



Vision: The Social Ministry Committee encompasses social outreach (faithful action) with spirituality (through Catholic Social Teaching formation), to integrate an awareness of social justice and charity into all aspects of parish life.

SACRED HEART SOCIAL MINISTRY

ALL REPORTS IN ONE & ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM LOCAL PARTNERS

Tuesday, June 8th, 2021

The month of May was filled with outreach activities done by J&P ministries and by our outreach partners in the greater community. Also, Fr. Paul Muyimbwa came back safely from his annual visit to his family in Uganda. Fr. Ady Mytial was transferred to St. Yves Parish, in the Diocese of Hinche, Haiti and Fr. Fitho Jean was installed May 21st at our twin parish. Mike Stark presented Bread for the World Offering of Letters to the parish. The members of Care for Creation and volunteers cleaned Princess Anne Rd.

MINISTRY REPORTS

1. BREAD FOR THE WORLD—OFFERING OF LETTERS [Bread for the World](#)

Mike Starks presented Bread for the World after all Masses the weekend of May 22 and 23. He included bulletin notes encouraging parishioners to write letters to their Congressman/woman and/or Senators. This year's Offering of Letters builds on last year's work as Bread members continue to urge Congress to expand anti-hunger programs in response to the pandemic and increase funding for nutrition programs. The redesigned Offering of Letters website has flexible tools to help plan your letter writing event.

Sample letter-Hunger is reaching historic levels. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to devastate communities across the United States with a disproportionate impact on Black, Latino, and Native American families, and immigrants, and worsening the effects of hunger and poverty around the globe.

The pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in our safety net and food systems. And child hunger in both the U.S. and abroad has skyrocketed. Specifically, Congress should:

* Make the Child Tax Credit (CTC) in the American Rescue Plan permanent and available to all children regardless of immigration status. The CTC expansion would move millions of children out of poverty, as well as help reduce hunger and narrow the racial wealth gap exacerbated by unemployment as a result of COVID-19.

* As you determine funding priorities for the fiscal year 2022 Foreign Operations and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, I urge you to increase global nutrition funding to \$300 million.

Now more than ever, my faith calls me to stand alongside those in my community and around the world who have been impacted the most by the global pandemic. Let us work together to ensure U.S. policies help people move out of poverty and feed their families in the U.S. and around the world.

2. CARE FOR CREATION MINISTRY MINUTES—Frank Murphy

Vision Statement: Honor God the Creator by challenging one another to live partners with creation by being good stewards of the earth's resources **Mission Statement:** As a parish, we shall identify and implement programs that exercise environmental stewardship in a manner that respects and protects the integrity of God's Creation and provides for the Common Good.

May 17, 2021, 7:00 PM (via ZOOM)



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Members present: Frank Murphy (Chair), Patricia Britz, William Wallace, Jane Pellegrino, Annette Field

Opening prayer: Wisdom to care for the earth (Frank)

Keep Norfolk Beautiful commitment: Princess Anne Road cleaning for the second quarter occurred on May 1. Four people performed the task this time. There was a discussion on trying to encourage more participation. Frank will request the use of Constant Contact so that most parishioners will get an email reminder. **The next cleaning is planned for August 21**, with a rain date of September 18 (might change).

Reduction of waste for the parish has been subject to the parameters of the COVID-19 regulations and resulted in a decline in paper use by 25%.

Parish Council will be having a meeting to determine a plan to adapt to post-pandemic procedures, based on diocesan recommendations. Jane volunteered to represent the Care for Creation committee at this meeting and suggest more electronic use for weekly bulletins. We also to address the issue with the Liturgy Committee on the reduction of Liturgy sheets. It is hoped that we can continue using less paper on a weekly basis going forward and emphasize the QR codes for both. Patricia suggested that perhaps the youth/teen groups could be enlisted to help people with the use of the QR codes and their application for liturgy sheets and bulletins.

Jane continues to submit bulletin notes with the help of Ed Marroni. She has increased them to twice a month.

The youth programs for the year are finished and seemed to go well. It is hoped that we can bring the Elizabeth River Project back to the parish as the pandemic lessens with more “hands on” activities and events.

A discussion of the next year’s goals included the paper reduction effort and use of electronic delivery. It was suggested that we need to think about concentrating on one specific issue and trying to focus the parish on that. We could use the Season of Creation and Earth Day programs to emphasize whatever we decide the issue should be in addition to the bulletin memos.

