



ORE Connections February 2012

From the Director's desk...

Excess Baggage

Someone asked Jesus, "Lord, are they few in number who are to be saved?" (Luke 13:22-30) Jesus does not answer the question directly but does say: "Try to come in through the narrow door. Many, I tell you, will try to enter and be unable".

What does the response of Jesus mean? Is it as harsh as it sounds?

I think that it means the following. If you have a lot of baggage, you will not be able to enter the kingdom through the narrow door. Those who are attached to material possessions will have a difficult time. In other words, you cannot take it with you. That is why poor people have an advantage over those with many possessions. Poor people have a better realization of their dependence upon God.

I think that it also means the titles of importance and prestige can be classified as extra baggage. An important title for Jesus was "Servant of God". You too must be a servant to other people in order to be important to God. Provide others with what they need to live, food, housing, clothes. When you do so, you do it for God Himself. Getting to heaven will not be easy if we have excess baggage.

Share what you have with others so that you can enter through the narrow gate.

God Bless.

Monsignor Motta

Archdiocese of Hartford Office of Religious Education

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Youth Ministry

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday (February 5)



Last year almost 1,000 Catholic parishes participated in Souper Bowl of Caring contributing over \$1 million to the fight against hunger. Nationally, more than 260,000 youth collected over \$81 million in dollars and food for **local** hunger-relief charities. Learn more and register your church today at tacklehunger.org to receive your FREE 2012 Playbook with resources to help make your collection a success. You collect money or food at your school or parish and donate it to your favorite local charity.

Catholic Youth Spectacular (CYS) 2012

Sacraments: God's Enduring Treasures, Celebrations of Grace is the theme for the **September 30, 2012** Catholic Youth Spectacular to be keynoted by Vince Nims – The Roamin' Catholic Banana Guy. Save the date and send in your "intent to participate" form to save your space for another awesome day at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary. If you did not receive the form, contact Shawnee.

Faith and Family Night with the CT Whale



Invite a group of teens to attend a fun night of hockey as well as music by Scarlet Fade at the XL Center on March 10, 2011. Ticket purchases through Hockey Ministries International Northeast support Chapel programs throughout the American Hockey League and Christian Hockey Camps for boys and girls. For our e-mail subscribers click here to [Learn more about Scarlet Fade](#). For more information about HMI: www.hockeyministriesnortheast.org. For more information about this event: Rick Mitera - AHL Chapel Coordinator 860-817-6440 rmitera@hockeyministries.org.

Day of Reflection with Mike Patin

Monday, Feb 13th –10:00-4:00 (\$40.00 includes lunch and Mass) – sponsored by NACYML and St James, Randolph, MA. Contact Jim Flanagan 617-922-0024 for more information.

"Youth Ministry Now"

Luncheon Lecture Series at Yale

Wesley-Royce Leadership Colloquium. Sponsored by the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale in partnership with the Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Program at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture. 12:00-2:00 at the Berkeley Center. 363 St. Ronan Street. New Haven. Series is free. Contact Jeanne.moule@yale.edu to reserve a box lunch. www.berkeleydivinity.net www.yale.edu/faith **IF YOU MISS ANY SESSION IN THIS SERIES, CATCH IT LATER ON THE BERKELEY WEBSITE.**

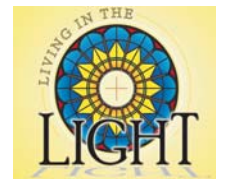
- ◇ February 14th – **Youth's Questions, Faith's Stories, Christ's Claims** with Dr. Roland Martinson (Academic Dean and Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, Luther Seminary)
- ◇ March 20th - **Beyond Soup Kitchens and Sardines: Youth Ministry as Practical** Theology with Dr. Rodger Nishioka (Benton family Associate Professor of Christian Education, Columbia Theological Seminary)
- ◇ April 3rd - **Human Flourishing** with Dr. Miroslav Volf

Workshop by Chris Padgett

Sunday, May 9th - sponsored by St Bartholomew, Manchester. Contact MJ Tomsic for more information. 860-533-1855 ext. 2.

National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM)

The NCCYM *Living in the Light/ Viviendo en la Luz* will be held at the Dolphin/ Swan Resort in Orlando, Florida **November 29-December 2, 2012**. Come to renew, refresh, and network with over 2000 youth ministers from across the USA and maybe even from Australia or Zambia – our newest collaborating members!! Add on some time and make it a family vacation!



