

Welcome to *POINTS Online* – The Newsletter of Parish Social Ministry

POINTS Online

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

Summer 2008

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES UPDATE

New Clinical Services Staff Join Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities' is adding staff to better serve the behavioral health needs of our clients. Joining Catholic Charities' Clinical Services team is:

- ❖ **Mark Coffey**, CAC/LCADC is our new Clinical Services Program Manager. Mark has extensive administrative and counselor experience particularly in the substance abuse field. He will be providing program management and supervisory/clinical services related to substance abuse treatment, psychotherapy, case management and marketing relationships. One of Mark's first tasks will be to assist in our renewing our substance abuse license.
- ❖ **Carol Dyer**, LPCMH works in our Georgetown office providing individual, family and group counseling. Carol is bi-lingual, which is a great support to our clients in the Georgetown community. She is also currently pursuing her CADC which once received will allow her to provide drug and alcohol counseling.
- ❖ **Sharon Gardner**, LPCMH works in our Wilmington office providing individual, family and group counseling.
- ❖ **Margaret McLaughlin**, LPCMH/CADC is also located in our Wilmington office providing individual, family and group counseling, as well as drug and alcohol counseling.
- ❖ **Michael D. Romano**, LPCMH will also be located in our Wilmington office providing individual, family and group counseling. One of Michael's strengths is in the area of conflict resolution.

"...We all scream for ice cream"

Here's the scoop! Every Wednesday now through October, Hy-Point Dairy ice cream will be available for purchase at the Rodney Square Farmer's Market in Wilmington between 10a.m. and 2p.m. Proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities programs.

Grantwriting Workshop

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and Speer Trust are sponsoring a Grantwriting Workshop on **Friday, September 19th** from 9a.m. to 3:00p.m. at St. Francis DeSales Parish Hall in Salisbury, MD. The workshop will feature the following presentations:

Funding for Social Justice

Grant Writing 101

Meet the Funders

Registration is \$15 and includes a box-lunch. If you know of any community groups involved with the low-income population, encourage them to contact Sandy Clark at 302-655-9624 or SClark@ccwilm.org to obtain a registration form.

Mass for Social Justice

Mark your calendars for the Annual Mass for Social Justice which will be held at St. Joseph Parish in Middletown at 5p.m. on **Saturday, October 18th**. At the Mass, the Monsignor Paul J. Schierse Award for Social Justice will be presented and local groups receiving grants from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development will be acknowledged.

PSM Networking Day

Attention Social Concerns Ministers! PSM's Annual Networking Day will be held on **Saturday, November 8th** at Holy Family Parish. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray, learn, share and network! Information on Networking Day will be sent to you by e-mail or check our website at www.cdow.org/socialministry.html

CATHOLIC CHARITIES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ The Catholic Charities Thrift Store, located at 23rd and Bowers Sts. in Wilmington, has volunteer opportunities for individuals to sort clothing, prepare clothing for display, and stock the sales floor. Volunteers are needed on weekdays between 9a.m and 3:30p.m. If interested, contact Diane Giovannozzi at 302-764-2717.
- ❖ Our Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) has a need for volunteers to help with clerical projects (copying, binding, filing, inventory, etc.) in our Wilmington, Dover and Georgetown offices. These projects are expected to last approximately 2-4 weeks. If interested, contact Elaine Leitton in our IOP Dover office at 302-674-1600 Ext 22.

PARISH INFORMATION

Thank You!

Catholic Charities' "Stock the Pantry" project was very successful thanks to the generosity of parishioners from around the Diocese. A special thanks to the parishes that served as collection sites: Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Ann (Wilmington), St. Catherine of Siena, Resurrection, Holy Family, St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Joseph (Middletown), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Polycarp, St. Bernadette, St. John the Apostle, St. Edmond, and St. Jude the Apostle.

JustFAITH Groups Forming

"JustFAITH broadened my view of the world and gave me a more compassionate heart. It changed my idea of my role as a Christian. One of the most rewarding experiences of my life!" -- Diane Fisher

"What an extraordinarily, enriching experience!!!! JustFAITH is a prayerful and reflective journey in understanding more fully what it means "to follow Jesus" in today's world using insights from our biblical tradition and the wisdom of Catholic social teaching. The spirit has been awakened within me transforming my heart and my way of thinking and giving me a much deeper spirituality that is truly Jesus-centered." -- Marie Socorso

JustFAITH is a thirty-week justice formation process with a focus on poverty. Meeting weekly, groups use books, videos, lecture, discussion, prayer, retreats and hands-on experiences. The intent is to provide a tapestry of learning opportunities that emphasize and enliven the remarkable justice tradition of the Church.

