



## Catholic Charities Social Concerns

Dear Friend in Christ,

How are you at keeping New Year's Resolutions? Me... not so good. I have broken my new year's resolution to eat less potato chips just about every day since the new year started.



In thinking of my own lack of success around my potato chip resolution, it makes me wonder at the purpose of resolutions. Of course, we want to be better versions of ourselves, but perhaps a resolution should have a more two-fold approach where it is not only about improving an area of ourselves but also lifting up our fellow neighbor as well.

This year, I challenged myself with a new type of resolution that I thought might be worth sharing with each of you as well. I call it the Holy Trinity Resolution. In using the Holy Trinity as an example, this new resolution is about focusing on improving three areas of our lives through God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Let me explain.

**God the Father:** The goal is to **Love God the Father More**. Increase your prayer time each day, and if you don't have daily prayer time... start! Read the Bible (the Gospels are a great place to start). Pray the Rosary or other devotionals. Read Christ centered books. Make time for Adoration.

**God the Son:** Challenge yourself to **Love Your Neighbor More as Jesus taught us**. While Jesus walked this Earth, he showed us time and time again what it meant to love our neighbor, especially the neighbors that were hard to love

or often misunderstood. He even made it as one of his top two commandments! I know for myself, when I find it challenging to love my neighbor, it is because there is some type of fear or misunderstanding that is holding me back. If you can relate, delve deeper into what is holding you back and pray for God's wisdom and guidance on how we can love those around us more.

**God the Holy Spirit: Be Empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a Witness to Others.** I will admit, I have been guilty of not living my faith openly because I am afraid of offending someone. A prayer I now pray is "God provide me the wisdom to speak when you want me to speak, and the wisdom to know when you want me to be quiet and to live my faith through actions of love."

For the U.S. Catholic Church, January is a month where many ministries have a special day, week or even the whole month set aside where we are called to love our neighbors. For instance, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day was January 11<sup>th</sup>, Migration Week was held January 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, the March for Life in Washington D.C. will be held January 18<sup>th</sup>, with local Archdiocesan events taking place as well (please see "From our Friends" for more information), and the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) has designated the entire month of January as Poverty Awareness Month.

Though some of these January dates have come and gone, each of the ministries mentioned above have great resources, prayers, and activities that can be utilized by individuals, families and parishes all year long. In the next section down titled "Love Your Neighbor", I highlight some of the resources for you.

So no matter what your New Years Resolution may be (I write this as I munch on potato chips), my prayer for each of you is that you will be abundantly blessed as you develop a greater love for your neighbor and a deeper love for God.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Theresa Chamblee*

Director of Catholic Charities - Social Concerns

**Keep Scrolling down to See More!!!**

[Visit our Website - Catholic Charities - Social Concerns](#)

## Love Your Neighbor

*"If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?" ([1 John 3:17](#)).*

Pope Benedict XVI reflects on this call when he writes about "the unbreakable

bond between love of God and love of neighbor” ([Deus Caritas Est](#), no. 16). He continues: “One is so closely connected to the other that to say that we love God becomes a lie if we are closed to our neighbor or hate him altogether. Saint John’s words should rather be interpreted to mean that love of neighbor is a path that leads to the encounter with God, and that closing our eyes to our neighbor also blinds us to God.”

Though some of the following dates have come and gone, there are still wonderful resources that can be utilized all year long.

- **National Migration Week 2019 (January 6-12)**

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2019, “Building Communities of Welcome” draws attention to the fact that each of our families have a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

To download the National Migration Week Toolkit - [CLICK HERE](#).

- **National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month**

Human Trafficking is modern-day slavery. With 21 million victims worldwide, there are more slaves today than at any time in history. Our Catholic faith calls on us to defend life and human dignity, to fight conditions that lead to enslavement of human beings. The USCCB and Catholic Relief Services have many educational resources to help us better understand the scope and magnitude of Human Trafficking both within our local communities and around the world.

Check out the USCCB Anti Trafficking Program by clicking [HERE](#).

Catholic Relief Services, our U.S. Catholic Church around the World, works both in prevention and recovery of those who have been entrapped in human slavery. To learn more about CRS’ work and how you can be involved, click [HERE](#).

- **Poverty Awareness Month**

More than 40 Million Americans live in poverty. On average, 2.5 million children experience homelessness in a year, making children the largest percentage of people who live in poverty. [PovertyUSA.org](#) provides educational resources, as well as actions people can take to help alleviate poverty, and to give a hand up to those who live in poverty. Scroll down to learn more about [PovertyUSA.org](#) in our Ministry of Month segment.

