



## Catholic Charities Social Concerns

Dear Friend in Christ,

The Catholic Charities - Social Concerns newsletter will be short and sweet for the month of April.

I pray everyone has a blessed Holy Week in anticipation of one of the holiest days of the year - Easter!



During this Holy Week, I can't help but reflect on God's Mercy. I am in the middle of reading "33 Days of Merciful Love" by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. Several of my colleagues at the Catholic Center recommended I read this book as I have a special devotion to the Divine Mercy.

One of the reflections in the book centers around the Good Samaritan story. We all know the story. It is the story of the Jewish man who was robbed and left for dead. Sadly, we hear how the priest and the Levite passed him by, but it was the Samaritan who showed the beaten man mercy.

Fr. Gaitley writes, "So, what is mercy? More specifically, what is Divine Mercy? Well, it's when God doesn't pass us like the priest and Levite but, rather, like the Samaritan, comes to us where we are, sees our weakness, brokenness, and misery, and then acts to heal us and bring us to a place of comfort and rest. In other words, mercy involves two things: The *heart* and the *arms*. It's God's *being moved to compassion* at seeing our suffering (heart) and then taking action to help alleviate it (arms)."

What a beautiful image.

As I think of that passage from the book, I can't help but reflect on mercy within our ministry work of walking with, and serving others. Perhaps you can relate that sometimes it can be difficult to show mercy or even to receive mercy. Sometimes, it can be hard to open ourselves to receive the *Heart* and *Arms* of Jesus so that we in turn can be the *Heart* and *Arms* of Jesus to others. But then, that is what makes Mercy so incredibly miraculous and wonderful. Mercy is not given because we deserve it, it is the natural extension of love.

My prayer for each of you this Holy Week and Easter Season, that just as the

Samaritan did, you feel the Arms and Heart of God's Mercy in your life and your ministry work.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Theresa Chamblee*

Catholic Charities - Director of Social Concerns

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

## Featured Social Concerns Ministry



**CRS Rice Bowl** is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in every diocese throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, one of the most significant moments of the Church year. During Holy Week, we journey with Christ from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his final meal with his closest friends and ultimately to his death on the cross. As we walk with Jesus during this week, we call to mind the countless men, women and children who even today carry heavy crosses: crosses of hunger, of homelessness, of a lack of resources or security.

### **Change a Life - Save a Life**

Thomas Awiapo, CRS consultant in Ghana, says "There are so many problems in the world that sometimes we get overwhelmed and paralyzed, and the tendency to do nothing sets in.

In the midst of all these challenges and difficulties in our world, sometimes all it takes is a small act of kindness and a little act of love to change a life, to save a life." This year, as Lent gives way to Holy Week and Holy Week to Easter, please share your Easter joy by giving generously to CRS Rice Bowl. Your gift can change a life...save a life.



To hear Thomas Awiapo share (3 min.) how the CRS Rice Bowl helped saved his life, visit [HERE](#).

(scroll down the CRS Holy Week webpage, you will see his story)

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## Lenten Alms Change Lives

Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in roughly 45 different countries each year. 25% of all donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since its inception in 1975, CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly \$300 million.

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## How to turn in your Rice Bowl

- Consider counting your loose change in your CRS Rice Bowl and turning in a check with your total.
- Turn your Rice Bowl into your parish or school (if they are participating in the program).
- If your parish or school is not participating, please mail your CRS Rice Bowl total via check to:

**Theresa Brydon**  
**Missions Office**  
**Archdiocese of Indianapolis**  
**1400 N. Meridian St.**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46202**

**Very IMPORTANT: Please have on MEMO LINE of check -  
"CRS RICE BOWL"**

It will be included in the total CRS Rice Bowl collection

# Save the Date



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## **Parish Social Ministry Gathering South**

**June 8th, 2019  
9am to 12pm**

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### When

**Saturday, June 8th  
9am to 12pm**

## Where

**St. Mary of the Knobs Catholic Church  
5719 Saint Marys Road  
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119**

## Doors Open at 8:30

**Morning Refreshments will be served**

## Who Should Attend?

**Priest, Deacons, PLC's,  
Parish Staff, Parish Volunteers,  
and ANYONE interested  
in the work of loving their neighbors.**

## RSVP

**Theresa Chamblee  
317-236-1404**

**[tchamblee@archindy.org](mailto:tchamblee@archindy.org)**

**(There is no fee for the event, but we need to know how many to expect to have enough materials on hand.)**

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**If any of the following statements  
resonate for you, then the Archindy  
Parish Social Ministry Gathering  
is for you!**

- **Do you feel like you want to do more within your parish, but you don't know where to start?**
- **Do you feel like it is always the same 10 people doing all the ministry work within the parish?**
- **Are you interested in learning practical skills on how to make the ministry of service thrive within your parish?**
- **I would like to start a new service ministry, but how do I know if my parish needs the ministry or could support it?**
- **How can I make service more spiritually impactful within our parish?**

**Don't forget to REGISTER!**

(Space is limited)

[Tchamblee@archindy.org](mailto:Tchamblee@archindy.org)

or

**317-236-1404**

## Prayer of the Month

### The Prayer this Month is actually a Video The Good Samaritan: Prayer

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) reminds us that prayer is an encounter with Christ, who is present in every member of our human family.

This is a story about people encountering one another on one of life's roads. So many of us are tempted to pass by others without recognizing their needs, their common dignity. In this story, that's not the case. The Samaritan, traveling down the road, was "moved with compassion at the sight." This is the moment of encounter—a prayerful experience of seeing Christ in the face of the stranger.

We must be open to experiencing God in our encounter with others. In fact, this can be a powerful form of prayer. What if we aren't encountering someone on a physical road? We can still encounter others in our prayer by calling to mind their stories, the faces of individuals on the news, etc.

Watch

[The Good Samaritan Prayer](#)

**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.



Love Your Neighbor



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