



I'm a little pencil in the hands of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world." -Blessed Mother Teresa

The Little Pencil

Issue No. 11 August 2016

Human Rights Office Newsletter

Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph

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Welcome to the August issue of The Little Pencil.

The aim of this publication is to keep supporters, prayer group members, and volunteers informed of new initiatives and updates concerning Human Rights matters in our diocese.



This month marks a full year that I've been working in the diocesan Human Rights Office. I've learned a lot, but mostly what I've learned is that I have so much more learning still to come! I'm excited about this month's 2nd collection (Aug 20/21) at your parish as it benefits the diocesan Life & Justice Campaign. It is an opportunity for you to support local organizations dedicated to defending the dignity of the person and the sanctity of human life. Your entire donation stays right here in our area. Details listed below. Peace be with you,
~ Laurie Jo Holmes, Program Coordinator

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Presenting...

Logan Freeman



Volunteers play a vital role in the Human Rights Ministry, working alongside staff members, other volunteers and the community to jointly achieve our goal to uphold the dignity of human life. Each newsletter, we select a volunteer who makes the world a better place. Please contact us if you'd like to nominate someone to be featured in a future edition of *The Little Pencil*.

Logan oversees Visitation Parish's food collection program for local food pantries. In addition, he has volunteered and been active in *Christmas in October*, *Habitat for Humanity*, and the *Community Gardening* programs at Visitation. Logan was nominated by Jude Huntz, Pastoral Associate at the parish, "To me he is an incredible witness for his faith, expressing in action what is real in his heart."

Logan is always looking for ways to be involved in helping others. He

St. Maximilian Kolbe Patron Saint of Prisoners

While at the extermination camp at Auschwitz, Fr. Kolbe volunteered to take the place of a prisoner in who had been condemned to the starvation bunker. He led his nine companions in hymns and prayers as they slowly starved to death.

Needing the cell for other prisoners, the Nazis killed him with an injection of carbolic acid on August 14, 1941. Today relatives and friends of prisoners and drug addicts seek St. Maximilian's intercession on behalf of their loved ones.

attended a Matthew Kelly event earlier this year and was inspired to make every act he does prayerful. He wants to glorify God through his actions as a way of life, is thankful to God for giving him talents and skills, and wants to set an example as a living message for others to follow.

Way to go, Logan!



The Life & Justice Campaign promotes the fight against injustice toward the dignity of the person and sanctity of human life.

The annual collection for this campaign is coming up on August 20 & 21, and through this collection various projects will receive funds. These projects target change through education, pastoral care, and advocating change in public policy. Our goal is to help people help themselves. All funds stay within the geographical region of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, and all grant recipients must be in line with the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church.

Following is a list of potential program candidates:

- Protection for the unborn
- Food, clothing, shelter, education, or economic security for the poor
- Health care for vulnerable populations
- Healing for victims of abortion
- Protection for victims of violence
- Prevention of euthanasia or assisted suicide
- Spiritual support for the imprisoned
- Work to abolish the death penalty
- Promotion of adult stem cell research or work to eliminate embryonic stem cell research
- Defense of conscience rights and religious liberty
- Promotion of real immigration reform
- Advancement of the dignity of meaningful work

ENCOURAGE YOUR FAVORITE OUTREACH or PASTORAL MINISTRY to

APPLY FOR A GRANT BEFORE DECEMBER 30, 2016!

If you would like to make a donation to help support the Life and Justice Campaign, please [click here](#).

THANK YOU!
www.lifeandjusticekcsj.org



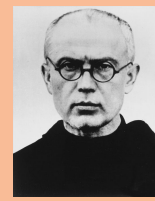
JUBILEE
YEAR of Mercy
DECEMBER 8, 2015 - NOVEMBER 20, 2016

The 5th Corporal Act of Mercy is Visit the Imprisoned

"I was a prisoner and you came to visit me." [Mt 25:36]

To help you become comfortable with this Ministry of Mercy, or to strengthen your present ministry, all are invited to a retreat sponsored by the diocesan Human Rights Office. Our diocese offers several ways to become involved in this Ministry of Mercy:

- Become a prayer sponsor for a prisoner
- Volunteer to visit the jail or prison
- Sign up as a pen pal with a prison
- Become a Mentor with the Re-entry Program to help folks get



[Click here](#) for more details.

Mother Teresa to be Canonized September 4



2016 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
year of mercy

**MO Catholic Conference
2016 Annual Assembly**

Missouri State Capitol
Saturday, Oct. 8

Keynote Speaker:
**Most Reverend
Edward M. Rice**

Bishop of
Springfield-Cape Girardeau

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS:

- Mercy Meets the Affordable Care Act
- Mercy Meets the Catholic Legislator
- Mercy Meets Compassion at the End of Life
- Mercy Meets a Culture of Violence
- Mercy Meets the 2016 Election and Beyond
- Mercy Meets the Millennial
- Mercy Meets the Poor and Marginalized
- Mercy Meets the Refugee
- Mercy Meets the "Unemployable"

To learn more about the 2016 MCC Annual Assembly, or to register, please [click here](#).

To learn more about the diocesan bus pilgrimage, please [click here](#).



Sisters of Mercy Against Human Trafficking

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a collaborative, faith-based national

back on their feet after prison

We look forward to gathering together in learning, prayer and fellowship. Lunch is included; Retreat followed by 4:00 Mass at the beautiful St. Francis Xavier Parish.

Saturday, October 8
10:00am - 3:45pm
St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall
2618 Seneca, St. Joseph MO



Register [online](#)
Register by phone: (816) 756-1850

Please RSVP to the Human Rights Office by September 24
Cost: Sack of Food for the Bread of Life Food Pantry or \$5

Questions? Contact us at holmes@diocesekcsj.org

network that offers education, supports access to survivor services, and engages in advocacy in an effort to eradicate modern-day slavery.



CRS Rice Bowl Representatives

Attention CRS Rice Bowl Representatives!

Watch your email inbox for info about upcoming Gathering.



Religious Freedom European Christian Refugee Crisis



[Click here](#)
To learn what you can do

Next Newsletter...

Look for the next issue of the Little Pencil newsletter in October. If you have questions, comments, or items to add, please contact the Human Rights Office at holmes@diocesekcsj.org or (816) 756-1850. **THANK YOU** for all you do to uphold the dignity of others.

CONTACT US

[Laurie Jo Holmes](#)
Program Coordinator
Human Rights Office

[Teresa Hoepfner](#)
Program Coordinator
Project Rachel

[Miguel Salazar](#)
Director
Hispanic Ministry

[Bill Francis](#)
Director of Respect Life &
Human Rights Offices



www.humanrightskcsj.org

"And the king will say to them in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one
of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'"
~Matthew 25:40



Blessed Mother Teresa
Pray for us