunteers can



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expect to assist with loading boxes into vehicles, client check-in, or traffic control. Feel free to let us know if you would like to learn more about these shifts!

<https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/give-help/volunteer>

FRONT STEPS

We have all passed these folks on the street and wanted to help. Many of us harbor guilt about not doing enough while simultaneously not knowing what the best path forward is to lend a hand.

For those of us in and around Cleveland, [#frontstepshousingandservices](#) has these answers. They know the best ways to help our homeless population because they've been doing it since 1986. But don't take our word for it! Check out this testimonial video from some of our graduates!

<https://youtu.be/wXbm98cxRCs>



Please click the link to help our cause!

<https://www.frontstepsservices.org/donate>



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ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES



CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT

FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS PROGRAM 2020:

The Healing Power of Love in Action: Creation Care in a Time of Pandemic and Partisanship

The Covenant's 90-minute program enables U.S. Catholics to host in-person or virtual sessions to grow in their understanding and call to care for creation as integral to the Catholic faith through prayer, education and action. It is part of the Season of Creation being marked worldwide with hundreds of events, prayers and activities. The program includes prayers, readings, a short video, discussion questions, and suggested activities. This year, in addition to an in-person group version, we also provide a version for individual/virtual group use.

The 2020 Feast of St. Francis program is framed around St. Francis' famous prayer, the Canticle of Creatures, to illuminate our current journey from the pandemic, from indifference to climate change, from political partisanship, to a place of healing through God, with each other and with Creation. The program ends by offering ways to act, including courageous conversations with friends and family, learning more about our civic duties as Catholics, pledging to vote, and ways to embrace the call to protect life, our vulnerable communities and neighbors, and God's creation which sustains life.



To sign up: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/feast-st-francis>

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA (CCUSA)

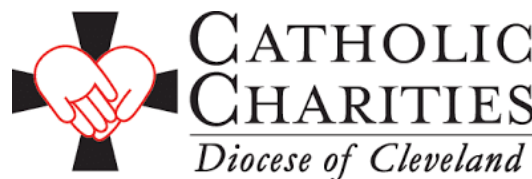
CCUSA Advocacy and Social Policy team advocates for policies that uphold human dignity and promote integral human development. Informed by the experience of local Catholic Charities agencies, we urge policy makers to see the faces of those in need in their communities and to create policies which assist and support them.

Sign up for Washington Weekly and receive Advocacy Alerts:

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/advocacy/>

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE OF THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

The Social Action Office of the Diocese of Cleveland seeks to shape a more caring society and a more peaceful world through justice education, advocacy, community development and organizing. Our work is based on the call of the Gospel to work for the respect and dignity of all human life, the elimination of poverty, to speak out against injustice, and to promote the common good. The office is composed of County-based social action offices, and office for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services.



<https://ccdoble.org/social-action>

CURRENT ACTION ALERTS FROM THE DIOCESE:

Click here for the most recent Action Alerts from the Diocese:

<https://www.ccdoble.org/service-areas/diocesan-social-action-office/advocacy/take-action-now>

ACTION ALERTS FROM THE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO:

Click here for the most recent Action Alerts from the Conference:

<https://www.ohiocathconf.org/issues/category/legislative-action-alerts>



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ACTION CALENDAR FROM CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES:



Action Calendar 2020-2021

Lead the way to a more just world. Use this calendar to plan your year of learning, reflection and action at home and in your community.

SEPTEMBER

Lead through peace.

Sep 21
International Day of Peace
Sep 27
World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Conflict and violence force countless numbers of people to flee their homes seeking safety and are the leading causes of food insecurity worldwide.

ACTION

Take the pledge to support people on the move as we celebrate World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Text **LEAD NOW** to 306-44

PRAYER

Lord, we pray for peace in the homelands of our sisters and brothers on the move, and that we may be bearers of peace to those who seek refuge in our communities.

OCTOBER

Lead by preventing and ending hunger.

Oct 4
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
Oct 11
International Day of the Girl
Oct 16
World Food Day

The issue of hunger is about more than food. It's about ensuring regular access to enough nutritious food by caring for our common home and creating healthy and safe communities so all people can reach their God-given potential.

Come together to reflect on our ability to end global hunger as a community. Explore our Table of Thanks community giving event for prayer, learning and action.

crs.org/leadtheway/fundraise

God of Creation, we pray that we may be good stewards of all you have given us and prophetic advocates for our sisters and brothers who suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

NOVEMBER

Lead by giving thanks.

Nov 13
Feast of Mother Cabrini
Nov 15-22
Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week
Nov 15
World Day of the Poor

As part of the universal Church, we are called to recognize Christ in our neighbor and give thanks by sharing what we have with others.

