

MAY 2023 JUSTICE AND PEACE BULLETIN NOTES

MAY 6 & 7 2023

“IF YOU WANT TO CULTIVATE PEACE, PROTECT CREATION.” Pope Benedict XVI, 1 January 2010
We all long for peace. Take a moment to reflect on this quote. Pope Benedict XVI, known as the “Green Pope”, propelled the Church’s practical thinking on climate change and care for creation influencing Pope Francis to write his world-changing encyclical, *Laudato Si* in 2015. We are about to celebrate **Laudato Si Week**, May 21-28, 2023, the 8th anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si*. Now is a good time to learn more about *Laudato Si*. Start with the [Best Summary of Laudato Si](#).

CARE FOR CREATION [Environment Ministry](#) | [Sacred Heart Catholic Church \(sacredheartnorfolk.org\)](#) | All are welcome to Clean the Street on our adopted portion of Princess Anne Rd., Saturday, May 13th, starting in the Sacred Heart Church parking lot, 8:50 am-10:30 am. All materials will be provided by Clean Norfolk Beautiful. Please bring a pair of gloves. POC | Frank Murphy, wfnerm377@aol.com



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY | Sacred Heart Church will celebrate its 16th ANNIVERSARY IN TWINNING, Sun. May 7th, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm in the Commons with a 2022-2023 school year presentation on our twinning relationship with St. Gabriel Parish, Lascahobas, Haiti. Meet-and-greet starts at 3:45 pm. There will be soft live music, refreshments, and a raffle. All are welcome. POC | Patricia Britz patprovidence1@yahoo.com

<http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/>

DIGNITY OF LIFE | MAY BABY ITEMS COLLECTION-Sacred Heart is conducting a collection of baby items in the Church Commons during the month of May for The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater and Hope for Life (hope4lifeva.com). Please pick up the suggested list on the table in the Commons and drop off your donations in the large yellow box this month. Thank you.

Pregnant and need help? [Click here](#) to find pregnancy resources offered by our two dioceses.

Bread For The World Offering Of Letters | The next Bread for the World Offering of Letters will be held after all masses on **May 13 & 14**. Join us as we turn our faith into action by writing letters to our members of Congress asking them to support the Farm Bill. Please consider hand writing a letter or letters to your Congressman and/or Senators. You can also e-mail a letter to Congress by going to the Offering of Letters Website (<http://www.bread.org>) clicking on the 3 lines at the right top of the screen, clicking on “Offer Letters” clicking on “Resources.” clicking on “Take Action” and following the instructions there. If you do this, please send your name and the name of your Congressman to mpstark@aol.com for tabulation. Contact Mike Stark at 757-274 -8577, if you should like more information

MAY 13 & 14

DIGNITY OF LIFE HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY | MAY BABY ITEMS COLLECTION-Sacred Heart is conducting a collection of baby items in the Church Commons during the month of May for The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater and Hope for Life (hope4lifeva.com). Help a mom in need. Please pick up the suggested list on the table in the Commons and drop off your donations in the large yellow box this month. Thank you.

The Hope 4 Life Medical Mobile Pregnancy Resource Center is hiring! **Hope 4 Life has openings for ultrasound technicians to work flexible part-time hours at a competitive salary.** Since its founding in 2014, Hope 4 Life has helped mothers to welcome over 1,047 babies into the world by providing free pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, and material and moral support to expectant moms outside of the three abortion “clinics” in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Hope 4 Life also needs more volunteers to serve as sidewalk advocates & admin staff. If you are interested in serving as

an ultrasound technician or as a volunteer, please call Louantha Kerr at 757-810-1653 for more information about this very special ministry or send an email to ourhope4life@gmail.com



HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY | The Haiti twinning ministry is a 16-year ministry. It is based on faith, relationship, and a call to our baptism/faith in action. The Diocesan Haiti Commission is the oversight and advisory body which helps guide the direction of the ministry and provides the support necessary for those who are engaged in work with Haiti. The members of this ministry meet once a month to study the 7 themes of Catholic Social Teaching and Pope Francis’s encyclical Fratelli Tutti. They also share updates on our twin parish St. Gabriel, Lascahobas. Together we collaborate with Fr. Fitho Jean, Pastor at St. Gabriel to find projects that render our twin parish increasingly self-sustaining. Also, we keep the Diocese of Hinche in prayer as they celebrated their 51st Jubilee, April 20th. POC | Patricia Britz patprovence1@yahoo.com

<http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/>

If alcohol is causing problems in your life, contact A.A. We’re alcoholics helping other alcoholics get sober. 757-490-3980. info@tidewaterintergroup.org. Get the app for meetings. Look for the folding chair in a blue circle.

