



Catholic Charities Social Concerns

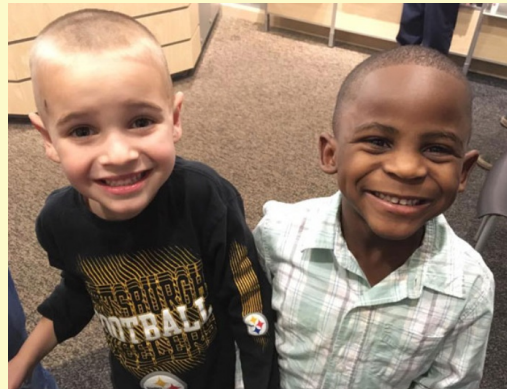
Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

CELEBRATING
100 YEARS

Dear Friend in Christ,

As summer comes to a close, I look forward to the fall. The freshness of cooler air, the turning leaves, football games, bonfires and all things pumpkin spice! Fall also means we are getting closer to some great Archdiocesan events, including;

- [Archdiocese of Indianapolis – Catholic Charities 100th Anniversary](#) Legacy Mass and Dinner with Archbishop Thompson on November 20th.
- [4th Annual Morning with Mary](#) with Archbishop Thompson on October 5th.
- [NCYC \(National Catholic Youth Conference\)](#) at the Indiana Convention Center from November 21st to November 23rd.



One event I would like to call special attention to is the [Listening Session on Racism](#), which will take place at Marian University on Monday, September 30th at 6pm. The event is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Intercultural Ministry.

If you have not yet seen it, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released a pastoral letter earlier this year called [Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love – A Pastoral Letter Against Racism](#). In it the Bishops speak of the sin of racism that still exists in our country. The pastoral letter challenges us in the urgent call to love and to walk humbly with our God.

“Racism occurs because a person ignores the fundamental truth that, because all humans share a common origin, they are all brothers and sisters, all equally made in the image of God. When this truth is ignored, the consequence is prejudice and fear of the other, and—all too often—hatred.” (Open Wide our Hearts)

The pastoral letter goes on to say, *“Racism can often be found in our hearts—in many cases placed there unwillingly or unknowingly by our upbringing and culture. As such, it can lead to thoughts and actions that we do not even see as racist, but nonetheless flow from the same prejudicial root. The cumulative effects of personal sins of racism have led to social structures of injustice and violence that makes us all accomplices in racism.”*

As I read, reflected, and was challenged on the words of the pastoral letter, I couldn't help but think of the words "less than." I am speaking of the temptation we may fall into of seeing someone as "less than" because of their race, color, disability, religion, social conditions, income, political views, educational level...and so on. There are so many ways that all of us can fall into the temptation of seeing another person as less than, whether they are intentional or unintentional. Can't you just see the devil rubbing his hands in glee each time we see others through his lens instead of through the eyes of God?

We have only to look at our own U.S. history to see the times when we as a nation struggled to see through the eyes of God. From the start of our country there was a fear and prejudice towards Native Americans and then Africans as slavery was introduced into our society. Move forward to the 1700s and 1800s when there was widespread fear of those who were German, Irish, Catholic, Chinese, Italian or Jewish. Fast forward to the 1900s with continued racism towards those who had black or brown skin, as well as those who were Japanese, German, Jewish or Muslim. Which leads us to today, where we are seeing an increase in prejudice and racism towards those who are Hispanic or Latino.

But there is hope! God loves each of us **"More Than"** any of us can even imagine. He calls each of us to look through His eyes as a reminder that we are all created in His image and likeness. I only have to think of the examples of the radical love Jesus showed each of us through His encounters and parables. Time and time again, Jesus would show His merciful love when he would reach to those who were considered the less thans of His time. How can we forget the times He showed love to tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers and those who were considered the lowest of society.

Who can forget the parable of the Good Samaritan where the Samaritan, someone who during that time was seen as racially impure, was given the place of honor in Jesus' story. The Samaritan was the hero who took a risk to help the beaten man even when he knew he could have been scorned or shamed. And then there is the parable of the Prodigal Son. Jesus shows us the beauty of the radical love of the all-giving and forgiving father who shows equal love to all of us, whether we are the prodigal son or the son who refused to celebrate his brother's return out of self-righteous jealousy.

