St. Mary Student Parish
Social Justice Ministry Newsletter
October 2011

1. **CROP Walk for Hunger** **Sunday, October 2**

2. ***"Advocacy: Taking the Next Step"***
   - **End Human Trafficking Conference**
     Saturday, October 29 **Register today!**
   - **Advocacy interest Groups**

3. **Students for Social Justice**
   - **Alternative Spring Break Information Nights**
     October 4, 5 and 6
   - ***"Michigan Advocacy: Our Church's Voice in State Government"*** **Monday, October 10**
   - **Year of Service Information Evening**
     Tuesday, October 11
   - **Advocacy trip to Washington, D.C.**
     November 12-14
   - **Signup for SSJ service opportunities**

4. **Service Opportunities**
   - **IHN Alpha House Family Shelter**
     October 31-November 6 **Sign up now!**
   - **Delonis Community Kitchen volunteers needed**

5. **Announcements**
   - **ON PASSAGE OF 2011 WELFARE REFORM LEGISLATION**
     'Impact on Families and Children Will be Felt for Years to Come,' Says Conference
   - **R.A.C.E. Race And Conciliation Encounters**

6. **Prayer to end human trafficking**

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1. CROP Walk for Hunger

The annual CROP hunger walk is **Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011**. We invite you to walk as part of our St. Mary Student Parish team if you are able. It is a fun day of education, community and solidarity with the world's hungry. We choose to walk because many of the poorest people in the world have no choice but to walk long distances to get water or to find fire wood to cook their food. We walk in solidarity with them and hope to raise money to support both local and global efforts to give poor people opportunities to live a better life. Please consider joining, financially supporting and/or praying for the success of the St. Mary team this year.

To sign up on line and/or to make a contribution go to:
http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/TR?team_id=58041&pg=team&fr_id=12707&et=VCrFA62IfF5BOkGhiqhYbg&s_tafId=87030
Or contact Lisa Hirsch at: mcdfam5@sbcglobal.net.

2. *"Advocacy: Taking the Next Step"*

- **End Human Trafficking Conference**
  Saturday, October 29 **Register today!**

Trafficking of people is a modern day scourge that afflicts millions of people, particularly women and children, around the world resulting in extreme forms of sexual exploitation and forced labor.
Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Seminar Saturday, October 29
Location: **St. Thomas the Apostle Church**, 530 Elizabeth St. Ann Arbor
Cost – **FREE**

Agenda:
9:30 am – 12 pm: Human Trafficking Awareness
12 pm - 1 pm: Lunch
1 pm – 3 pm: Take Action Workshop

Register today!.... **http://tinyurl.com/3opbpe5**

- **Advocacy Interest Groups**

Are you interested in forming or joining an advocacy interest group?
Three groups are forming:
*End Human Trafficking—contact Deanna Cho: deannaycho@gmail.com
*Stop the Deportations—contact Fr Dan Reim, S.J.: dreim@umich.edu
*Help the Hungry and Homeless—contact Marybeth Lee: giraffe26_20@yahoo.com
Are you interested in coordinating another advocacy group?
Contact Fr Dan: dreim@umich.edu

3. Students for Social Justice

- **Alternative Spring Break Information Nights**
  October 4, 5 and 6

Alternative Spring Break 2011-2012 (For Undergraduates)
Come hear about the various ASB sites from last year's participants and sign up for a Spring Break like no other!
Information Nights (and application information):
--Attend one

Tuesday, October 4	**9:00 pm**	**All ASB Sites**
Wednesday, October 5	**9:00 pm**	**Dominican Republic**
Thursday, October 6	**7:30 pm**	**All ASB Sites**

(All meetings will be held in Donnelly Hall)

Participant applications will be due on Friday, October 28.
For more information, contact ASB Student Coordinators: Mike Tengel: mjtengel@umich.edu or Luke Sullivan: sullival@umich.edu.

- ***"Michigan Advocacy: Our Church's Voice in State Government"*** **Monday, October 10 7:00 pm**

Tom Hickson, Michigan Catholic Conference Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy, will teach us the "ins" and "outs" of advocacy. Basically, he'll help us "take the next step" in changing society to benefit those most in need. He'll walk us through the Michigan Catholic Conference Legislative Advocacy website and the various advocacy issues they're working on.
It's one thing to know something is wrong, it's another to actually DO something about it.

- **"Year of Service Information Evening"**
  Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 pm

"What are you doing after you graduate? Have you thought about giving a year of service?"
Come learn about the possibilities. Talk to UM alums who've just returned from a year of service program. Talk with other students considering this possibility for next year or several years down the road. Representatives from Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Dominican Volunteers and Teach for America will be present to answer questions.

