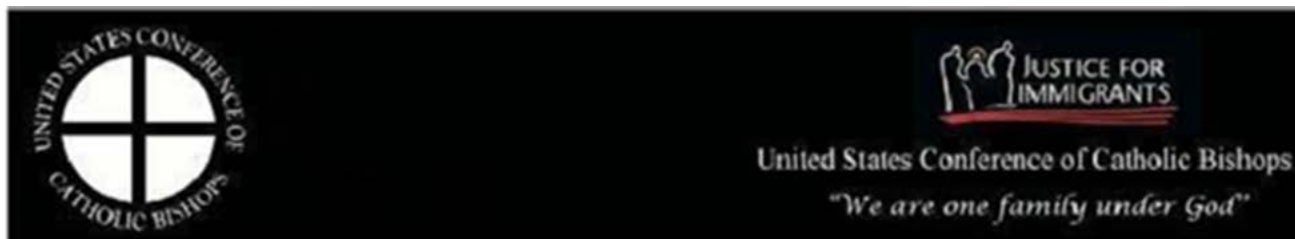


Planned Parenthood Abortion Provider Opens New Center in Osceola County

Please join Bishop Noonan in praying for an end to abortion and for a change in the hearts and minds of parents and abortion providers. For those who would like to know more about the pro-life efforts of the diocese and, especially, the rosary processions to abortion sites sponsored by the Office of Advocacy and Justice, call 407-246-4819 or email: advocacyjustice@orlandodiocese.org



On Fire for Immigration Reform: A Pentecost Resource

Join Catholics across the country for seven days of prayer, reflection, and action to heal our broken immigration system. Each day will be centered on one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It will be through this lens that we will explore seven aspects of our immigration system. Each day participants will be asked to pray the *Prayer of the Holy Spirit*, the daily reflection, and the closing prayer. Additionally, we encourage you to choose to engage in one or more of the suggested actions, joining with other Catholics across the country. This resource could be used by individuals, small groups, or whole parish communities. [Click here to read more.](#)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)

What Is CCHD?

Through the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Catholics and friends of CCHD across the country help poor and low-income Americans to help themselves and their communities out of poverty.

Since 1970, the Catholic Campaign has contributed over \$280 million to more than 7,800 low-income-led, com-

munity-based projects that strengthen families, create jobs, build affordable housing, fight crime, and improve schools and neighborhoods. CCHD requires that projects develop community leadership and participation so that their solutions to poverty will be long-lasting and effective, and so that CCHD's investment in people will help break the cycle of poverty. CCHD also educates Catholics about the causes of poverty and seeks to build solidarity between impoverished and affluent persons.



An initiative of the
Catholic Campaign for
Human Development

Today, 46.2 million people in America are living below the poverty line.

That's more than ever before—and far more than the population of our largest state. Join us and help to break the cycle of poverty.



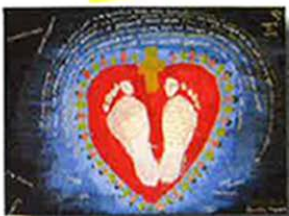
www.facebook.com/povertyusa | www.twitter.com/endpovertyusa

www.povertyusa.org
www.pobrezausa.org

Congratulations to the Orlando Diocese CCHD *Light of Faith Youth Award* Recipients and National CCHD Multi-Media Youth Winners

The CCHD Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest is an opportunity for schools and parishes to engage young people in grades 7-12 in learning about the root causes of poverty; CCHD's support for groups of empowered, low-income people working to address these causes; and Catholic social teaching's call for Catholics to support such efforts through both charitable works and social justice. The theme this year was "Build Community! Put Two Feet of Love in Action." This year's first place winners from St. Mary Magdalen Parish for the 7-th-9th grade category and Santa Fe high School 10th-12th grade category, entered unique and intriguing art submissions describing how the two feet of love in action contribute to building community to eliminate poverty.

St. Mary Magdalen 7th grade diocesan winners also won the National CCHD Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest, 2nd and 3rd place (respectively).