ADULT FORMATION/ EVANGELIZATION/ RCIA

RCIA RITE OF ELECTION

The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion will be held at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on **Sunday, February 26, 2012** at 3 pm. If you have not sent in your registration forms and plan to attend please contact Mary Marsan at mmarsan@adh-ore.org or call her at 860-243-9465. Rite of Election forms and information are also on our web site, www.orehartford.org.



RCIA RETREAT DAY

RCIA Retreat Day will be on Saturday, March 31, 2012. This retreat is offered for Catechumens, Godparents, candidates, sponsors and RCIA teams. We invite you to join us for prayer and reflection as we prepare for the upcoming Holy Week liturgies. To register please use the enclosed registration form or call Mary Marsan at the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education, 860- 243-9465, e-mail her at mmarsan@adh-ore.org.



ADULT CONFIRMATION

Our next Adult Confirmation Program will begin the week of April 9th. Classes will be held in West Hartford, Hamden and Waterbury. Adult Confirmation will be celebrated on **May 22, 2012** at 7 pm in the Cathedral of St. Joseph. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A SMALL ERROR ON THE REGISTRATION FORM THAT WAS SENT TO THE PARISHES, THE CLASSES ARE BEING HELD AT ST. MARK IN WEST HARTFORD, NOT BLOOMFIELD. For more details and the registration forms go to our web site, www.orehartford.org.

LAY MINISTRY CONTINUING EDUCATION



All commissioned lay ministers are invited to gather for an evening of reflection as we celebrate the season of Lent. The presenter will be Ms. Meg Lynam, the date is **March 7, 2012** from 7 to 9 pm at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield. To register call or email Mary Marsan at 860-243-9564, mmarsan@adh-ore.org

NEW LAY MINISTRY CLASS FORMING FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

The Lay Ministry Formation Program is expanding, so that we can accept new candidates every year. We will be accepting new applications in March. If you are an active Catholic involved in your parish and would like to receive further training in theology, scripture and pastoral skills, you may want to investigate the Lay Ministry formation program. The Lay Ministry program is an 18 month formation program that includes classes in theology, spiritual development and pastoral skills as well as a parish internship. For more information, check our web site; www.orehartford.org, call Mary Marsan at 860-243-9465 or email mmarsan@adh-ore.org.

Save the Date-

August 16-17, 2012



The New England Adult Faith Formation Symposium will be held on August 16-17, 2012 at The Doubletree Hotel in Westborough, MA. The Keynote Speaker will be Fr. Anthony Ciorra who will address the topic, Reaching 21st Century Disciples in the Year of Faith.

Our Sunday Visitor

New "In Focus" from OSV Newsweekly: "Welcoming Faithful Back into the Fold" – What can we and our parishes do to reach out to those who are estranged from or perhaps just interested in the Catholic Church? While this question has many possible answers, it will be helpful to review some basic principles that should form the foundation of any outreach to lapsed Catholics. To order call 1-800-348-2440, ext. 2171.

"How are you reaching today's seekers?"



Spread the faith in an appealing way! Strengthen your skills for sharing! Join Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP in an ONLINE discussion/course, **February 22 – March 18, 2-12**. Ideal for RCIA Coordinators, catechists, RCIA teams, evangelization ministers, etc. Based on his book *Why Not Consider Becoming Catholic?*, Fr. DeSiano offers four presentations of 45 minutes each and invites participants to join in conversation that will help us speak about faith in a way that contemporary seekers can understand and find appealing. To register or for more information, go to www.pemdc.org.

Catholic Biblical School

Open to the Public: Is Natural Disaster God's Punishment for Sin? A Celebration of Sacred Scripture March 25, 2012, 12:00-4:30 pm
Advance Registration Required by March 16, 2012

Various forms of natural disaster are often presented in the Bible as divine retribution. This prompts us to ask: Is there a relationship between the moral order in human life and the natural order of the world? Are natural disasters really punishment for human sin? In order to answer these questions, Sr. Dianne Bergant will examine biblical passages that describe natural disasters, namely: the flood (Genesis 6-8), the plagues of Egypt, and the final destruction at the end of time.