Participants are exposed to not only a substantive and demanding course of study but are also afforded the privilege of becoming community with other participants and sharing a journey of faith and compassion that is both life-giving and challenging.

This September, there are three opportunities to experience *JustFAITH*:

- ❖ St. John / Holy Angels, contact Diane Fisher (JDFish2@msn.com) or 302-737-6864.
- ❖ Holy Family Parish Religious Education Center starting September 11, 2008

For more information contact :

Margaret McAlpin (mmcalpin@hotmail.com) - Holy Family

Anita Wood (anitawood1@verizon.net) - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Theresa Deakins (theresa@theresadeakins.com) - St. Margaret of Scotland

- ❖ St. John the Beloved, contact Marie Socorso (msocorso@verizon.net) or 302-449-0479

St. Joseph in Middletown Social Concerns Ministry Underway

Under the leadership of Carol Russell and Deacon Fred Wendt and with the support of Frs. Giuliano and Grasing, St. Joseph Parish's Social Concerns Committee is being organized and activated. The Social Concerns Committee is comprised of five ministries committed to bringing the parish community together to more fully live out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The ministries include: Outreach, Advocacy, Respect Life, Global Concerns and Catholic Social Teaching Education / Parish Integration.

The PSM Office assisted the parish in this effort by offering two concurrent sessions of its 7-week program "Communities of Salt and Light" and conducting a "Planning Day" for the committee. Parishes interested in either of these PSM services, can contact Sandy Clark (sclark@ccwilm.org) or Andy Zampini (azampini@ccwilm.org)

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL MINISTRY INFORMATION

Rental Costs Remain "Out of Reach" for Millions of Americans

According to a recent report *Out of Reach 2007-2008* released by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), a Washington, DC-based housing advocacy group, the Housing Wage for Delaware is **\$16.61 and \$21.19** in Maryland. The Housing Wage is the hourly wage a family must earn - working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year - to be able to afford rent and utilities in the private housing market.

In Delaware, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$864. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$2,878 monthly or \$34,542 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$16.61.

In Maryland, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,102. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$3,673 monthly or \$44,080 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$21.19.

Considering these staggering numbers, it is easy to see why affordable rental housing remains a significant issue for low and moderate income individuals and families in our local communities, and why advocacy for affordable housing is so important.

For additional information on *Out of Reach*, visit <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2008>

Faithful Citizenship

"In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. This obligation is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "it is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. . . . As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life".

As our local and national elections approach, there is a wonderful resource available to Catholics that provides a wide range of information, activities and reflections on our role as Catholics in the “public square”. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website “Faithful Citizenship” (<http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/>) has resources for families, schools, religious education programs and young Catholics and they are available in English and Spanish. Check it out!

Did You Know?

- ❖ 36.5 Million People- about 1 in 8 Americans, including 1 in 6 children - live below the official federal poverty level
- ❖ The number of people living in poverty in the United States is equal to the combined populations of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nevada, Idaho and Alaska
- ❖ Most of the poor have jobs. Nearly two out of three families with incomes below the poverty line include one or more workers.
- ❖ Poverty affects many Americans. Almost half of all Americans will have experienced poverty for a year or more at some point in their lives by the time they reach age 60

Fair Trade

The daily decisions we make as a consumer can make a real, positive difference in the world. When we choose to buy fair trade products we are making a strong connection with hardworking, but impoverished workers around the world. It is one way to be in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has several fair trade opportunities to consider:

- ❖ “Work of Human Hands” features thousands of beautiful handcrafted items from dozens of countries around the world, and brings communities together in the United States in support of disadvantaged artisans overseas.
- ❖ CRS works to help coffee cooperatives in Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Uganda and Viet Nam to transform their communities by growing great coffee, farming in ecologically responsible ways, and building relationships with Fair Trade coffee companies in the United States.
- ❖ Divine Chocolate helps cocoa farmers in Ghana earn extra income to invest in community services, such as water wells, schools and health clinics. Divine Chocolate also empowers farmers to take greater control of their lives, since they own nearly half the company!

Learn about Fair Trade and the CRS Fair Trade Program at <http://www.crsfairtrade.org>

Parish Social Ministry Team

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Visit us on the web: www.cdow.org/socialministry.html