First Place, 7th – 9th Grade (tie)
Jessica Bailes and Danielle Nguyen, "Footprints that Rescued Me," St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School (7th grade) AND **Amy Bouchard**, "Cycling Out of Poverty: The Road to Independence" St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School (7th grade): The two 7th grade entries were tied in their level of artistic skill, creativity and personal expression of their faith as it impacts the social issue of poverty through a mixed medium of painting, poetry and three dimensional art.



Second Place: **Lauren O'Keefe, Emily O'Keefe, Cassie Connell, Alejandra Alfaro, Micah Castillo**, "Homeless for a Day"- video, St. Paul's Catholic School, Leesburg (8th grade).

Third Place: **Charles Issac**, "Nature's Community"- poem, St. Andrew Catholic School, Orlando (8th grade),



First Place, 10th – 12th Grade
Zhilu (Lillian) Ye, "We Are One Family" – Santa Fe Catholic High School, Lakeland: The 12th grade entry used an abstract painting to express the point that we are one human family and must work together with the poor to change conditions that keep people powerless.

Honorable Mention: **Sam Wenzel, Brooke Hurst and Katie Miller**, "Solidarity" – video, St. Margaret Mary Catholic School, Winter Park (7th grade)

Honorable Mention: **Taylor Grass, Blinne Buckley, Justin Pridgen and Alice Panchookian**, "Call to Family, Community and Participation" – video, St. Margaret Mary Catholic School (7th grade)

Catholic Social Teaching and the Dignity of Work

The [Catholic social teaching](#) principle of **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers** is that "work is part of God's loving plan" and that it "fills us with dignity, makes us similar to God, who has worked and still works, who always acts" (Pope Francis, [General Audience 5/1/13](#)). Work, then, is not merely a way to make a living; it is a good because "through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he also achieves fulfillment as a human being and indeed, in a sense, becomes 'more a human being'" ([Laborem Exercens](#) no. 9). Therefore, "work is 'for man' and not man 'for work'" (no. 6). With this understanding, it is no surprise that people seek fulfillment and meaning in the work that they do.

Because "the basis for determining the value of human work is not primarily the kind of work being done but the fact that the one who is doing it is a person," (no. 6) every worker, whether blue collar or white collar, whether working in an office, restaurant, farm, or construction site, contributes in his or her own unique way to the common good. Regardless of the type of work that one does, as a person with dignity, every worker has a right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative. The Judeo-Christian tradition ardently defends workers' rights: "To take away a neighbor's living is to commit murder; to deny a laborer wages is to shed blood" ([Sir 34:26-27](#)). Ultimately, the economy must serve people, not the other way around.



Pope Benedict XVI recognized the relationship between this principle of Catholic social teaching and the cycle of poverty: "In many cases, poverty results from a *violation of the dignity of human work*, either because work opportunities are limited (through unemployment or underemployment), or 'because a low value is put on work and the rights that flow from it, especially the right to a just wage and to the personal security of the worker and his or her family'" ([Caritas in Veritate](#), no. 63). Workplace conditions affect other aspects of life, such as access to healthcare, education, and affordable housing, not only for workers, but also their families. Thus, CCHD funds many groups that advocate for living wages and that prioritize the inclusion of workers in the governing structure of their workplace.

Featured Quote from Pope Francis

Much more needs to be achieved, since an important part of humanity does not share in the benefits of progress and is in fact relegated to the status of second-class citizens. Future Sustainable Development Goals must therefore be formulated and carried out with generosity and courage, so that they can have a real impact on the structural causes of poverty and hunger, attain more substantial results in protecting the environment, ensure dignified and productive labor for all, and provide appropriate protection for the family, which is an essential element in sustainable human and social development. Specifically, this involves challenging all forms of injustice and resisting the "economy of exclusion", the "throwaway culture" and the "culture of death" which nowadays sadly risk becoming passively accepted.

- Pope Francis, Address to UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, 5/9/14

Be in Solidarity with Our Brothers and Sisters in the Central African Republic

Since March 2013, an estimated 20 percent of Central African Republic (CAR)'s population, as many as 900,000 people, has been displaced and at least 2,000 killed.