- **Advocacy trip to Washington, D.C.**
  November 12-14

Join over 1,200 university and high school students passionate about social justice at the Ignatian Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C. Then, actually go to Congress to meet with representatives to express your views on important social

justice issues. Travel with University of Detroit Mercy students and members of the Jesuit Volunteers Corp. An "epic" experience!
Contact Amy Ketner for more information: amketner@umich.edu

- **Sign up for SSJ service opportunities**

Want to get involved directly with your local community? Work with fellow UM students? Serve our brothers and sisters in need? Join us for monthly service opportunities at eight sites in Ann Arbor or Flint. Contact: Amy Ketner at: amketner@umich.edu

4. Service Opportunities

- **IHN Alpha House Family Shelter October 31-November 6**

St Mary's serves Alpha House the week of 10/31 to 11/6. This is a great way for us to share the love of Christ with others in need. Alpha House is an amazing place and allows families to stay together when facing the challenge to get back to providing housing and stability for themselves. You can share this journey with them as an individual or with your own family by becoming a volunteer or meal benefactor.
Families or groups of friends are welcome to volunteer for service together at Alpha House
Resident parishioners, bringing your children along when you volunteer at meal times makes an environment similar to a potluck and when you bring your children to children's activities can provide a welcome friend for a child of similar age.
University Students and resident parishioners, your influence in socializing with the children, providing/preparing a meal or lending a kind ear for a parent can bring joy and peace to a time of transition. Those parishioners resident or student who can't give of time could consider a donation of meal or towards a meal. Even as little as $10 can provide part of a meal like pizza or pasta that another volunteer may have time to serve but not funds to provide.
If you are interested in more information about any of these opportunities to serve them and would like more information, please email stmarys.alphahouse@gmail.com. We need 32 volunteers at a minimum to staff this time of service and need to provide 7 dinners, 2 lunches and 2 breakfasts.

Click on **Volunteer Now** For Alpha House and sign up for a volunteer spot today.
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AnGrCrFXiZsvdFk3dGRGb2ozcnNsSWtrbWtENHl0UHc&hl=en_US#gid=0
Or contact Nancy Herlocher at: nancy.herlocher@gmail.com.

- **Delonis Community Kitchen volunteers needed**

Delonis Center serves the hungry in Ann Arbor and is located on Huron St. 3 blocks west of Main. For those of you who are new - we routinely cook (3-5 PM) and serve/clean (5-7 PM) on the first and fifth Fridays of each month. No

experience necessary. Paula is most often "lead" in the kitchen and typically Eric will also arrange for a few additional helpers. For more information and/or to sign up contact smmarcus@med.umich.edu.

5. Announcements

- **R.A.C.E. Race And Conciliation Encounters**

Race And Conciliation Encounters (R.A.C.E.), is a racially diverse group of adults dedicated to having dialogues about race. These conversations are held in safe and respectful settings so participants can share experiences about the impact of race and racism on their daily lives.
R.A.C.E. is hosting a six-week series of conversations about race on Mondays at the Ann Arbor Community Center* starting October 10th and running through November 21st.
Please sign up in advance at this email address:
race_washtenaw@yahoo.groups.com
The deadline for sign up is Thursday, October 6th. When signing up, please provide your name, phone number and email address.
Group capacity is limited, so spaces will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis and preference will be given to those able to attend all 6 dialogue sessions. If you have any questions, please include them in your email. A member of R.A.C.E. will contact you with a response.
If you are unable to attend every session this time, but are interested in future groups, please email your name and email address with a request to be put on the R.A.C.E. mailing list for future announcements.

**The Community Center is located at 625 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, 48105*

For more information, contact: **Darlene Nichols** atL=: 734-936-2362 or dpn@umich.edu.

- **ON PASSAGE OF 2011 WELFARE REFORM LEGISLATION**
  'Impact on Families and Children Will be Felt for Years to Come,' Says Conference

(**Lansing**) – The August 24, 2011 passage of welfare reform legislation that will cut off from state assistance a minimum of 13,000 families and some 25,000 children was fast-tracked through the legislative process while neglecting to address how the measures will impact destitute children, Michigan Catholic Conference stated following the House's concurrence of House Bills 4409 and 4410.

"The impact of the bills that passed the Legislature will be felt by poor and vulnerable Michigan residents and children for years to come," said Tom Hickson, Michigan Catholic Conference Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy. "It is unfortunate that the House chose to ship these bills to the

Governor rather than send them to conference committee in order for elected officials and the public to engage in a much-needed conversation of how the legislation will affect destitute persons – most critically the thousands of children whose parents rely on state benefits."

In late July Michigan Catholic Conference urged the Speaker of the House and the Chairman of the House Families, Children and Seniors Committee to send the bills to conference committee once the bills were granted immediate effect by the State Senate. This, according to the Conference, would "allow for a discussion of how the state will prevent thousands of children from falling deeper into poverty." The correspondence also made clear that passing House Bills 4409 and 4410 in their current form would do nothing to move the needle on the MIDashboard, which places the number of Michigan children living in poverty in its 'economic strength' category. Michigan's unemployment rate has climbed from 10.5 percent to 10.9 percent since the Conference's request for the bills to be sent to conference committee.

"While some have spoken to the temporary nature of the state's assistance program as the reason for moving thousands of families and children off the rolls, the fact remains that underprivileged children will feel the impact of their parents losing state benefits," said Hickson. "It is highly unfortunate and counter-productive to the state's future economy for the Legislature to casually dismiss the economic reality of thousands of Michigan children."

Michigan Catholic Conference is the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in this state.

6. Prayer to End Human Trafficking

O God, our words cannot express what our minds can barely comprehend and our hearts
feel when we hear of women and girls deceived and transported to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation and abuse because of human greed and profit at this time in our world.
Our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are being transgressed through threats, deception, and force.
We cry out against the degrading practice of trafficking and pray for it to end.
Strengthen the fragile-spirited and broken-hearted.
Make real your promises to fill these our sisters with a love that is tender and good and send the exploiters away empty handed.
Give us the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity with them, that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all of us.
Amen.

***Prayer* by S. Gen Cassani, SSND**

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If you wish to be removed from this e-mail group list, please contact smsjm-steer@umich.edu.