



I am a little pencil in the hands of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world. St. Teresa of Calcutta

The Little Pencil

Issue No. 13 December 2016

Human Rights Office Newsletter

Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Welcome to the December 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. Thanks to all our parish faithful who donated to the 2nd Collection - Life & Justice Campaign in August. Our office has received record numbers of applications from local organizations for a grant this coming year. The last day to submit your application is December 31. It is a wonderful opportunity to support local organizations dedicated to defending the dignity of the person and the sanctity of human life right here in our own diocese. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Christmas blessings to you, Laurie Jo

Immigration - Migration - Refugee Ministry

Roundtable on Immigration Ministry

Thank you to all who attended one of the two Roundtable Discussions on Immigration Ministry earlier this month. The Human Rights and Hispanic Ministry Offices value your ideas and support in strengthening our diocesan role. Your genuineness and dedication to the faithful immigrant members of our parish communities is truly appreciated. We look forward to continue working with you in support of this ministry.

National Migration Week January 8-14, 2017

- Catholics are called to stand with new American



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Holy Rosary

immigrants as our brothers and sisters. This is who we are. This is what we do.

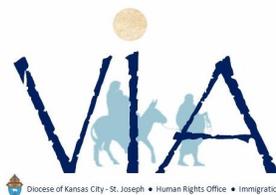


- We belong to the same Church no matter where we're from. Our Catholic identity isn't based on where we live but on our faith in Jesus Christ. We're one family, and the Catholic Church is home.
- In Pope Francis we have a leader from Argentina, a country of immigrants. He is the son of immigrants and a native Spanish speaker. These issues are close to his heart.
- Immigration is about real people who are trying to find a better life and a new beginning. As Pope Francis stated, "Each migrant has a name, a face and a story."
- Welcoming immigrants is part of the Catholic Social Teaching and reflects the Biblical tradition to *welcome the stranger*.
- The Catholic Church has been welcoming immigrants to the United States since the nation's founding and has been key in helping integrate into American culture
- In addition to welcoming and caring for those in need, the Church continues to uphold the centrality of family reunification as a critical component of our immigration system.
- America is a better country due to the contributions of immigrants.
- Refugees are the most rigorously screened population coming into America. This screening happens before they ever set foot in our country. The United States has the most thorough background checks of immigrants of any nation in the world.

Please download the [National Migration Week Toolkit](#)

Mass for World Day of Migrants & Refugees

Archbishop Naumann will commemorate the World Day of Migrants and Refugees with a liturgy that reflects the multinational identity of the Roman Catholic Church by utilizing different languages and musical styles appropriate for sacred worship. All Catholics are invited to join us for the Mass and the multicultural reception that follows:



Sunday, January 15

5:00 pm Mass & 6:00-7:00 pm Reception

Credit Union Needs Your Help!

Based on Christ's example of love for the poor, Holy Rosary Credit Union has proudly shared in the Church's efforts to abolish poverty in our diocese by extending developmental and financial education services to low-income and vulnerable populations since 1943.

The credit union encourages thrift, savings, and the prudent use of credit for individuals and small businesses. Holy Rosary teaches its members how to manage and control their finances and they only extend credit when appropriate, helping to create financial stability and to break the cycle of poverty.

For more information, visit their [website](#) or contact

Carole Wight, President
816-221-2734
cwight@holyroarycu.org



Religious Freedom
European Christian

Refugee Crisis

In addition to its

6:00 pm Mass & 6:00 - 7:00 pm Reception
St. Patrick's Church in Kansas City, KS
1086 N 94 St. Kansas City, KS 66112

Presenting...

Fr. Ron Will



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.

This month's featured volunteer, Fr. Ron Will, is a valuable member of the MAX Diocesan Prison Ministry Team. His patience and kindness to both the parishioners at St. Francis Xavier and to the prisoners at the Western Reception & Diagnostic Correctional Center in St. Joseph is contagious and much appreciated. Dr. Claude Sasso, Vice Chancellor at the Diocese, nominated Fr. Will to be the Human Rights Office featured volunteer this month. He states "Fr. Ron Will is a great pastor always looking for ways to evangelize his flock and bring them closer to Jesus. He is a great organizer and keeps his adult faith formation team very busy. His parish is a model for the New Evangelization."

Fr. Will, way to go glorifying God through your actions as a way of life; you are an example for others to follow. Thank you!

MAX Diocesan Prison & Jail Ministry

God Squad Meeting

All who volunteer in the Catholic "God Squad" Ministry at the Jackson County Detention Center are invited to a winter meeting at The Catholic Center on Monday, January 23 at 6:00pm. Dinner will be provided by Raiza Guevara.

- **Why?** Give God Squad Volunteers a place to help each other and offer support in an open forum. Everyone has the chance to speak and hear what's said!
- **Leadership** Our fearless team leader, Fr. Ernie Gauthier, will share updates on JCDC rules; clarify our mission, and everybody's part.
- **Learn** about our colleagues' motivations, hopes, troubles, etc. Much communication is conveyed through non-verbal means, and face-time is the only

humanitarian and resettlement efforts in Europe and the Middle East, the Church is actively involved in advocating on behalf of Syrian refugees here in the United States.

[Click here](#)

To learn what you can do



Missouri Catholic Conference

The Public Policy Advocacy Agency for the Catholic Church in Missouri

For more information, visit their [website](#)

mocatholic.org



Life & Justice Campaign

ENCOURAGE YOUR FAVORITE OUTREACH or PASTORAL MINISTRY to APPLY FOR a GRANT BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2016!

Potential Candidates:

- Protection for the unborn

way you can read it.

- **"Safe Environment"** Opportunity to share information we wouldn't be so comfortable sharing by email.
- **Bonding:** Share in a meal. Answer future volunteers' questions.
- **Feedback** Members can use this time to offer feedback to each other and what improvements our team can achieve together.

Volunteer in Prayer Ministry

People who volunteer in this ministry lift up prayers wherever they are.

James 5:16 says it best: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." That's why I'm asking you to consider becoming a prayer warrior for prisoners and their families.



Our VIP Program can do nothing outside of God's power. But when you lift the needs of lost and broken souls to our Father in heaven, miracles start to happen. Families are reconciled... communities begin to heal. And hardened prisoners become passionate Christ followers.

For more information: Contact VIP Coordinator,
Jeannine Arens ([kjadm@att.net](mailto:kjadjm@att.net))
Laurie Jo Holmes (holmes@diocesekcsj.org)
Human Rights Office (816) 714-2364

Pen Pal Ministry

This ministry is to provide encouragement and good-will towards those individuals in local correctional institutions by developing a friendly relationship through routine letter correspondence.



We currently have two prisoners looking for Catholic Pen Pals. Please consider signing up to be a prisoner pen pal. We also have an opening for a volunteer who would like to assist in processing Pen Pal letters.

For more information, contact the Human Rights Office
Laurie Jo Holmes (holmes@diocesekcsj.org)
Program Coordinator (816) 714-2364

- 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

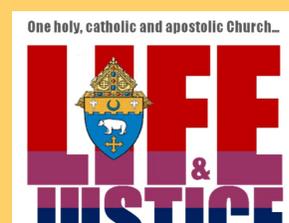
- Promotion of adult stem cell research or work to eliminate embryonic stem cell research

- Defense of conscience rights and religious liberty

- Promotion of real immigration reform

- Advancement of the dignity of meaningful work

Next Newsletter...



Look for the next issue of The Little Pencil newsletter in February. If you have questions, comments, or items to add, please [contact us](#).

THANK YOU for all you do
to uphold the dignity of each human life.

JUSTICE
Respect Life Office • Human Rights Office



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