You can help by:

- Praying for peace, especially May 30-June 1, surrounding a march for peace in CAR on May 31. A [prayer card \(en español\)](#), special [prayer intentions](#) for Masses, and a [prayer service \(en español\)](#) are available.

- [Urging your Congresspersons to speak out](#) and take action in support of a strong U.S. leadership role to bring an end to the violence and to help the country toward peace and prosperity.
- Learning more by reading [background materials](#).

[Supporting Catholic Relief Services' efforts](#) for peacebuilding and emergency response in CAR ([en español](#)).

Resources to End the Use of the Death Penalty

In the wake of the recent botched execution in Oklahoma, many Catholics are asking, "How can I help end the use of the death penalty?" The Catholic Mobilizing Network has a number of helpful [educational resources](#), timely information, and ways that parishes and individuals can get involved in this important work.

Addressing Excessive Inequality

The growing gap in income and wealth in our country is receiving increased attention. For a Catholic perspective on excessive inequality, check out [this short video](#), a [primer](#) on the topic, and [Bishop Robert McElroy's blog post](#) reflecting on five essential Pope Francis quotes.

USCCB Social Justice Updates

- [Bishop Pates Briefs Bishops and Public Official on U.S. Bishops' Dialogue with Religious Leaders in Iran](#)--The dialogue sought to promote greater understanding and peace between Americans and Iranians.
- [Faith Leaders Speak Out for Vulnerable Religious Minorities in the Middle East](#)--Cardinal Wuerl and 174 ecumenical religious leaders, including 40 Catholics, called for aid and for a Special Envoy to advocate for religious minorities in the Middle East and South Asia.
- [Bishop Pates to National Security Advisor: Help Nigerian Government and Faith-Based Institutions Counteract Religious Extremism in Wake of Kidnappings](#)--He asked the U.S. to assist the Nigerian government to promote national security and social development and partner with civil society, especially faith-based institutions, to build social cohesion and stop violence.
- [Bishops, Policy Specialists, Other Catholic Leaders Convene Renewed Effort on Nuclear Disarmament at Stanford University](#)--The event brought together 40 bishops, policy specialists, Catholic scholars, and young professionals and students to explore policy and moral challenges involved in moving toward a world without nuclear weapons.
- [Third Fortnight for Freedom to be Observed June 21-July 4](#)--The two-week celebration will focus on raising awareness for domestic and international religious freedom. This year's theme, "Freedom to Serve," emphasizes the link between religious liberty and service to the poor and vulnerable.
- [Bishops to Travel to Capitol Hill May 29, to Urge House of Representatives to Act on Immigration Reform](#)--The bishops, who celebrated the April 1 border mass, will bring their experience, "as well as the solidarity and spirit we felt with

residents on both sides of the border, to our lawmakers in Washington," Bishop Elizondo said.

Backgrounders on U.S. and International Issues

Did you know that these resources are available to provide valuable background and the Church's position on current domestic and international issues?

- **Domestic issues:** Among others, you can view materials on [Criminal Justice-Restorative Justice](#); [Unemployment and poverty](#); and [Environmental Justice](#).
- **International issues:** Among others, you can view materials on [Armed Drones](#); Nuclear Negotiations with [Iran](#); The [Central African Republic](#); The [Middle East](#); and [Trade Agreements](#)