**Ministry of the Month**  
**PovertyUSA.org**

# January is Poverty Awareness Month.

Make sure you check out the great resources that are available via the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) to assist all of us to have a better understanding of the realities of poverty.

[www.USCCB.org](http://www.USCCB.org)

Provides daily reflections, as well as a Calendar for January that provides daily ways to learn about poverty in America.

[www.PovertyUSA.org](http://www.PovertyUSA.org)

Provides ways all of us are called to **ENCOUNTER**, **LEARN** and **ACT** on behalf of our brothers and sisters living in poverty.

**Make sure you test your knowledge via the updated [Poverty Quiz!](#)**

**"The key to solving a problem? Understanding it. Learn the facts about poverty in the United States, understand the root causes, and—just as important—how people are helping themselves and others out of Poverty USA."**

[www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org)

## Highlights of Your Great Work

Oh! I am SUPER excited about this new segment in the Social Concerns Newsletter!

We all know our Archindy Parishes do so much tremendous work in ministering, loving and supporting our neighbors. But so often, the news of the good works of our parishes stays within their parish boundaries.

**We want to hear about your good work!!!**

The purpose of this segment is to highlight YOU! Let us know about your ministries. Share your stories. Share pictures. Who knows, hearing about the

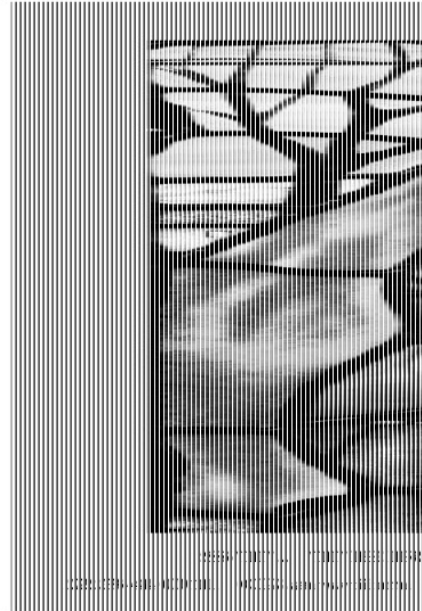
work of different parish ministries may spur on some new ideas for you!

**Below are two Archindy parishes that shared some exciting ways they are helping those within their communities have a greater love for their neighbors.**

## **St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross** (Lawrenceburg, IN)

### **Advent Living Giving Tree**

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross hosted an Living Giving Tree this past Advent. Through the [Catholic Relief Services Gift of Hope Program](#), parishioners were able to purchase farm animals that are given to families in dire need. The gift of chickens, cows, rabbits, pigs, bees, help not only feed families, but also provide them with an income from the products produced by the animals.



To witness the incredible generosity of St. Teresa Benedicta, check out their [bulletin flier](#) highlighting the amount of animals purchased.

For more information on how the Living Giving Tree worked, contact Kim Sprague, DRE for St. Teresa Benedicta.



## **St. Joan of Arc** (Indianapolis, IN)

### **Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Just Like Me Memory Game**

Laura Sheehan, who teaches a religious education class at St. Joan of Arc Parish, shared a picture of her students playing the CRS - *Just Like Me: Memory Game*. Laura mentioned to me that it was her students idea to bring out a world map so they could see where the children who are "just like me" lived.

*The Just Like Me: Memory Game* was developed to help children recognize the many similarities they share with other children around the world. *Just Like Me* emphasizes our one human family by identifying the many similarities that children share - no matter where they live.

## Matthew 25: CRS Rice Bowl Grants

APPLICATION PROCESS  
NOW OPEN

DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING



## Matthew 25: CRS Rice Bowl Grant

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is **awarding 10 grants** to parishes, schools and faith-based organizations that are **aiding in alleviating hunger and poverty within the Archdiocese**. Grant amounts range from \$500 to \$1000. Examples would be soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters and mentoring programs for families or individuals in need.

The Matthew 25: CRS Rice Bowl Grants are made possible through the generosity of those who participate in the **CRS -Faith in Action - Lenten Rice Bowl Program**.

When you give to CRS Rice Bowl, 75% of your donations support CRS' humanitarian relief programs in 110 countries worldwide, assisting over 136 Million people in 2017. The remaining 25% of your donations go to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts here within the Archdioceses of Indianapolis as part of the MATTHEW 25: CRS RICE BOWL GRANT.