Bread For The World Offering Of Letters | The next Bread for the World offering of letters will be held after all Masses **Today, May 13 & 14**. Join us as we turn our faith into action by writing letters to our members of Congress asking them to support the Farm Bill. Please consider hand writing a letter or letters to your Congressman and/or Senators. You can write your letter after Mass today or write it – or two or three (one to each Senator and one to your Congressman) during the week and put it in the “Bread for the World” slot in the cabinet near the Blow street door of the Church. Look for the bulletin insert this weekend for more information and a sample letter. You can also e-mail a letter to Congress by going to the Offering of Letters Website (<http://www.bread.org>) clicking on the three lines at the right top of the screen, clicking on “Offer Letters” Clicking on “Resources” clicking on “Take Actions” and following the instructions there. If you do this, please send your name and the name of your Congressman to mpstark@aol.com for tabulation. Contact Mike Stark at 757-

MAY 20 & 21

BUY FRESH. BUY LOCAL | Food accounts for 10-30% of a household's carbon footprint. Spring is a great time to think about reducing your family’s carbon footprint and enjoy fresh, seasonal produce at the same time. Shop at our Norfolk farmers markets. *Buy fresh. Buy local.*

Talbot Park Farmers Market
6400 Newport Avenue
Wednesdays - 3:00-6:30 pm

Ghent Farmers Market
730 Spotswood Avenue
1st & 3rd Fridays – 4:00-7:00 pm

East Beach Farmers Market
9680 Shore Drive
Saturdays – 9:00-12:00 pm

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Respect Life encompasses several issues and initiatives that support the foundational Catholic moral principle that all human life is sacred from conception until natural death. This ministry works closely with Catholic organizations like the Virginia Catholic Conference, Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia, and Commonwealth Catholic Charities to help refer people for direct services where needed. It also coordinates prayerful visits at the Planned Parenthood and collaborates with local organizations: Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater, Hope 4 Life, and Birthright. POC | Patricia Britz (757)-621-1860

VIRGINIA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (VSH) is the oldest provider of permanent supportive housing in Virginia. VSH owns and operates two buildings that house formerly homeless community members in Norfolk, including Gosnold in Ghent and Church Street Station in Park Place.

VSH will be offering tours this spring of its south Hampton Roads properties and would also invite those interested to come together and help bring Gosnold's community garden to life. Please contact Nancy Perry at VSH if you are interested in a tour of a property, volunteering to help with the Gosnold community garden, or if you're interested in volunteering in general. *Learn more:* www.virginiassupportivehousing.org

Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH) provides permanent housing and supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness, with a current portfolio of 17 rental communities and five scattered site housing programs serving more than 1,600 individuals and families in the Richmond, Charlottesville, and Hampton Roads Regions.

Nancy Perry, Virginia Supportive Housing, nperry@virginiassupportivehousing.com, (757) 409-1724

May 27-28

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) | The Diocese of Richmond's first CRS Chapter has been going strong for a year! In an effort to end global poverty, CRS Chapter members come together to amplify their voices for global justice through meaningful grassroots action. Chapter members have exclusive opportunities to hone their leadership skills through CRS webinars, presentations from guest speakers working on the ground all around the world, training that provide concrete skills, and valuable networking opportunities. If you would like to learn more about the CRS Chapter and how you can become involved, please **send an email to** osm@richmonddiocese.org or contact **Frank Murphy**, wferm377@aol.com

DIGNITY OF LIFE | Please return all donations for the Baby Items Collection in the yellow box in the Commons by May 28th. We keep those families in prayers. Thank you, to all the parishioners who have generously participated in this drive for families in need of hope and community love.

Our coordinator for Respect Life from Conception to Natural Death, Tony Montesana, retired from this ministry after many years of service. **We are looking for a new Dignity for Life Ministry Coordinator.** Respect Life encompasses several issues and initiatives that support the foundational Catholic moral principle that all human life is sacred from conception until natural death. This ministry works closely with the following organizations the Virginia Catholic Conference, Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia, and Commonwealth Catholic Charities to help refer people for direct services where needed. It also coordinates prayerful visits at the Planned Parenthood and collaborate with local organizations: Catholic Charity, Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater, Hope 4 Life, and Birthright.