Dr. Dianne Bergant, C.S.A. is Professor of Old Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Dr. Bergant has served as President of the Catholic Biblical Association of America and is an editor of several major biblical and theological journals, including *The Bible Today*. She is currently working in the areas of biblical interpretation and biblical theology, particularly issues of peace and ecology.

Brochures with complete information and registration form will be sent independently, so be on the lookout for that mailing. If you do not receive that by **March 1**, contact Jill Costa in the Office of Religious Education (contact info on the first page of this newsletter). Please register by **March 16, 2012**.

Students Save the Dates!



Catholic Biblical School
Office of Religious Education • Archdiocese of Hartford

First Year (CBS 100) Required Lenten Scripture Day: March 31, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield. Topic: Exploring the New Exodus: The Paschal Mystery and Christian Living in Light of Israel's Exodus with Professor

Celia Sirois of St. John Seminary, Brighton, MA.

Second Year and Advanced Year (CBS 200 and 400) Required Lenten Scripture Day: March 25, 2012, 12:00-4:30 pm, St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield. Topic: *Is Natural Disaster God's Punishment for Sin?* with Dr. Dianne Bergant, CSA.

CBS Graduation: A prayerful celebration at St. Thomas Seminary Chapel, **June 10, 2012, 3:00-3:45 pm**. Reception follows in Alumni Lounge. RSVP required.



**Open to the Public:
A Musical Journey
through God's Word
Saturday, February 25,
2:30-3:30 pm**

Music is a powerful vehicle for expressing faith. It brings Scripture to life in ways that can transform us and deepen our devotion to Christ. The Catholic Biblical School and the Archbishop O'Brien Library present a vocal recital by Mr. Ernani Domingos, CBS Class of 2015. Ernani is a vocal student in the Hartt School of Music and a professional soloist. The concert is inspired by Ernani's study of Sacred Scripture this year and will provide biblical connections to the classical musical works presented. *Everyone is welcome.* Please RSVP by returning the registration form included in this edition of *ORE Connections*.

Save the Date!

The Resurrection Body According to Paul and his Successors , April 28, 2012, 9:30 am-noon, St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield. Intended for Biblical School graduates, pastoral leaders and anyone with some familiarity with New Testament studies, Dr. Adela Yarbro Collins of Yale Divinity School will be our speaker.

Other News

Caritas Christi Center



Upcoming events: **February 9-March 28** (seven Wednesdays, 6:30-8 pm), "Prayerful Meditation & Movement with the Prayer of St. Francis", with Karen Suppies; **February 15** (6:30-9 pm), "Film Fest: Amazing Grace", with Jim Pepitone; **February 25** (1:30-3), "Ongoing Centering Prayer"; **March 6** (6-9 pm), "Lenten Evening of Reflection", with Sr. Janet Ruffing; **March 12** (7-8:30 pm), "Making Sense Out of Suffering", with Sr. Doretta D'Albero; **March 13** (7-8:30 pm), "Raising Children of Divorce", with Sr. Mauryeen O'Brien; **March 19** (10-11:30 am), "How to Be a Good Grandparent", with Lisa Velazquez; **March 20** (7-8:30 pm), "Helping Children Grieve", with Sr. Mauryeen O'Brien; **March 21** (6:30-9 pm), "Film Study: A Walk to Remember", with Jim Pepitone; **March 31** (10-3), "Lenten Day of Reflection: Mother Teresa and the Seven Last Words from the Cross", with Dr. Dianne Marie Traflet; **March 31** (1:30-3), "Ongoing Centering Prayer". For more information, go to www.caritaschristicenter.org.