Celebrate this time of thanksgiving by bringing your community together to give the gift of hope to those most in need.

crs.org/leadtheway/fundraise

All you saints and angels, pray for us that we may bring Christ's welcoming love and share our gifts with those most in need in our communities and around the world.

DECEMBER

Lead on behalf of families this Advent.

ADVENT
Dec 1
Giving Tuesday
Dec 12
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec 18
International Migrants Day

During Advent, we reflect on the Holy Family. We pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe, seeing the expectant mother of God mirrored in the millions of displaced women and children around the world.

Help families facing crisis around the world by reflecting each day with our Advent calendar and taking action.

crs.org/leadtheway

Our Lady of Guadalupe, as you protected your Son, our Lord, while on earth, intercede for all mothers and fathers forced to flee their homes to keep their children safe.

JANUARY

Lead the way in the new year.

Jan 3-9
National Migration Week
Jan 11
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

When people are living in poverty or are forced to flee their homes, they become even more vulnerable to exploitation and human trafficking.

Lift your voice to protect our vulnerable sisters and brothers on the move who are at risk of exploitation.

Text **MIGRATION** to 306-44

God, rescue your children trapped in the scourge of modern-day slavery, and give us courage and perseverance to act against this injustice this new year and always.

FEBRUARY

Lead with prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Feb 17
Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
Feb 20
World Day of Social Justice

Ensuring access to nutritious food, safety, nurturing care and education can help children thrive.

Go deeper this Lent with CRS Rice Bowl to help families strengthen homes and give children a bright future.

crsricebowl.org

Almighty God, we pray that our Lenten journey may be fruitful for drawing closer to you and our neighbor.

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Saint Christopher Parish
Rocky River, Ohio



ACTION

PRAYER

MARCH

Mar 8
International
Women's Day
Mar 22
World Water Day
Mar 24
Feast of
St. Oscar Romero

Lead the way to hope this Lent.

Ending and preventing hunger means ensuring everyone has the conditions they need be free from hunger—like clean water, access to economic opportunities and just and peaceful societies.

Reflect on this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to make a difference in the lives of millions of children and families as we bring Lent to life.

crsricebowl.org

Loving Creator, as we look forward to the promise of the resurrection, we pray and commit our Lenten journey to ensuring all your children have enough food and support to build their dreams.

APRIL

Apr 4
Easter
Apr 22
Earth Day

Lead to eradicate hunger.

Our changing climate affects everything, including our ability to meet our most basic need of regular access to nutritious food.

Take part in our Lead the Way on Hunger campaign by protecting our common home and caring for those who are most vulnerable due to our changing climate.

Text **HUNGER** to **306-44**

Loving Creator, we pray that we, and all nations, act to address the 'cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' in this pivotal moment in our world.

MAY

May 23
Pentecost
May 24
Laudato Si'
Anniversary Year Ends

Lead by caring for creation.

Drought, flooding and more unpredictable weather patterns are creating devastating challenges for farmers, families and communities, leading to more hunger and malnutrition.

Heed our Holy Father's call to urgently renew your commitment to care for all of creation in the celebration of the anniversary of Laudato Si'.

crs.org/leadtheway

Lord, you entrust us to be stewards of your creation. May we renew our commitment to you and our neighbor with love and action.

JUNE

Jun 20
World Refugee Day

Lead to support refugee children and families.

Addressing the root causes of forced migration is as important for communities today as it is for those of the future.

Help refugee children and their families find safety, stability and hope. Stand with refugees and advocate to help all children thrive.

Text **MIGRATION** to **306-44**

Almighty God, we pray that nations act to help all who are displaced by violence and conflict so that the futures of each person and our world may be bright.

JULY

Jul 14
Feast of St. Kateri
Tekakwitha

Lead on behalf of people most vulnerable.

The health of our common home, the land and its resources, is directly connected to the well-being and health of our human family around the world.

Urge Congress to help farmers adapt to the effects of changing climates so they can support their families to thrive.

crs.org/leadtheway

God, may the spirit of St. Kateri Tekakwitha animate our work, and may our work to care for our common home honor her legacy.

AUGUST

CONGRESSIONAL
RECESS
Aug 6
Feast of the
Transfiguration
Aug 12
International
Youth Day

Lead for a better future.

Creating hope for the future means creating meaningful opportunities for youth to develop, grow and thrive.

Visit our Action Center and join the movement by meeting with your members of Congress at home to eradicate poverty, hunger and forced migration.

crs.org/leadtheway

Loving God, we pray that the United States continues its leadership role in the world to eradicate poverty and care for those most vulnerable.

For resources and inspiration on how we can come together to make a difference, visit crs.org/leadtheway and join our mobile network by texting **LEAD NOW** to **306-44** for the latest CRS campaign updates and actions.

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