The June bulletins will have an ERP update and seek to find parishioners who are currently involved in the River Star Homes program as well as people who are involved in raising oyster spats through the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The addition of those groups would aid in Sacred Heart moving forward with its membership in the River Star Business category. It could also serve to encourage more households to become members of those organizations and their respective efforts.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, in person in the Sacred Heart Commons at 7:00 PM.

Closing prayer “Teach our children...” by William.

3. **SOUP KITCHEN—Tom Horsh**

“Soup Kitchen occurs each Sunday, one of five individual Teams of volunteers prepare hot meals for guests that come to our church door for lunch. We serve 50-70 guests each week with wholesome, nutritious, hot meals. The meals are provided to the guests in take-away containers at the door. An individual volunteer’s effort involves helping one Team only on one Sunday a month to help prepare and package the meals. The cooking and preparation times are normally from 9:30 AM until 1:00 PM on a Sunday. COVID distancing and wearing of masks have been rescinded. We could use donations of pasta at this time. Please contact Tom Horsch (757) 623 2174



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4. CATHOLIC WORKER-Steve Baggarly & Kim Williams

We continue making sandwiches at Sacred Heart M, W, and F. We are seeing the shortest soupline in 30 years as the city is putting up so many people in hotels and is going to open a shelter in a few days. We have been serving the people camping behind Ghent Elementary as well. We make 80 bag lunches a week for the city in addition to over 100 for our line.

Our Black Lives Matter vigil continues at the corner of Hampton Blvd. and 27th St., on Thursdays, 4:15- 5:15 pm, and often on other good weather weekdays. Thank you, Steve williamsbaggarly@gmail.com

5. HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY—Patricia Britz



Vision Statement: *We, the parishioners of the Sacred Heart have been called to enter in a twinning relationship with our brothers and sisters at Saint Gabriel, Haiti. Together, we follow the principals of Catholic Social Teaching to foster faith-filled relationships, self-sustainability, and an end to dependency.* **Mission Statement:** *End Dependency while following the principals of Catholic Social Teaching.* 13th YEAR IN TWINNING!

<http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/>

**14th ANNIVERSARY OF TWINNING—A CELEBRATION
SACRED HEART PARISH AND SAINT GABRIEL PARISH**

Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 (6:30 pm – 7:30 pm via Zoom)

Members/Supportive Members & Guests Present: Brendan Pigott, Pat Walsh, Alison Boolba, Patricia Britz, Laura Harpring, Silver Ibenye, William Wallace, Frank Murphy, Fr. Kesner Joseph, Fr. Fitho Jean, Elisabeth Batue, Kathy Dowdy & Francesca Smith. Fr. Paul currently visiting family in Uganda.

As of tradition, the members hosted A Celebration of the 14th Anniversary of Twinning between Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Gabriel Parish in lieu of the May meeting, this year, via Zoom.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION: Brendan Pigott welcomed Pat, Fr. Kesner, Fr. Fitho, Outreach partners, members/supportive members, and guests. Fr. Kesner congratulated SH and SG on their 14th Anniversary of Twinning, thanked us for inviting him, and our warm reception. Fr. Fitho thanked the members for dedicating the month of May to getting to know each other and for the invitation to continue twinning. Fr. Fitho met Neil Walsh on various occasions in Haiti. He was glad to also meet Pat Walsh via Zoom.

OPENING PRAYER: William read “A Prayer For The People Of Haiti.”

ACTIVITIES:

- Silver Ibenye showed pictures from the start (school, clinic, latrines, cafeteria, auditorium/3 classrooms, furniture, school supply shop, water shop).
- Laura Harpring and Pat Walsh gave their personal testimonies.
- Francesca led the 14 Multi-Choice Questions for 14 years of Twinning. All participated.
- William Wallace, and Patricia* (Sustainability) gave their personal testimonies.
- Francesca led the 14 Quotes for 14 years of Twinning—answers provided by the attendees.



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CLOSING REMARKS & THANK YOU: Brendan thanked everyone for participating and announced that the celebration had concluded, and the room would be left open for attendees to converse.

CLOSING PRAYER: William read “Prayer For Our Twin Parish, Saint Gabriel.”