Other News

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center



Upcoming events: **February 1**, (day or evening), "How Have We Experienced the Changes in the Mass", with Fr. David Cinquegrani; **February 3-5**, "Men's Retreat"; **February 5**, "Freedom Sunday: Interreligious Dialogue on Human Trafficking and Slavery"; **February 10-12**, "Men's Retreat"; **February 11**, "Tai Chi: Meditation in Motion (Day Retreat)", with Francis Hoal Tran; **February 14**, "Valentine's Day Buffet Dinner and Wine Tasting"; **February 17-19**, "Centering Prayer Retreat: Deepening Our Consent", with Therese Saulnier; **February 17-19**, "Men's Retreat"; **February 22** "Ash Wednesday – Our Lenten Journey: Consumed by God", with Br. Michael Moran; **February 24-26**, "Firefighters' Retreat"; **February 24-26**, "Men's Retreat"; **February 25**, "The Role of Zen in the Spirituality of Thomas Merton", with Rev. Robert Jingen Gunn; **March 2-4**, "Men's Retreat"; **March 3**, "Understanding Depression: Awareness, Strength, Healing", with Mary Lou Costanzo; **March 9-11**, "Men's Retreat"; **March 10**, "Lenten Yoga Retreat" with Nancy Murray; **March 14**, "Day Retreat for Seniors: Celebrating Aging", with Sr. Colette Hanlon; **March 14**, "Women's Evening Retreat", with Sr. Colette Hanlon; **March 16-18**, "Women's Retreat"; **March 23-25**, "Men's Retreat"; **March 24**, "The Spiritual Practice of Knitting", with Rachel Valente; **March 30-April 1**, "Zen Spirit-Christian Spirit: Meditation as a Christian Contemplative Practice", with Fr. Michael Holleran and Dr. Timothy St. Onge. For more information:

www.holyfamilyretreat.org.

Our Lady of Calvary Retreat House

Upcoming events: **February 9**, 6-8:30 pm, "Keeping the Faith, Keeping the Commitment: An Evening for Married Couples", with Dcn. Eric and Cathryn Thermer; **February 16-19**, "Winter Silent Directed Retreat"; **February 28**, 9-1 or 7-9 pm, "Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America", with Sr. Ann Rodgers; **March 7**, 7-9 pm, "We Lift Our Eyes", with Sheri Dursin and Ann Mariano; **March 20**, 6-9 pm, "Pysanky (Egg Decorating) Workshop"; **March 25**, 1:30-3 pm, "Perfect Imperfections"; **March 27**, 9-1 or 7-9 pm, "Women in the Church". Check out these events and the theme retreat weekends at www.ourladyofcalvary.com.



Calendar Update:

February 3, "First Friday Lunch", OCSJM Office, New Haven, with Fr. Eddie DeLeon, CMF; **February 12-15**, "Catholic Social Ministry Gathering", Washington, DC; **March 2**, "First Friday Lunch", OCSJM Office, New Haven, with Fr. Emmanuel Ehemedu; **March 10**, "Parish Social Ministry Lenten Retreat", Sisters of St. Joseph, West Hartford; **June 9**, "Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference", St. Paul Catholic High School, Bristol. For more information, go to www.catholicsocialjustice.org.

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Programa de la Formación Básica de Catequistas

Próxima Sesión: *Historia de la Iglesia/ La Liturgia*

Seminario San Tomas

467 Bloomfield Ave. Bloomfield, CT

Martes, 7 de febrero 2012

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Padre Ivan Ramirez

Parroquia Santa Rosa de Lima

35 Center St. Meriden, CT

Jueves, 16 de febrero 2012

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Padre Israel Rivera

**** Tema: *Los 7 Sacramentos*

Parroquia San Anthony/

Sagrado Corazón

25 Gold St. New Haven, CT

Miércoles 29 de febrero 2012

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Ana Maria Alstrum

Encuentro Arquidiocesano de Catequistas

Sabádo 3 de Marzo, 2012

12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Centro de Santa Rosa de Lima

35 Center Street, Meriden, CT

Tema: "El Catequista: Pan Partido"

Facilitadora: Maricela Quintana, MCA



Inscríbese por teléfono, e-mail, o fax:

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Fax: 860-243-9690

Email: mhidalgo@adh-ore.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Catechetical Leaders Survey



The results of the national Catechetical Leaders Survey are now available online for your information. Included are: academic credentials, parish responsibilities, salaries and benefits, support and staffing, professionalism, job satisfaction, perceived effectiveness and technology. This makes for some interesting reading. To access the results, go to:

<http://trresearch.web.officelive.com/default.aspx>

DRE Connect

There is a new online community created by Loyola Press, specifically for parish faith leaders. It's called DRE Connect. It allows you to connect, consult, and grow with other parish faith leaders. It offers you the chance to improve your professional skills and become a mentor for your peers. DRE Connect puts you in touch with the greater community of Catholic Faith Formation Leaders; allows you to share photos, events, and resources and more with your peers; and gives you the opportunity to pass along your passion for ministry as you share your knowledge with other DRE's. Check out DRE Connect today. It only takes a minute to sign up for your FREE membership and begin connecting! Start sharing now at <http://dreconnect.loyolapress.com/home>.



