

# POINTS

The Newsletter of Parish Social Ministry

November/December 2005

**C**ome, Lord Jesus,  
who promises to be with us  
always.

*Aid us and our world family  
in the impossible tasks  
of justice and peace,  
for You have no hands or heart  
but ours to bring the compassion  
of Your presence to those who  
suffer. Come and do not delay.*

— adapted from *Winter's Wisdom, Advent 2005*,  
by the Sisters of St. Joseph of LaGrange



## Welcome Katch!

**T**he Parish Social Ministry Team is very pleased to welcome Kathleen "Katch" Reynolds. Katch joins PSM as a Program Coordinator and will be responsible for planning the major PSM events throughout the year, advocacy including the *Voices for Justice* Advocacy Network, and assisting in identifying community groups for CCHD funding. Katch is a member of St. Elizabeth's parish in Wilmington and will be receiving her Master's degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Neumann College in December.

Please join us in welcoming Katch!



**S**ince its start more than thirty years ago, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has worked to transform lives and communities, focusing steadily on breaking the cycle of poverty in thousands of communities across the United States.

CCHD supports local community-based groups that are initiated and led by poor and low-income people, as they create jobs, improve neighborhoods, train adults for employment at a living wage, keep schools safe and enriching for children, and mold leaders for the future.

CCHD encourages Catholics to grow in their faith and work for justice for and with those who are poor and vulnerable. Its educational resources include prayer, retreat, and faith formation programs focused on the Church's teaching and tradition. These educational programs assist Catholics in reflection on their faith, leading to action that enables the use of their gifts and talents, to join with others in transform-

ing their own local community.

CCHD receives its support mainly from Catholic parishioners whose financial gifts in the annual CCHD collection, become the tools of self-reliance, self-sufficiency and self-determination for people who are motivated to break out of the cycle of poverty.

**You can help by giving generously to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development appeal in your parish during the weekend of November 19-20, 2005.**

For more CCHD information, visit their website: [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd)



## Poorest in Most Need of Affordable Housing

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) Report on Severely Unaffordable Housing defines Extremely Low Income (ELI) households as those with incomes of 30% or less of median income for their area.

As with the nation as a whole, ELI households in Delaware and Maryland are the most likely to live in severely unaffordable housing. They also make up the majority of such households.

- In Delaware, of the 12,922 renter households living in severely unaffordable housing, 11,113 or 86.1% are ELI. In Maryland, 88% of renter households are ELI.

- Of the 13,353 owner households in Delaware living in severely unaffordable housing, 7,878 or 59.4 % are ELI. In Maryland, this percentage is 57%.
- ELI households make up 14.8% of all Delaware households and 72.5% of all Delaware households living in severely unaffordable housing. In Maryland, ELI households represent 15.7% of all households and 73.3% of Maryland households living in severely unaffordable housing. ELI households make up just 17% of the nation's households and 70% of the nation's households living in severely unaffordable housing. ELI renter households are 31% of the nation's renters, but 84% of the nation's renter households living in severely unaffordable conditions.

The results of this study confirm that it is the lowest income

households that are most likely to face the most serious housing affordability problems, and they face them in the greatest numbers.

6th Annual  
**Mass for Social Justice**  
Please join us  
for the  
**Monsignor Schierse Award  
Presentation**  
&  
**CCHD Grant Awards**

Saturday, November 12, 2005

Beginning at 5 p.m.

Holy Family Parish

## 2nd Annual Diocesan Ministries Weekend

"CALLED, GATHERED, SENT"

Mark your calendars for the weekend of January 20 – 22, 2006. Last year was a great success and once again Parish Social Ministry will join with Catholic Youth Ministry, Religious Education, Family Life, and the Office of Worship to host a diocesan-wide ministries program at the Clarion Resort in Ocean City, Maryland.

The weekend will feature the following nationally recognized keynote speakers:

- *Bishop Joseph Galante* - present Bishop of Camden NJ has served as Bishop in two Dioceses in Texas before coming to Camden Diocese. He is head of the USCCB Communication Committee. Bishop Galante is a disciple with a servant's heart for all people.
- *Sister Veronica Mendez* is a member of Renew International which serves small Christian Communities in many countries. She is devoted to the mission of our church.
- *Rev. Eugene Lauer* is Publisher of CHURCH Magazine. Father Lauer is a wonderful example of Gospel Witness in his being, in his preaching and in his writings.

There will also be numerous break-out sessions from which participants will be able to choose. Go to [www.cdow.org](http://www.cdow.org) to register now!

## *A Time for Solidarity*

In Guatemala, the official death toll of rains from Hurricane Stan sits at 652 but emergency workers say the real number is in the range of 2,000. More than 100 others were killed in neighboring countries. The stories of entire villages becoming gravesites continue to be reported.

Thousands of people have been reported missing by families who managed to escape raging rivers of water and mud. Intermittent rains have prevented air rescues and continue to frustrate efforts to clear roads and highways.

