



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. 16 Summer 2017

## Human Rights Office Newsletter

Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph



Welcome to the Summer 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. THANK YOU for all you do to uphold the dignity of each human life. Peace, Laurie Jo

Presenting...

Karen Nold



**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.**

Our featured volunteer, Karen Nold, is a parishioner at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Savannah MO. Karen was one of the first people introduced to me when I joined the Human Rights Office two years ago. She's been a wonderful role model in that she is a wonderfully calm, humble and positive person. Karen is happy with her achievements, but continues to strive to serve God even better. Karen does a lot of good. She consistently helps lead the women of the REC team at the women's prison in Chillicothe each month, volunteers at WRDCC, the men's prison in St. Joseph every Tuesday evening, and even fills in for Chaplain Sykes when he is on vacation. Karen also volunteers at her parish as Sacristan every Saturday evening and in her community helping at the Juda House & St. Joseph Haven bringing meals and visiting with the homeless during the summer.

Karen enjoys meeting new people and notices "the little things" they do to make the world a brighter place. As a member of the Dream Seekers Group in St. Joseph, she helps the poor make connections

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Thank you  
for your participation  
in the annual CRS  
Rice Bowl Campaign.  
Our diocese collected  
over \$10,000 this  
year!

and move forward on the path toward their dreams.

Way to go glorifying God through your actions as a way of life! Karen, you are a living example of Catholic Social Teaching in action for others to follow. Thank you!

## Immigration - Migration - Refugee Ministry

### New Program Coordinator for Immigration & Refugee Related Concerns

Please join me in welcoming **Trinidad Molina** to the Human Rights Office on August 3!

Earlier this year, his Excellency, The Most Reverend Bishop James V. Johnston established a diocesan task force on immigration and refugee-related concerns. Under the guidance of Bill Francis, Director of the Respect Life and Human Rights Offices, Trinidad will be working closely with the task force to address recent social and political developments in our nation, many of our parish faithful, families, friends and neighbors who are seeking guidance from the Church. This group is primarily responsible for providing consultation of timely and accurate information to our faithful and meet regularly to guide our diocese on this journey of solidarity. Please continue to include Trinidad and the Immigration Task Force in your prayers. We value your ideas and support in strengthening our diocesan role. Your genuineness and dedication to the faithful immigrant and refugee members of our parish communities is truly appreciated.



75% of your gift supports CRS' programs around the world. The remaining 25% of your donations go to hunger and poverty alleviation efforts here in our own community.

### Contact us

to find out how our diocese uses the 25%.

### Story Link

Story Link helps connect incarcerated parents with their children. Moms and Dads are privileged to send their child a message each month through the Story Link program. They select a child's book and record 5 minutes of reading from it on a CD, together with a hello and goodbye. Parents also write a note in the book and the items are then sent to the child. Volunteers run this program at 12 MO state prisons including the women's Chillicothe Correctional Center near KC where 35 Moms are recorded on the 2nd Saturday of each month.



## MAX Diocesan Prison & Jail Ministry



**Prison presents many challenges to us Catholic faithful, and you can help us with those challenges.**

How often have you supported your brothers and sisters who are incarcerated?

Each month we receive many requests from prisoners and prison chaplain seeking donations of bibles, catechisms, RCIA books and other items such as sewing and gardening tools for the Restorative Justice projects.. **Please prayerfully consider partnering with us in sending life-changing materials by making a financial contribution to the diocesan MAX Jail & Prison Ministry Fund for Prisoners.** Your generosity will offset the costs of inventory and shipping so that more prisoners will have access to faith-forming and life-skill materials.

St. Maximilian Kolbe  
Patron Saint of  
Prisoners

Feast Day: August  
14

While at Auschwitz, Fr. Kolbe volunteered to take

We also have opportunities for volunteering your time or sharing your unique gifts of talent, skill and knowledge. [Contact us](#) today!

### 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.



[Click here](#) to read a sample from this week's prayer requests.

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

### Prison Pen Pal Ministry

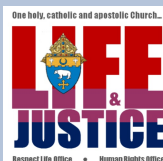
This ministry is to provide encouragement and good-will towards those individuals in local correctional institutions by developing a friendly relationship through routine letter correspondence.



Please consider signing up to be a prisoner pen pal.

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

## LIFE AND JUSTICE CAMPAIGN



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

### GRANT RECEPTION

This year's Life & Justice Campaign Grant Reception took place earlier this summer at The Catholic Center. Please join us in congratulating this year's recipients:

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 & friends of prisoners and drug addicts seek St. Maximilian's intercession on behalf of their loved ones.



[Click here](#) to read more.

### 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.



### Holy Rosary 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



**A Simple House, Amethyst Place, Community Services League, F.I.R.E., Jerusalem Farm, Mother's Refuge, NCMBF, One Heart-KC Project, & The Tamale Kitchen.**

Your donations in the 2nd Collection envelope every August make it possible for these worthy organizations to receive Life & Justice grants. Thank you!

### APPLY FOR A GRANT

Could your pro-life, pro-human dignity ministry benefit from a Life & Justice Campaign Grant? See if your group qualifies: visit [www.lifeandjusticekcsj.org](http://www.lifeandjusticekcsj.org).



## MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



celebrate 50 YEARS  
of the Missouri Catholic  
Conference

Mark your calendars for the  
Annual Assembly on Saturday,  
October 7, 2017.

Keynote Speaker: Papal Nuncio  
to the US, Archbishop Christophe Pierre

The event is FREE and includes a hot lunch;  
*however, donations will be accepted.*

You're encouraged to join us on the MCC bus pilgrimage from St. Charles Borromeo and St. Mark Parishes. The bus fee is \$10/person or \$20/family.

### Event Schedule

- 8:30 am - 9:30 am  
Registration (Cathedral of St. Joseph)
- 9:30 am - 10:15 am  
Opening Session (Cathedral of St. Joseph)
- 10:30 am - 11:30 am  
Workshops (held at Cathedral of St. Joseph Sanctuary,  
Catholic Diocesan Chancery, and St. Joseph School)

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.

Visit their [website](#) or contact Carole Wight, 816-221-2734 [cwight@holyroscarycu.org](mailto:cwight@holyroscarycu.org)



## Religious Freedom European Christian Refugee Crisis

In addition to its 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



## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

### 3 Key Principles

- Human Dignity
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity



11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Lunch (Cathedral of St. Joseph Undercroft)

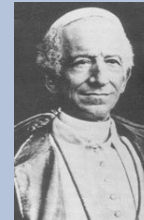
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Keynote address, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States

Archbishop Christophe Pierre (Cathedral of St. Joseph)

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Closing Mass (Cathedral of St. Joseph)



[Click here to register](#)



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