Patricia made this report on the theme: Investing in Projects that are Source of Income for SG

Phase 1- After 21 pilgrimages to SG, I find our family there to be caring, hospitable, family and community oriented, hardworking, and joyful. Our SG family accepts and respects the poor, loves the church, pilgrimages, and feast days. Our family loves to sing, dance, make music, and smile. When a visitor comes to their home, all members of the household meet the guests and show interest and respect. In 14 years, we know the names of many parishioners, and those of their families. We have seen babies born and children growing up. We have shared our daily lives both at home and at church though pen pal letters and visits.

Phase 2-Nurturing strong relationships was the base to what was to come, answering the need of SG to build a high school. The Haitian people did all the hard work while SH provided some of the funds. With the school, came a full campus with a clinic, cafeteria/kitchen, additional classrooms, and latrines. Fr. Ady often said that SG was the best school in Lascahobas. Making the school attractive to parents, will draw parents who want a good education for their children.

Phase 3-Once the school and the campus were finished/self-sustaining, we continued paying some of the OC of the school with Lunch, Teachers, Medical Assistance. Also 20 scholarships, an endowment that Neil Walsh and his aunt Mrs. LeMay funded. OC is ongoing and is part of the function of the school.

Phase 4-Twinning is based on strong faith-filled relationships and **mutual empowerment in leadership** in treating one another with Chirstian love and dignity. Neil often talked about the young boy he met in Hinche who told him: “Do not perpetuate a system of dependence for our people.” **We believe that income generation, not charity, is the solution to independence from donors.**

Phase 5-Three years ago, during a pilgrimage, we started a conversation with Fr. Ady about **investing in projects that would be a source of employment and revenue for the parish.** He embraced the opportunity. This led to the building of a water and fresh bread shop, a stationary shop, and a water system for the parish community building which can operate a conference hall, and 3 bedrooms. This revenue will replace some of the funding that SH send quarterly. As donations decreases, SG will be able to increase its independence from donation with those projects and continuing making SG the best school in Lascahobas. Parents will continue to enroll their children in that school and pay for a good education.

VISION: Is to continue investing in projects that will help SG to decrease its dependency while nurturing a strong mutual relationship.

Next Meetings: Tues. Jun 15-Commons, Tues. Jul 6-Commons, Prayers (William & Silver)—Meeting 6:30 -8:00 pm—Guests are welcome!

ANNUAL EASTERN VICARIATE HAITI GATHERING
Investing in Projects that are Source of Income for our Twin Parishes.
Saturday, May 22, 2021, Via Zoom 9:00 am – 12:00 pm



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Guest speaker was Fr. Kesner Joseph, 1st Haitian priest working at the Richmond Diocese, Michael the Archangel parish in Glen Allen. The event was attended by 44 participants from 14 different twin parishes.



PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Public right-of-way (the sidewalk), Park on Lake Edward Dr or the parking lot of the brick church behind 7-11--We are covering 7am - 7pm--Hope 4 life Mobile ultrasound truck will be out Tuesday - Thursday at least 9am- 2pm--Planned Parenthood, 515 Newtown Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Those who are called to stand witness on the site, send a powerful message to the community about the tragic reality of abortion. You might consider continuing to be 1 hour or 2 at the site as we continue the journey of life. A prayer partner and a ride can be arranged. **Vigil Location:** Planned Parenthood sidewalk, 515 Newtown Rd. Virginia Beach, VA. POC Patricia Britz patprovence1@yahoo.com and Frank Murphy wfmerm377@aol.com

Cheri Britt: Hope for Life Co-Director [Hope 4 Life Helping Moms and Families with Unplanned Pregnancies \(hope4lifeva.com\)](http://hope4lifeva.com)

USCCB SECRETARIAT OF PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES—SUPPORT THE HYDE AMENDMENT

WHAT: Congress is trying to force Americans to pay for abortion.

HOW: The Hyde Amendment and similar laws have protected taxpayers from funding elective abortion for 45 years. Now, powerful members of Congress want to take away these laws that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century.

WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT THESE PROTECTIONS? Billions of taxpayer dollars could be used to pay for abortion. **TAKE ACTION:** [Save Hyde | Virginia Catholic Conference \(vacatholic.org\)](http://SaveHyde.org)

LOCAL PARTNERS

THE CENTER: A TEMPORARY SHELTER At least 3 parishioners from Sacred Heart have volunteered at the new site. Will discuss the possibility of SH supporting the city with The Center.