POC | Patricia, patprovence1@yahoo.com

HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY (HTM) THANK YOU! | Many thanks to Susie Clapham and Francesca Smith for making sure that we keep in close touch with our family at our 16-year-old twin parish, St. Gabriel Parish, in the Diocese of Hinche during these challenging times. Susie writes greeting cards to pen pal parishioners at St. Gabriel for Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Birthdays. Francesca writes monthly notes to Fr. Fitho JEAN, Pastor at St. Gabriel, and his assistant priests Fr. Adelin JOSEPH, and Fr. Jean-Carlo PIERRE. Those cards are sent to Fr. Fitho via WhatsApp. If you wish to write to a parishioner at St. Gabriel, please contact Francesca Smith, smithf236@verizon.net <http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/>

If alcohol is causing problems in your life, contact A.A. We're alcoholics helping other alcoholics get sober. 757-490-3980. info@tidewaterintergroup.org. Get the app for meetings. Look for the folding chair in a blue circle.

Interfaith Immigrant Legal Assistance Fund

“We in the United States are in the midst of a complex humanitarian crisis related to immigrants that has worsened as immigrants are marginalized and treated inhumanely by our government. In these times, immigrants without legal status in the U.S. have few resources with which to obtain critical legal counsel and legal services related to their immigration case. It is the underlying tenet of many faith traditions to “welcome the stranger”, not to oppress them, to love them as we love ourselves, and also to freely give to the poor. It is for these reasons that this Interfaith Immigrant Legal Assistance Fund has been established to help provide immigrants without legal status with financial assistance for their legal needs related to their immigration case.”

The Interfaith Immigrant Legal Assistance Fund (IILA), founded in 2020, provides immigrants without legal status who reside in south Hampton Roads with financial assistance for their legal needs related to their immigration case, including immigration attorney fees and immigration case filing fees. Grants are available up to a maximum of \$500. To **contribute** to the **IILA**, please make donation checks payable to **Church of the Ascension, with a note in the memo line “Interfaith Immigrant Legal Assistance Fund”** and mail to: Church of the Ascension, Attention: Interfaith Immigrant Legal Assistance Fund, 4853 Princess Anne Road Va. Beach, VA 23462.

To apply for a grant from the Interfaith Immigrant Legal Assistance Fund, persons may send an email requesting an application in English or Spanish: immigrantlegalassistance@gmail.com.

Immigration Simulations - Opinions tend to run high about the issue of immigration, but often our shared set of facts runs low. If we’re going to think faithfully about immigration, it’s important that we share an understanding of how immigration works or doesn’t work today—and maybe dispel some myths or misunderstandings that we didn’t even know we had. **IILA** offers an **Immigration Simulation** developed by the Office of Social Justice of the Christian Reformed Church, which presents basic immigration policy to better understand the citizenship process: Who is eligible for citizenship? How do they apply? How long does the process take? The overall goal of this session is to equip participants to both combat harmful misinformation, as well as to develop compassion through a deeper understanding of what undocumented immigrants face. As the primary purpose of **IILA** is to provide legal assistance to immigrants in need, the seminar will conclude with a request for participants to help in this important work. In addition to financial support, participants also will be asked to consider legislative advocacy and others forms of support such as Letters to the Editor, encouraging other organizations they are affiliated with to sponsor additional sessions, and dispelling myths when they are encountered. If you or your organization would like to schedule a one-hour session, please contact immigrantlegalassistance@gmail.com.

BABY ITEMS COLLECTION/DIGNITY OF LIFE, BREAD FOR THE WORLD, MIGRATION AWARENESS	
Sundays	Soup Kitchen
Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly	Catholic Worker, Soupline
5/1-	Justice & Peace Meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Commons Immigration, Jimmy Culpepper
5/6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	Baby Items Collection (Hope 4 Life & Crisis Pregnancy Center)
5/7-	<i>Parish 16th Anniversary in Twinning, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm--Commons (presentation & refreshments) in lieu of meeting</i>
5/13 & 14-	Bread for the World' s Offering of Letters, Commons after each Mass
5/13	Parish Street Clean Up, 8:45 am - 10:30 pm (Care for Creation Team & Volunteers)
5/15- (Mon.)	Care For Creation Social, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. In lieu of meeting.