



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. 12 October 2016

Human Rights Office Newsletter Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph

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Welcome to the October 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.

Catholics Care. Catholics VOTE

- [Do's and Don'ts Guidelines During Election Season](#)
- [Voter Education and Voter Registration](#)
- [Political Activity Guidelines](#)
- To learn more about the moral obligation for Catholics to participate in public policy advocacy, [click here](#).

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Christmas Wishes

Interested in ending the Year of Mercy with a strong finish? The Human Rights Office is looking for assistance in helping our Volunteers

Presenting... Jane Fry



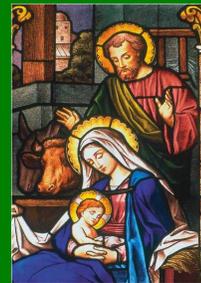
Volunteers play a vital role in the Human Rights Ministry, working alongside staff members, other volunteers and the community to jointly achieve our goal to uphold the dignity of human life. Each newsletter, we select a volunteer who makes the world a better place. Please contact us if you'd like to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

Jane Fry is the Food Pantry Representative for St. Bridget Parish as well as a key member of the Food Pantry Team in Pleasant Hill. She not only organizes St. Bridget Parish's food collection program for the local food pantry, but she serves as an advocate for families in need. Additionally, she has been in charge of the annual parish Garage Sale for several years and also serves on the Bright Futures Board for the PH R-III school district, helping children in need of a variety of items from school shoes to prom dresses. She helps the Board obtain snacks for students...especially during state testing. Jane was nominated to be our Featured Volunteer by longtime friend, Mary Zubeck of Presentation Parish, "Jane is the one who really cares what happens at the Food Pantry."

Jane and her husband, Dick, enjoy being involved in the parish community by helping others. She is grateful for her Catholic faith and appreciates the generous parishioners of her parish who help keep the Food Pantry shelves stocked. Jane, way to go glorifying God through your actions as a way of life; you are an example for others to follow.

of Prison Ministry purchase items for Christmas and Easter. Please **contact us** if you can help in any way.

- Financial donations for volunteers to bring Christmas Dinner to Prison
- Large-print Catholic Bibles
- Christmas Cards for offenders to give their families
- Mother's Day cards for offenders to send to their mothers & wives
- Birthday Cards for offenders to give their families
- Blank Note Cards



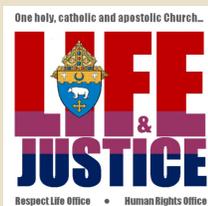
[Click here](#)
for more details about
Prison Ministry.

Catholic Charities Celebration of Hope

You helped raise over \$500,000 for people in need. They couldn't have done it without you.

Below are a few of the prayer requests shared at Catholic Charities' Gala earlier this month:

- Dear God, I pray through Jesus Christ that I find shelter. Lead and guide me. Signed, You know me.
- God, Please let us get a place to lay our heads at nite and get our children back. God help us.
- Please pray that my family makes it home to Tulsa to get an apartment. We have been homeless over a year. We need this house.



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

**ENCOURAGE YOUR FAVORITE
OUTREACH or PASTORAL MINISTRY to
APPLY FOR A GRANT BEFORE DECEMBER 30, 2016!**

The annual "2nd collection" for this campaign took place in August, 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

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

THANK YOU!
www.lifeandjusticekcsj.org

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Missouri Catholic Conference in Jefferson City as well as the annual retreat for the MAX Prison/Jail Ministry Ministry took place on October 8. Both were much appreciated and a great success. Read the wonderful articles published by *The Catholic Key* in the [October 21](#) issue.

Thank you to all our parish faithful who donated to the 2nd Collection - Life & Justice Campaign in August. The Human Rights Office anticipates record numbers of local organizations to apply for a grant this coming year. It is a wonderful opportunity 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 Diocese. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Peace be with you,
 ~ Laurie Jo Holmes, Program Coordinator



The 5th Corporal Act of Mercy is Visit the Imprisoned

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

Prison Poets at the Johnson County Library

MO Catholic Conference

www.mocatholic.org

The Public Policy Advocacy Agency for the Catholic Church in Missouri



Sisters of Mercy Against Human Trafficking

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a collaborative, faith-based national network that offers education, supports access to survivor services, and engages in advocacy in an effort to eradicate modern-day slavery.



Released from Prison Now What?

Journey to New Life Inc is a non profit social service organization located in Kansas City MO. It is organized to serve men and women returning to the community from prison or other involvement with the local, state or federal justice system. The goal is to assist these men and women to become successful and productive citizens and thereby make the community a safer place to live and work.

Click on the logo below if you are interested in knowing more about this program



CONTACT US

[Laurie Jo Holmes](#)
 Program Coordinator

Thursday, November 17
7:00pm
Johnson County Public Library



Questions? Contact us at
holmes@diocesekcsj.org



Human Rights Office
Teresa Hoepner
Program Coordinator
Project Rachel
Miguel Salazar
Director
Hispanic Ministry

Bill Francis
Director of Respect Life &
Human Rights Offices

Religious Freedom European Christian Refugee Crisis



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

Next News letter...

Look for the next issue of The Little Pencil newsletter in December. If you have questions, comments, or items to add, please contact us by December 2. THANK YOU for all you do to uphold the dignity of each human life.



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