...The new program, called *The Center: A Temporary Shelter*, is a program coordinated and run by the City of Norfolk. It began on May 1, 2021, when **NEST ended at First Presbyterian**. It will continue until October 1, at which point the City is planning to have a permanent location for year-round shelter and support services for people experiencing homelessness. **NEST as we have known it has ended**. This temporary program is providing shelter in tents for up to 80 people. The Center will be open 24/7 so there will not be congregating to get into the shelter in the evening, or a mass exit of folks in the morning. Meals will be provided (breakfast and dinner). Bathrooms and shower facilities will be available. Support services, staffed by employees of the Norfolk Community Services Board, will be available to the guests.

Volunteers will still be needed every day. Shifts will run from early morning to evening, with two daytime shifts available. Because this is a city-run program, all volunteers must be at least 18 years old, and pass a city sponsored background check. At some point there may be a need to provide meals but for now Mercy Chefs are doing that.



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This program is NOT a tent city, and I hope it doesn't get labeled as such. Tents are being used as shelter, but the connotation of "tent city" is negative and this project is definitely a positive thing. There is a group of individual tents on 19th street, but those tents are owned by the people who occupy them, and they are totally unregulated. The Center at the old Greyhound station has monitoring of the tents and their occupants, bathroom facilities available, and 24/7 supervision and services. There is a dedicated phone number for concerns of local citizens and businesses (757-708-4354).

If you think it would be helpful, I am happy to provide either a bulletin notice, or a Constant Contact update, to let the people of Sacred Heart know what is happening with this program. I assume that there will be a need in the future for churches to participate in the City program as it gets organized. Patricia Britz and Frank Murphy of the Justice and Peace committee are willing to have this program remain under their cognizance. For now, the City is relying on individuals who have been involved in the NEST program in the past to be volunteers. I have coordinated this program for Sacred Heart for years, and I am happy to continue to do so. At this point, I think the need is to get correct information out to people so that rumors don't start, and so that the program is called by its proper name: The Center: a temporary shelter. If it gets labeled as a tent city, with all the negativity that comes with it, it may be hard for some people to see all the positive aspects of the program. It has been a goal of many of the NEST board members to have the City take ownership of the issue of housing people who are on the street. It has been a concern for years having people outside in the summer heat. Both of those issues are now being addressed. Having people able to be housed in a safe location is a benefit to everyone. I am glad the City has finally been able to make this more permanent shelter program a reality.

Please let me know if you need more information, or if you need me to provide bulletin notices or other parish communication. Peace, Pat Walsh

If you would like to volunteer to work at the shelter you are welcome to contact Jordan Brown at 757-746-6522 or jordan@theurcnorfolk.com for the details.

Our friends at the Urban Renewal Center were featured on WAVY10!

<https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/norfolk/temporary-norfolk-homeless-shelter-in-need-of-donations-and-volunteers/?fbclid=IwAR0Gyo4GVeYMHQXLPY8ufhK7rYh9mHllHpVZePkjneUvPNi2XWjaTgmIk1w>

I encourage you to share this information with any other partners in the community. **If you are interested in volunteering or know someone who is, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0444aaa62ca7f58-nest> to find a date/time that works for you. Donations are always needed and appreciated.**

We could not be more grateful for the work the CSB and URC have done to create a safe space for our community.

VIRGINIA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (VSH)-Hampton Roads, Virginia Supportive Housing, 1333 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, VA *Making Homelessness History* www.virginiassupportivehousing.org

Though homelessness is complex, the solution is quite simple: House the homeless.

The tricky part, however, is helping formerly homeless individuals stay housed.

Enter Virginia Supportive Housing and our proven solution to homelessness. By combining affordable housing with personalized case management services, we help thousands of individuals reclaim their lives while saving communities millions of dollars each year.



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In addition to fostering long-term stability for our clients, we help communities save the expense of temporary shelters, feeding programs, emergency rooms and medical services, jails, and other public resources.

Each year, VSH serves more than 1,500 individuals, including 400 veterans. Thanks to our evidence-based approach, *more than 95 percent of those we serve with permanent supportive housing do not return to homelessness.*

The City is also working on a permanent shelter for opening in the fall. As this comes together, more information will be forwarded. I'm smiling as I write this to you. Anne

3. NORFOLK COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD—John Guglielmino

Mission Statement

To provide the citizens of Norfolk who experience behavioral health and developmental disabilities with quality services that instill hope and recovery.