Register Now for the Social Action Summer Institute

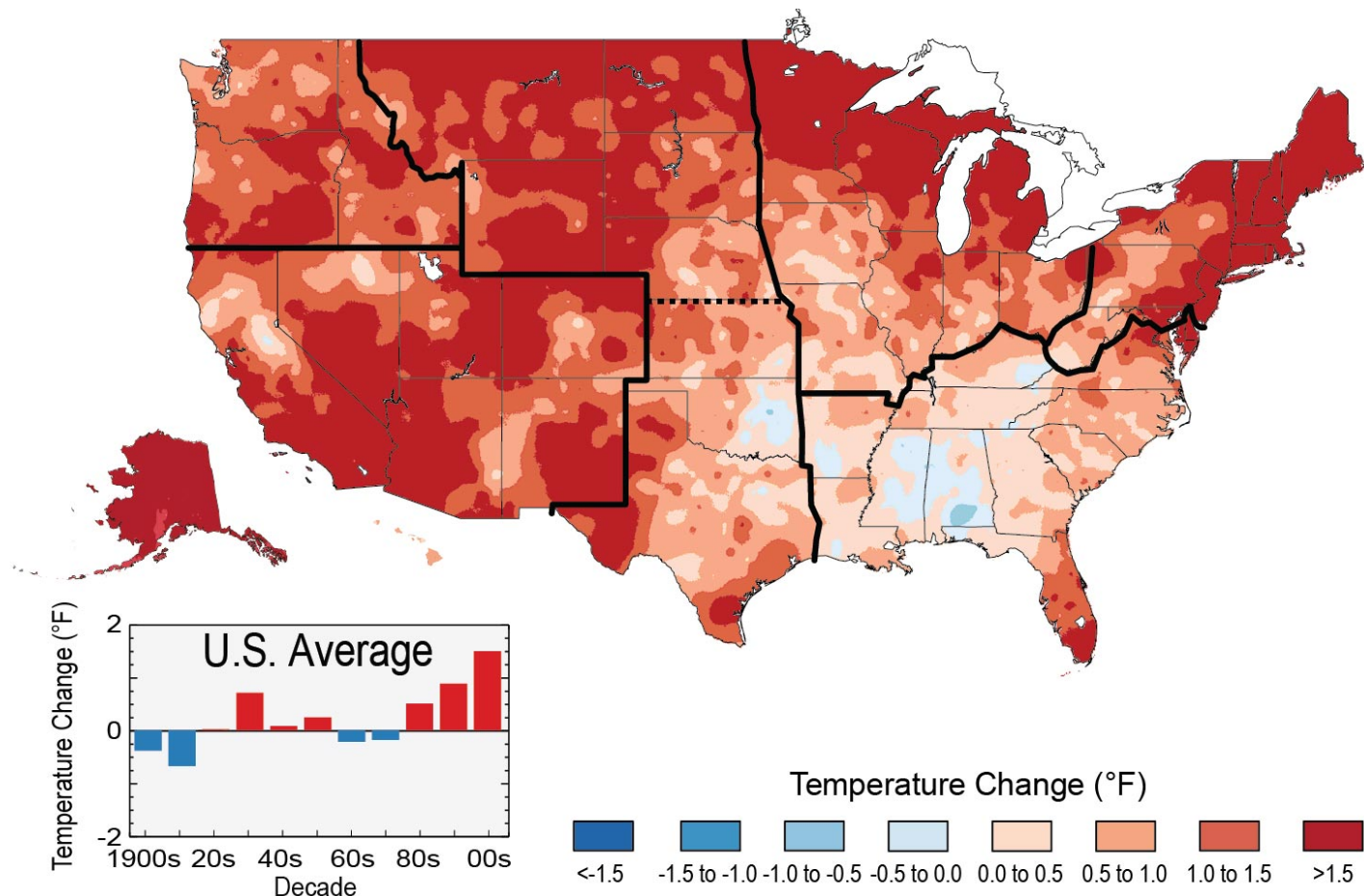
Registration is now open for the Social Action Summer Institute, sponsored by the Roundtable Association of Catholic Social Action Directors, July 20-24, 2014 in St. Louis, MO. This year's theme is "Setting the Captives Free: Embracing Christ in the Victim, Offender, & Community." Featured speakers include Bishop Emeritus Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, New Mexico; Mark Umbreit, University of Minnesota's Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking; and Janine Geske, Director of the Marquette University Law School's Restorative Justice Initiative. [Get more info](#) or [register now](#)

Sustainability Conference Roundup and Encyclical Update

Below are several reports and stories published both during and after the recent Vatican conference, Sustainable Humanity, Sustainable Nature, Our Responsibility:

- [Vatican hosts five-day sustainability summit](#) from National Catholic Register
- [Can a Pope Help Sustain Humanity and Ecology?](#) at the *New York Times'* Dot Earth
- [Pope Francis on Ecology](#) in the *Boston Globe*
- Several stories from [Catholic Ecology](#)

In addition to the sustainability conference, Pope Francis' expected ecological encyclical is also in the news. [Pope Francis Wants to Save the Planet](#) describes that *Christiana Figueres, head of the UN's climate change secretariat, expects the encyclical to be released before the UN's climate change summit in Paris, in November and December of 2015.* The article also says that Ms. Figueres *is unsure if it would be released before the summit in September 2014 where UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon is encouraging world leaders to draw up ambitious plans ahead of the 2015 summit.* Additionally, [UN to back Pope Francis statement on 'human ecology'](#) reports that the UN is expected to support the forthcoming encyclical.



U.S. Climate Change Reports

Documents Impacts Throughout the US

On Tuesday May 6, the federal government released [a comprehensive climate change report](#). [Summarizing the report](#), the *New York Times* said *the effects of human-induced climate change are being felt in every corner of the United States...with water growing scarcer in dry regions, torrential rains increasing in wet regions, heat waves becoming more common and severe, wildfires growing worse, and forests dying under assault from heat-loving insects.*

The *Times* goes on to note that *such sweeping changes have been caused by an average warming of less than 2 degrees Fahrenheit over most last land areas of the country in the past century, the scientists found. If greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane continue to escalate at a rapid pace, the warming could conceivably exceed 10 degrees by the end of this century.* To highlight the gravity of the findings, the *Washington Post* published the most [15 arresting images of climate change now and in the pipeline](#).

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Two Books, One Article, One Petition

Christiana Z. Peppard, Ph.D., Fordham University theology professor, Covenant supporter and participant in the 2012 scholars' conference, has an excellent volume on a Christian view of our emerging water crisis: *Just Water: Theology, Ethics, and the Global Water Crisis* (Orbis, 2014). *New Theology Review* also just published a short, excellent (and free) article by Dr. Peppard titled, [Theology and Climate Change](#).

Norman Levesque of Montreal, Canada, has provided a very helpful guide for making a more energy efficient and environmentally friendly church with prayers, group activities and practical help. The book is entitled *Greening Your Church: A Practical Guide to Creation Care Ministry for Parishes, Dioceses and Religious Communities*. [Available here.](#)

Seven Reasons Why We Need Prison Reform

1. The U.S.A. is the only country in the Western industrialized world that still uses the death penalty.
2. Since the war on drugs began in 1971, America's prison population has grown 700%. We lock up more people than any other country in the world, holding 25% of the world's prison population (but we only have 5% of the world's people).
3. Since 1980, California has built one college campus and 21 prisons.
4. Ten years ago there were only five private prisons in the country. Today there are 100. The prison industry complex is one of the fastest growing industries in the United States, with its own trade exhibitions, conventions, and catalogs.
5. The majority of people we incarcerate in this country have never committed a violent crime: 97% of federal inmates and about two-thirds of state inmates have been convicted of nonviolent offenses.
6. Poor people and people of color are disproportionately affected by incarceration. A recent study found that one in every three African-American males will be incarcerated at some point in their lives.
7. The passage of the "three strikes" laws in 13 states (life in prison after being convicted of three felonies) made it necessary to build 20 new federal prisons. One of the most disturbing cases resulting from this measure was that of a prisoner who received three 25-year sentences for stealing a car and two bicycles.

(Sources: globalresearch.org and usccb.org)

Advocacy Efforts:

Farm Bill: Implementation, Appropriations continue

Over the next couple of weeks, the House and Senate Appropriations committees will complete work on farm bill funding for this year. Specific implementation updates can be found at the blog of the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#).

Individuals are certainly welcomed to take action as well; we encourage you to regularly visit their website in order to keep well informed of what's happening on Capitol Hill. Visit this [Take Action](#) webpage to learn more.