**Application Deadline: All Applications must be received via email or mail by February 4, 2019.**

For More Information - Click [HERE](#)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES INVITES YOU



## Catholic Charities Terre Haute

Enjoy a bowl of soup & meet a critical need!

Saturday, February 2, 2019

Two Seatings: 3:30 pm or 5:30 pm

Maryland Community Church

\$25 for a handcrafted bowl and soup

For More Information - Visit [ccthin.org](http://ccthin.org)

**The Richard G. Lugar  
Franciscan Center for Global  
Studies at Marian University  
Global Studies Speaker  
Series**



### Stories of Encounter

#### "Rebuilding Refugees" Lives in Sri Lanka"

Sajith Silva, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) program coordinator for Sri Lanka, will talk about the vulnerable people displaced by war and how CRS provides hope and support in their efforts to return to their native country and rebuild.

Date: February 21, 2019

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences,

Marian University

3200 Cold Spring Road

Indianapolis, IN

For More Information visit [Marian.edu/lfcgs](http://Marian.edu/lfcgs)

**FROM OUR FRIENDS**

**Franciscan Outpatient Behavioral Health**, a community partner with Catholic Charities - Indianapolis, is expanding services at their Franciscan Substance Use Disorder Clinic.

In addition to their current mental health substance use disorder services, Franciscan Health will be offering *medication assisted treatment* for individuals with opioid use disorder.

If you know of someone who is seeking treatment, please encourage them to attend one of the free, 45-minute orientations. If they decide they would like to participate in one of the many services offered at Franciscan Outpatient Behavioral Health, they can sign up for an assessment at that time. Assessments typically take 1-1.5 hours and are available the same week.

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

## Office of Human Life and Dignity



### January 21, 2019: Vigil For Life

Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana invite you to a night of worship and prayer for the dignity of every human person from conception to natural death especially for the unborn in solemn remembrance of the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. There will

be Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, and a Eucharistic procession. Music and reflections will be led by [Audrey Assad](#). Event will take place at 7pm at [St. John the Evangelist](#): 126 W. Georgia Street Indianapolis, IN.

Event is free, donations will be accepted for the Offices of Human Life and Dignity, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and Family Life, Diocese of Lafayette-in- Indiana.

RSVP for event [HERE](#)

Questions about event, please email [Brie Anne Varick](#) or call 317-236-1543.

### January 22, 2019: Mass and March for Life on the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children



We are joining again with Dicocese of



Lafayette in Indiana and Right to Life of Indianapolis for a day of prayerful witness in remembrance of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. This will take place on January 22, 2019.

The Day Events:

11:00 AM Indoor Life Rally: Indiana Convention Center 100 S. Capitol Ave Indianapolis, IN

12:00 Mass at St. John the Evangelist with Archbishop Thompson and Bishop Doherty followed by a peaceful March to the Capital.

12:00 Right to Life of Indianapolis Memorial Service for the Unborn: Indiana Convention Center 100 S. Capitol Ave Indianapolis, IN

1:30pm March from Georgia Street to Soldiers and Sailors Monument to Capitol Building

2:00pm Rally at the South Steps of Indiana State House

Join us for all or part of the day's activities. For more information, please email [Brie Anne Varickor](mailto:BrieAnne.Varickor@archdioceseofindy.org) call 317-236-1543.

## Prayer of the Month

### Catholic Charities Common Prayer

Lord Jesus, open our eyes that we may see you in all our sisters and brothers.

Open our minds that we may understand their hopes and dreams,

their sorrows and pain, their longing for you.

Open our hearts to give generously of ourselves.

Grant us wisdom to respond effectively

to the needs of your people with grace and compassion.

Give us the courage to speak your words of life, peace, love, mercy and human solidarity.

We ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

Adapted from Catholic Charities Prayer - Archdiocese of Indianapolis

## Just So You Know....





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](#)

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## Parish Social Ministry (PSM) Resources NOW Available in Spanish

Several of our PSM resources are now available in Spanish. To see a listing of resources - Click [HERE](#).

## 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.



faith.  
action.  
results.



Parish  
Social Ministry



JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS

*we are one family under God*



# Love Your Neighbor



Share the Journey  
#sharejourney



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ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS  
*The Church in Central and Southern Indiana*

**Catholic Charities**  
*Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.*