Vision Statement

Every citizen of Norfolk, who experiences behavioral health and developmental disabilities, will realize hope and recovery.

SAFE HOTEL PROJECT

Everyone deserves a safe place, and we've been working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that those most in need receive just that.

Through the Safe Hotel Project, 193 members of Norfolk's homeless community have received food, shelter and medical care courtesy of Sentara Medical Group since March.

We're not currently accepting volunteers for this program, but there are still ways you can help! Please contact Meg Honan if you would like to make donations or provide food: meg.honan@norfolk.gov / (757)274-9377.

John Guglielmino, Program Administrator, Housing & Homeless Services, Norfolk Community Services Board 7447 Central Business Park Dr., Norfolk, VA 23513, 757-837-8566

1. NORFOLK COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD

From: Fuller, Sarah Sarah.Fuller@norfolk.gov **Subject:** Exciting News for Norfolk Work in Ending Homelessness

In a very rapid turn of events, the city has approved a location for an interim day services center and overnight shelter for adults living on the streets of Norfolk. This is an interim solution while we continue our search for a permanent location for an integrated space for day services and sheltering - that brings together access to meals, shelter, and services for the most vulnerable adults experiencing street homelessness. The goal is for this site to be open before the end of April to align with the closing of NEST - that has been extended through April (a huge thanks to First Pres for leaning in to extend another month!)



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This is an overwhelming but exciting opportunity in Norfolk, where adults living outside will have a place where they are welcome to stay out of the elements during the day and overnight in a low barrier environment with access to showers, restroom, and laundry while receiving services to assist them in stabilizing their lives. All of this is planned to be a COVID-Safe intervention.

Although the CSB through the Housing and Homeless Services Division has worked to keep this mission alive and moving forward, we won't be doing this alone. The city will be contracting with a community partner to run the 24/7 operations and provide the base staffing to keep the facility open, safe, and to engage other volunteer groups to help staff, generate donations, and recruit partners to provide food and meals. The vision is for this to be a broad community partnership that embraces participation and/or collaboration with Norfolk CoC, NEST, and other faith, community, and volunteer groups.

- The CSB will be identifying a lead coordinator for this project for the city and to take over working with the city to identify the permanent location and transitioning the services and operations to that site after this interim location.
- We will imbed CSB outreach services in this location and will be ensuring that there is at least case manager, employment specialist, and peer specialist at this site (new or existing).
- We welcome other homeless services partners.
- We are also engaging other city and community partners to determine if we can bring on medical, benefits, etc. to the location.

After a several month search for a permanent location, we were faced with needing an emergency interim space to prevent a gap between NEST closing and the new program being available. This site was identified last week, and General Services has heroically been in the building since last Tuesday to bring it back online. There is a lot to do to accomplish using this interim site - it hasn't been in service for about 3 years. We will spruce it up enough to be a safe and welcoming space to use until the fall of this year. The long-term plan for this location is housing development, so we assertively search for a permanent location for this program.

This does not replace or replicate the critical services that are provided by our homeless services partners! This project strives to fill that gap that has always existed, and a 24-7 Day Center was recommended in the original BluePrint to End Homelessness in Norfolk (2005)

- NEST has been advocating for a one-site solution for several years and the community that has supported NEST for decades will be able to be a part of this project by supporting the sheltering and meals component.
- Salvation Army will continue to provide their day and sheltering services.
- Union Mission has already started working with H&H to identify folks who can come to their program.
- Other homeless services providers and volunteer groups will be embraced to participate in the project and/or to collaborate for the benefit of their service populations.

This site is established to provide that safe landing for folks who aren't able to access other shelter, to assist them in accessing those more stable shelter placements, and/or to work on their needs and exits from homelessness.

Over the next two weeks, we would like to host a conversation with the CoC's Norfolk partners and impacted city departments on this project to ensure that those serving single adults in Norfolk are fully engaged and welcomed into the process and the programming. Sarah Paige Fuller, Executive Director Norfolk Community Services Board



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4. GHENT AREA MINISTRY (GAM)—Tim Giddens tim@gamnorfolk.org

THE MISSION: GHENT AREA MINISTRY continues to serve the community in volunteering with FREMASON BAPTIST CHURCH on Fridays for breakfast/showers and the Last Saturdays of the month, for community luncheon. Also, with NEW LIFE CHURCH on Tuesdays for lunch.

