



Catholic Charities Social Concerns

Dear Friend in Christ,

We recently celebrated a birthday milestone within my family, my oldest daughter turned 18 years old. Now, I know what you are thinking....it simply couldn't be true that I would be old enough to have an 18-year-old child, but alas, it is true. But I digress... The real reason I wanted to share my daughter's news with you was because one of her items on her "Adult To Do List" was to register to vote. I am proud of her that this was a priority.

Election Day (Nov. 6th) is fast approaching. With each election year, I am often asked "Is there a reason why our U.S. Bishops do not put out a voter's guide?" Ahhh, but they do... It is called ["Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."](#) It may not be a guide indicating specific candidates to vote for, but it is a wonderful document to assist a voter in forming their conscience on who to vote for based on Catholic moral and social teaching.

"As citizens, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. When necessary, our participation should help transform the party to which we belong; we should not let the party transform us in such a way that we neglect or deny fundamental moral truths or approve intrinsically evil acts. We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a civilization of truth and love." (no. 14)

In this short document, the U.S. Bishops speak on how we are called to apply our Catholic teaching, particularly our rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching, to major issues such as:

Human Life from Conception to Natural Death
Promoting Peace
Marriage and Family Life
Religious Freedom
Preferential Option for the Poor
Health Care
Migration
Catholic Education

Forming
Consciences



for
Faithful
Citizenship

A Call to Political Responsibility
from the Catholic Bishops
of the United States

★ ★ ★

Promoting Justice and Countering Violence
Combating Unjust Discrimination
Care for Our Common Home
Communications, Media, and Culture
Global Solidarity

“In making these decisions, it is essential for Catholics to be guided by a well-formed conscience that recognizes that all issues do not carry the same moral weight and that the moral obligation to oppose policies promoting intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions. These decisions should take into account a candidate’s commitments, character, integrity, and ability to influence a given issue. In the end, this is a decision to be made by each Catholic guided by a conscience formed by Catholic moral teaching.” (no. 37)

[Download a PDF of the document HERE.](#)

[Download Spanish Version](#)

Check out the Archindy – A Call to Political Responsibility - resource web page which includes some great resources for parishes, schools, and individuals.

<http://www.archindy.org/faithfulcitizenship/index.html>

Before I end, I want to leave you with a couple reminders.

The **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) 2nd Collection** will be the weekend of **Nov. 17/18**. Learn more about the important work of CCHD [HERE](#).

Make sure you scroll down for updates on both the **local and global disaster relief efforts** and how you can make a difference.

In closing, I would like to leave you with this quote.

"Joy is the happiness of love - love aware of its own inner happiness. Pleasure comes from without, and joy comes from within, and it is, therefore, within reach for everyone in the world." - Fr. Fulton J. Sheen

Sincerely in Christ,
Theresa Chamblee
Catholic Charities - Social Concerns

Keep Scrolling down to See More!!!

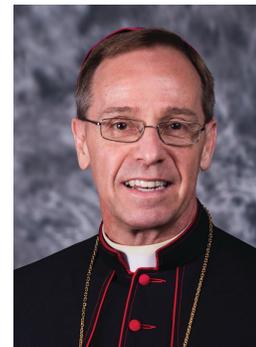
Visit our Website - Catholic Charities - Social Concerns

Featured Social Concerns Ministry



The Parish Social Ministry Gathering video featuring Archbishop Charles C. Thompson on Catholic Social Teaching and Parish Social Ministry is NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE.

[Watch the Video HERE.](#)



Hurricane and Earthquake Disaster Relief



Hurricane Relief

Your support helps people through the immediate aftermath and continues helping them as they work through the long process of recovery. 100% of funds raised are forwarded to Catholic Charities agencies that serve affected communities. Thank you.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can donate via online [HERE.](#)

Or please mail you donation to:

Catholic Charities USA
2050 Ballenger Ave., Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314
Memo Line: Hurricane Relief

Indonesia

Earthquake and Tsunami



Catholic Relief Services and our local Catholic partners are continuing our response on Sulawesi in Indonesia, which was hit by an earthquake and tsunami that have devastated the northern part of the island, killing over 2,073 people and leaving at least 87,000 homeless.

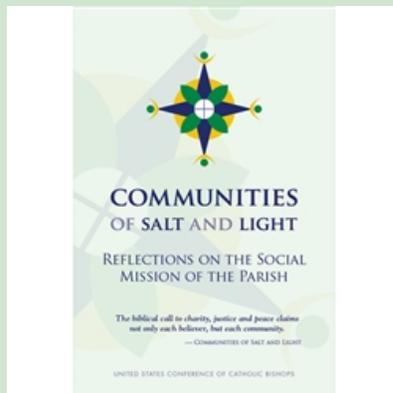
Learn more about how we as U.S. Catholics are aiding our Indonesian brothers and sisters [HERE](#).

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To support the relief effort in Indonesia:

- * Give online: crs.org/help-indonesia
- * Give by phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS
- * Give by check: Catholic Relief Services P.O. Box 17090
Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303

Spiritual Formation Resources



Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish

This statement offers a basic resource for pastors, parish leaders, and all Catholics seeking to strengthen the social ministry of their local community. The bishops' reflection represents neither major new teaching nor a new national program. Rather, it brings together the principles of our social teaching and local pastoral experience in a framework for vibrant Catholic communities.

Download the [Full Document Here](#).

Prayer for the Journey

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe for Justice

Most merciful mother, you came to tell us of your compassion through St. Juan Diego, whom you called the littlest and dearest of your sons. Give your strength

and protection to all who live in poverty today, especially the young, elderly, and vulnerable. Plead for them to the Father, that they might experience the Divine Love tangibly in their daily lives, and that all who work for justice on behalf of the poor might grow in fortitude and humility. In these ways, manifest your charity and concern in our lives, that the weeping of humanity may be heard, and all our suffering, pain, and misfortune may be filled with divine comfort and healing. May we always know the peace of being in the cradle of your arms, and bring us safely home to your son, Jesus. Amen.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

[Download printable version of prayer - English](#)

[Download printable version of prayer - Spanish](#)

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.



Love Your Neighbor



Share the Journey
#sharejourney



FROM OUR FRIENDS

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Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.