God is never outdone in His love for each of us. He radically loves us all. As the Bishops wrote in the pastoral letter, *"For there is no place for racism in the heart of any person; it is a perversion of the Lord's will for men and women, all of whom were made in God's image and likeness."*

I want to end by telling you about the picture in the upper right-hand corner. It is a picture of 5-year-olds, Jax and Reddy. You may remember their story as it went viral on social media this last year as Jax asked his mom if he could have the same haircut as Reddy to trick his teacher. He thought if they had the same haircut, his teacher wouldn't be able to tell them apart. What a beautiful lesson these boys have taught us. It is a great reminder that we are all born without racism or prejudice in our hearts. Sadly, it is something that we allow there when we begin to see people as less than. What joy it must bring our Lord when we see each person with gratitude that we all have been created in His image and likeness.

I hope to see you all at the Listening Session on Racism on September 30th. If you are not able to make it, please read the pastoral letter *Open Wide Our Hearts*. You can find the [pastoral letter](#), as well as other [supplemental materials](#) around the discussion of racism on the USCCB webpage. And don't forget to scroll down to learn more about upcoming events and great social concerns resources that are available to you, your parish and school.

In closing, my prayer is that we each experience God's radical love for us; and that we in turn allow it to impact all whom we encounter.

Sincerely in Christ,

Theresa Chamblee

Visit our Website - Catholic Charities - Social Concerns

Open Wide Our Hearts

Pastoral Letter Prayer



open wide our hearts

**As in all things, we turn to prayer,
asking Our Blessed Mother to intercede on our behalf:**

Mary, friend and mother to all,
through your Son, God has found a way
to unite himself to every human being,
called to be one people,
sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son,
seeking forgiveness for the times when
we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son
the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism
32 and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son,
so that prejudice and animosity
will no longer infect our minds or hearts
but will be replaced with a love that respects
the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church,
the Spirit of your Son Jesus
warms our hearts:
pray for us.

Catholic Charities 100th Anniversary

#BETHELIGHT

CATHOLIC CHARITIES – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

#BeTheLight

Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis was founded in 1919 to serve the poor and hurting of the Indianapolis community. Our programs provide quality services in **counseling, child, youth and family support, eldercare, emergency and specialized services, and pregnancy and adoption services.**

In 2017-18 Catholic Charities Indianapolis programs served nearly 75,000 people. Among those served, the majority are women and children, who live below the federal poverty level. Through the generosity of our donors and volunteers we can provide quality services to more individuals and families in need.



Please Join Catholic Charities

**Mass and Dinner Reception
Celebrating 100 Year of
Providing Help, Creating Hope,**

Serving All

Join Archbishop Thompson for Mass and dinner celebrating the 100 year legacy of Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese.

Wednesday, November 20th

Mass at 5:30pm at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

Dinner Reception at 6:30pm at the Catholic Center

(1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202).

Doors for dinner will open at 6:00pm.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

World Day of Migrants and Refugees - Sept. 29th



"Every person is precious; persons are more important than things, and the worth of an institution is measured by the way it treats the life and dignity of each person."

Pope Francis

September 29th marks the World Day for Migrants and Refugees. Click on the link below for some of the resources that can be used to host events, prayer vigils or other activities to celebrate this day. Though the official day is Sept. 29th, these resources can be used throughout the year.

Resources include: Scriptural Rosary Guide, Host an Evening of Solidarity with Migrants and Refugees, Host a Meal, Prayer Reflections.

[Click HERE to access some great resources!!!!](#)

Parish Social Ministry Resources

Be A Super Volunteer!
SIX Tips to Recruit AND Retain Super Volunteers
Find Resource [HERE](#) ([en Espanol](#))



How to Start a New Parish Ministry
Find Resource [HERE](#) ([en Espanol](#))

How To Make Service Truly Transformational
Find Resource [HERE](#)

Parish Social Ministry TEAM

We are called to live our faith fully through Gospel, Sacraments and Service!

If you are interested in learning how your parish can incorporate service into your everyday parish life, then having a Parish Social Ministry Team. A Parish Social Ministry Team aims to foster greater outreach and advocacy efforts, to educate parishioners to serve those who are poor and vulnerable, and to provide opportunities for spiritual growth.

If you are interested in learning more...
Please contact Theresa Chamblee at 317-236-1404
or tchamblee@archindy.org

Highlights of Your Great Work St. Anthony of Padua



St. Anthony's Youth Group!!