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LOYOLA PRESS,
A JESUIT MINISTRY

Evenings of Discernment with Prayer for Peace

Opportunity for: Catholic Women and Men Considering Vowed Life or Priesthood, ages 18-45, 7:30-9:00 pm, 4th Tuesday of the Month **February 28, 2012; March 27, 2012, April 24, 2012.** To register contact: Sr. Ann: 203-245-0401, amcgovern@mercyne.org

Mid-Atlantic Congress

Save the Date! The Mid-Atlantic Congress for Pastoral Leadership, **March 8-10, 2012** at the Baltimore Hilton in the Inner Harbor. Keynoters include Father James Martin, Most Rev. Gerald Kicanas, and Dr. Adele Gonzalez. Workshops on: adult catechesis, mass media, youth ministry, evangelization, liturgical catechesis, children's catechesis, music, scripture, spirituality and much more. For more information www.midatlanticcongress.org.



In advance of the 2012 elections, the U.S. bishops reaffirmed their 2007 document, *Forming*

Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, in this coming election cycle and beyond, as the "continuing teaching of our bishops' Conference and our guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy." The USCCB is launching a new website for *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*:

www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship.

Religious Education Congress

Save the date! **Saturday, November 3, 2012** at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol. The keynote speaker is Ken Doran, Religion Consultant for William H. Sadlier, Inc.



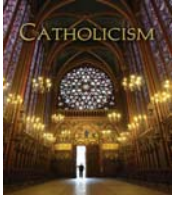
"Catholicism" Videos

An excellent new resource is now available! **Catholicism** is a groundbreaking Documentary Film Series and multi-media Study Program released by **Word on Fire**. The ten, 50-minute DVD episodes take viewers around the world and deep into the Faith, spanning over 50 locations in 15 countries. **Catholicism** illustrates the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Catholic Faith in an epic media experience. The videos are created and hosted by Father Robert Barron, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Professor at Mundelein Seminary, and founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. The ten episodes include: The Teachings of Jesus; The Ineffable Mystery of God; Mary, the Mother of God; Peter, Paul and the Missionary Adventure; The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church; The Mystery of the Church's Sacrament and Worship; The Communion of Saints; Prayer and the Life of the Spirit; The Last Things. This is a great resource for adult faith formation, RCIA, youth ministry, etc. For more information, go to www.catholicword.com or contact Peggy Galus at pgalus@catholicword.com or 800-932-3051, x307.



Cycle 2 for the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (online training for catechetical leaders and catechists) is scheduled for February 26 – March 31. Registration begins January 10 and ends February 22. Go to <https://vlc.udayton.edu/calendar/> for more information and to register.

Catholicism Series Presentation



The nationally acclaimed Catholicism DVD series by Fr. Robert Barron with episodes shown on PBS and EWTN will be shown in its entirety on a big screen at Holy Angels Center in South Meriden, beginning on **Tuesday, February 21st** and continuing on

successive Tuesdays through May 1st (no episode on March 20th) at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Lawrence Symolon, pastor of Holy Angels Church, will act as moderator. Holy Angels Church and the Meriden-Wallingford Council of Catholic Women are sponsoring the series. Pre-registration is not necessary. For more information, contact Nancy Ball at 203-634-0530.

Pope Invites Parents to Pray: *God Knows Your Child Better Than You Do*



As is tradition on the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, Benedict XVI baptized a group of infants on Sunday, exhorting their parents to understand prayer as the first step in education.

“Educating is very demanding, sometimes it is quite hard on our always limited human capacities. But education becomes a marvelous mission if it is done in collaboration with God, who is the first and true educator of every man.” The Holy Father spoke of the Word of God and the sacraments as the ‘springs of salvation.’ “Adults are the first ones who need to nourish themselves from these sources so that they can guide the younger people in their growth,” he said. “The parents have to give much but to be able to give, they also for their part have to receive, otherwise they will be emptied, they will run out”. The full text of homily is available at www.zenit.org/article-34085?l=english.