According to Dr. Luis Alonzo from CRS – Guatemala, the main damage from Hurricane Stan occurred in Tacaná, Sibinal, Tajumulco and the South Coast of San Marcos.

Fr. Ademar, a Scalabrini priest and the Director of Casa del Migrante, a migrant house in the border town of Tecun Uman has reported that the water and mud reached nearly 2 meters (over 6.5 feet) and that some reconstruction of Casa del Migrante will be needed.

The Diocese of Wilmington's partnership with the Diocese of San Marcos is a partnership of solidarity. Our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of San Marcos are in need. We can be in solidarity with them through prayer and we can remember and be in touch with local Guatemalans whose family members have died or are missing, and whose home villages have been destroyed.

Those who wish to make monetary donations can do so by sending contributions to the Finance Office of the Diocese indicating "Guatemala Relief" on your check.

## *Nehemiah Gateway Prepares for EITC Campaign*

Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation, under the leadership of Mary Dupont, is preparing for the 2005 Tax Year's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign.

Nehemiah Gateway is coordinating efforts among a broad array of organizations from the public, private, and faith-based sectors to promote awareness of the EITC, to offer free income tax preparation in conjunction with the IRS, and to link partici-

pants to available information and services that increase economic self-sufficiency.

The EITC is a special tax benefit for working people with low or moderate incomes (less than \$37,000). For 2005, the maximum EITC is \$4,400 depending on the filing status of the taxpayer. In 2003, over 54,000 Delawareans collected an average of \$1732!

However, to obtain the EITC you must file a tax return. The IRS estimates that close to 12,000 Delawareans, who were eligible for EITC did not file to receive the benefit.

So spread the word about EITC!

## World AIDS Day

December 1st, 2005



The World AIDS Day Prayer Service will be held on Wednesday evening, November 30th, at Christ Our King Parish starting at 7 p.m. with Bishop Saltarelli presiding. Note that this is the evening before World AIDS Day which is December 1st.

This annual commemoration day marks the millions of lives lost each year to AIDS and encourages awareness and advocacy on this global issue.

AIDS is not merely a personal crisis, it is a global plague. Devastating nations and creating political and social instability, AIDS is spreading with incredible speed. Please join Bishop Saltarelli on Wednesday evening as we pray for those living with HIV, those who care for them, and the entire human family which struggles with the pain, suffering and alienation of HIV infection.

For directions or further information, call (302) 762-9244.



Also, volunteer tax preparers are needed to assist in locations throughout the State of Delaware. No experience is needed. Volunteers receive free training from the IRS and a supervising tax professional is on-site at all times. Many volunteers from Catholic parishes have participated in the EITC Campaign over the past several years. This is a great way to help others receive dollars that will have an immediate and oftentimes dramatic impact on their lives.

To learn more about EITC or to volunteer, contact Nehemiah Gateway at 302-655-0803 in New Castle County or at 302-947-2726 in Kent and Sussex Counties. *Nehemiah Gateway CDC is a recipient of CCHD funding.*

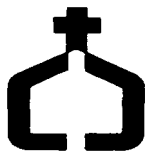
## *Katrina Relief - Parish Partnering Structure Now Available*

In an effort to connect parishes across the country with Gulf Coast parishes during the long process of rebuilding communities, parishes, and lives, a *Parish Partnering Project* has been inaugurated. At the request of the USCCB, the coordination of the *Parish Partnership Project* is being handled by The Catholic Church Extension Society. They have asked Catholic Charities USA to collect information from parishes who are interested in being a Partner and provide support to them in this process.

People all over the United States are looking for structured and concrete ways to respond to needs of our brothers and sisters forced to rebuild their lives after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. Based on Scripture, the life of Jesus Christ, and Catholic social teaching, we are called not only to be open to transformation and to give more of ourselves emotionally, financially, and spiritually but also to **receive** more by seeing with our own eyes the struggles and joys inherent in the lives of our brothers and sisters forced to reconstruct their lives. By entering into partnership with people during the process of recovery, we have the opportunity to start on a journey of transformation of self, society, and the unjust structures that keep others from reaching their God-given potential.

Specific information on the *Parish Partnering Project*, including Parish Partnership Guidelines and how to register a parish can be found on the Catholic Charities website at :

<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/parishpartnership/>



### *Parish Social Ministry*

a division of

**Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Wilmington  
P.O. Box 2610  
Wilmington, DE 19805**

## PSM Team

Andy Zampini: Director

Sandy Clark: Secretary

Mary An Love:

Program Coordinator

Katch Reynolds:

Program Coordinator

Call (302) 655-9624

Email: [SClark@ccwilm.org](mailto:SClark@ccwilm.org)

FAX (302) 655-9753

Visit us on the web:

[www.cdow.org/socialministry.html](http://www.cdow.org/socialministry.html)

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 462