St. Anthony's Youth Group (Clarksville) visited the campus of St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities on Tuesday, June 11th. After an introduction to the services the

agency offers to the community, the group of 35 young people split off into teams and spent about 3 hours of their day serving others through a variety of tasks including landscaping, painting, cleaning and organizing. Their hard work saved valuable staff time, made our campus more beautiful, and most importantly, helped create a more inviting atmosphere for those we serve.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES Ministry Highlight

Becky's Place (Bedford, IN) is designed to "provide shelter and create hope" for women and children who are experiencing homelessness and moving toward a life of self-sufficiency.



Basic Overview of Services:

- Shelter
- Meals
- Case Management
- Support Services
- Counseling
- Educational Resources
- Vocational Training
- Life Skills
- Compassionate, dedicate staff and volunteers

6TH ANNUAL
RUN FOR HOPE 5k
FAMILY FUN WALK

THANKSGIVING DAY
Thursday, November 28, 2019
Downtown Bedford - Harp Commons
Starting at 9:30AM

CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER

Quote of the Month

St. Teresa of Calcutta

At the end of our lives we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made or how many great things we have done.

We will be judged by: I was hungry and you gave me to eat. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.

Hungry not only for bread—
but hungry for love.

Naked not only for clothing—
but naked of human dignity and respect.

Homeless not only for want of a home of bricks—
but homeless because of rejection.



FROM OUR FRIENDS

4th Annual Morning with Mary

Join Archbishop Thompson and folks from around the archdiocese at the National Shrine to Our Lady of Providence for a prayerful morning honoring our Blessed Mother. This will be a bi-lingual event that will include intercessory prayer, a rosary, hymns to our Blessed Mother, and witness talks on Mary's role in our lives. And be sure to plan to stay for lunch and a tour of the amazing grounds and Shrine of Mother Theodore Guerin!



One of the most beautiful, yet misunderstood, gifts to the Church from Jesus is his Mother. In his final moments on the cross, Jesus told his beloved disciple John, "Behold your mother," and to Mary he said, "Behold your son." What do these words mean? Why should I have a relationship with Mary? How do I have a relationship with Mary and how does that fit in with loving Jesus? What's the rosary all about? Let's join our prayers together on this beautiful day in the Month of the Rosary!

[For More Information - Visit HERE](#)



Archdiocese of Indianapolis Corrections Conference 2019

The Keynote Speaker will be Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, of Dead Man Walking fame, and leading advocate for the abolition of the death penalty. Sr. Helen writes, "The death penalty is one of the great moral issues facing our country, yet most people rarely think about it and very few of us take the time to delve deeply enough into this issue to be able to make an informed decision about it." She will review the Church's evolving position on the death penalty, and will invite you to take that time, to learn, to explore and to reflect. Books written by Sr. Helen will be available for purchase.

No fee for the conference, but a free-will offering will be accepted. A complimentary lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 8:00 am with the program beginning promptly at 8:30 am.

For More Information, visit [HERE](#).

Prayers of the Month

Catholic Charities Centennial Prayer

In honor of our centennial year, please join us in prayer for those that serve and

have been served by Catholic Charities.

Loving God...

We are grateful that you have entrusted the care of the poor and vulnerable to us. Your infinite grace has helped people overcome the challenges of poverty, hunger, homelessness, addiction, violence, aging, and abuse.

As Catholic Charities, we are profoundly blessed to have the lives of the poor intersect with our own. We know that in helping these least ones, we are serving you.

We are privileged, dear Lord, to be your ears when we hear their cries; your eyes when we see them suffer. Help us be your hands to feed, clothe, and shelter them; your voice to comfort them; your feet to walk beside them; your shoulders to carry them; your strength to help them persevere; your light to bring them hope.

As we celebrate our centennial anniversary, we thank you, Lord, for all those who serve or have been served by Catholic Charities. We ask for your continued blessings as we carry out our mission of compassionate and loving care of those who need it most.

Amen.

Ministries of Catholic Charities Social Concerns

What is Social Concerns?

Social Concerns encourages the Community to grow in a deeper understanding of Catholic Social Teaching by providing resources and strategies for effective action in parishes, schools and surrounding communities. Most importantly, it calls us to a deeper understanding in living out the Two Greatest Commandments, which is to Love God and to Love our Neighbors, both locally and globally."

Below are the Ministries that fall under Catholic Charities - Social Concerns.





we are one family under God



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
WORKING ON THE MARGINS

Love Your Neighbor



Share the Journey
#sharejourney



Catholic Charities USA



CRS
CATHOLIC RUSTICATION SERVICE

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ARCHDIOCESE
OF INDIANAPOLIS
The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Catholic Charities
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