Annual Awards Ceremony

Save the date! The annual awards ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 7:30 pm, at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in West Hartford. At this ceremony, we celebrate those individuals who are receiving the Basic Biblical Studies Certificate, Years of Service Award, Youth Ministry Basics Certificate, the Discipleship Award, or the Light of the World Award. Application/nomination forms will be mailed to parishes in the next month.



Save the date! William H. Sadlier appreciation day for DRE's at St. Clement's Castle in Portland – **Tuesday, March 20.**



Vatican II

50th Anniversary Celebration Conference



Sacred Heart University in Fairfield and Paulist Press are presenting “Universal Call to Holiness”, April 23-24, 2012. The agenda of the conference will not be a critique

of the council documents but rather creative ways in which the energy of the council can be marshaled in establishing the agenda and needs of the twenty-first century. The conference will target younger generations in the academic and pastoral communities. Speakers include Fr. Anthony Ciorra, Dr. R. Scott Appleby, Dr. Massimo Faggioli, Fr. Dave Dwyer, Dr. Nancy Dallavalle, Dr. John Haught, Dr. Diana Hayes, Fr. Michael Himes, Dr. Roberto Goizueta and Dr. Michael Higgins. For more information, contact 203-371-7904 or visit

www.sacredheart.edu/VIIconference.cfm.

Catechetical Leader Day of Reflection

Save the date! Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at Enders Island in Mystic. Details will be mailed shortly.



Catholic Scouting

Boy Scouts

Boards of Review

Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII

Please notify Archdiocese of Hartford, Catholic Scouting, Office of Religious Education, of your scheduled boards of review for these awards. This was instituted so that a Scout who may have missed a scheduled board may have the opportunity to attend another in the area and not lose out on their being recognized at the ceremony.

Deadline Approaching

The due date for all Boy Scout and Pope Paul VI paperwork, (applications and fees only) is **March 15**. All must be in the office by this date in order for you to be eligible for the awards this April. If you have any questions, email Jennifer at jmclintock@adh-ore.org.

Committee Meeting

The Next Committee Meeting will be on March 15th, 7pm, St. Thomas Seminary. Please let Jennifer know if you will be attending.

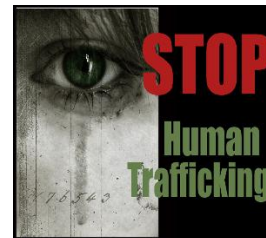
Girl Scouts

The due date for all applications and fees is **April 4th**

Freedom Sunday/ Celebration of Hope

Freedom **Sunday is February 26th**. Raise your awareness of the issue of Human Trafficking by attending a Not for Sale Concert on **Feb 15th**. The Wrecking is NFS's abolitionist band who will be in CT (Wed night - 6:30pm) at Yale University in the Saint Thomas More Catholic Chapel & Center. You will be inspired by the passion and energy of this group of young and committed musicians. Ethan Batstone, founder of NFS , will elaborate on projects being done around the world to stop Human trafficking. Contact Karen Herbert for more information:

Karen@notforsalecampaign.org



Fifth Sunday Global Solidarity Project - January 29th The team has chosen the issue of **“Human Trafficking”** as our first focus issue for several reasons. The guest speaker at the OCSJM Annual Dinner in October, 2011 painted a compelling picture of the crisis that Human Trafficking has become, both internationally and in the US. It is not surprising that Human Trafficking was a major concern for Pope John Paul II, and it continues to be so for Pope Benedict XVI, the US Catholic Bishops, members of various Catholic coalitions against human trafficking, and for President Obama, who has declared this month of January to be “Human Trafficking Prevention Month.”

What is Human Trafficking? *It is the exploitation of a person through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.*

In this liturgical season of “Ordinary Time,” the issue of Human Trafficking is anything but “ordinary.” And yet, as horrible as it is, it is more prevalent than many of us might imagine, even here in the United States.

Approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. 14,500-17,500 individuals are trafficked into the US each year. (Department of State Statistics) It is estimated that world-wide, as of 2009, profits from human trafficking were at \$32 billion, and they continue to grow.

Contact OCSJM for more information or assistance at (203) 777-7279 for suggested prayers, bulletin quotes, a bulletin insert/handout, and web links to Church teaching and resources to share the packet with the leaders and committees and your parish community.

**Archdiocese of Hartford
Office of Religious Education
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