Sacred Heart and GAM continue their good relationship based on mutual support. Frank Murphy and Patricia Britz attend the GAM Board meetings. Most recently we have been collaborating on helping GAM to be environmentally friendly. Ghent Area Ministry serves by addressing the economic, social, and spiritual needs of the guests. Ghent Area Ministry hours have changed to 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday. If a client needs an appointment outside of these times, they are willing to work with them on an as needed basis. Come and visit our tomato and marigold garden.

5. FOOD BANK OF SOUTHEASTERN VA & THE EASTERN SHORE—Mallory Reckling, Community Engagement Coordinator [Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore - Leading the effort to eliminate hunger in our community. \(foodbankonline.org\)](https://www.foodbankonline.org)

Our second public report, "[Ending Hunger Today, Nourishing Hope for Tomorrow](#)," is now available on our website. I think you will find it incredibly thought-provoking and inspiring. You are welcome to share information from this report with the group.

...Although it is critical that we put a targeted focus on feeding, we also consider the direction we must take to not only feed someone for the day or week but empower them to reach economic self-sufficiency, thereby eradicating food insecurity for a lifetime. Our initiatives change the experience of food assistance by eliminating the stigma and instead offering empowerment.

We hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Foodbank's Western Tidewater Branch and Community Produce Hub, which will be located at 618 South Street, Franklin. Once renovations are complete, this location will feature a Marketplace, Cafe and Commercial Kitchen, as well as classes and workshops to provide resources for addressing root causes of food insecurity.

6. VIRGINIA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE VOTER VOICE POST—Jeff Caruso, office@vacatholic.org

Pandemic-altered 2021 General Assembly session focused on fewer bills, still yielded far-reaching outcomes.

This General Assembly session (Jan. 13 – March 1) was unique, with strict bill filing caps and virtual-only public comment at committee hearings. Although committees addressed fewer bills than in prior years, this year's results were still undeniably far-reaching.

Our newly available [vote report](#) shows key outcomes and the votes that decided them. Take a look to see how your state senator and delegate voted. Not sure who your state legislators are? Use the Find Your Legislator feature [here](#).

After the charts of Senate and House votes, the report also displays a Future Threats section showing critical ongoing concerns.



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Please share our [vote report](#) with family members, friends, fellow parishioners and anyone else who would be interested in learning what legislation passed and failed, how their legislators voted and what to be on the lookout for in 2022 and beyond!

In prayer and in public, your voices are urgently needed to bring Gospel values to bear on vital decisions being made by those who represent you. [The Virginia Catholic Conference](#) is the public policy agency representing Virginia's Catholic bishops and their two dioceses. [Please click here to view this on the web.](#) [\(vacatholic.org\)](#)

7. THE SOWERS OF JUSTICE--Do you carry deep concern for people impacted by racism, lack of affordable housing and healthcare, immigration laws, high rates of incarceration, climate, and many other injustices? You are not alone! The Tidewater Sowers of Justice is a faith-based group that addresses social justice causes of our world.

We invite you to come journey with us. We meet on the Second Friday of each month via ZOOM to learn about, accept and respond to the challenges of the Gospel.

For more information, please contact Helen White at 757-270-8074 or email dolfingal8@gmail.com.

8. OSM CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

Catholic Relief Services Chapter Initiative in the Richmond Diocese continues. Virginia now has a Chapter which will meet monthly with Chapter nationally followed by a state meeting. The Members will not only be instrumental in advancing CRS's mission to help those most in need around the world but will also have exclusive opportunities to learn more about CRS's work and hone their leadership skills through webinars, presentations from guest speakers and trainings.

Also, the calendar focuses are **June:** Refugee Awareness Month, and Solidarity; **July:** Justice Through Advocacy, call to Family, Community, and Participation; **August:** Global Solidarity & Haiti Awareness, Solidarity **Rachael Lastrup,** Director Office of Social Ministries & Respect Life | Catholic Diocese of Richmond [\(richmonddiocese.org\)](#)

9. COMMONWEALTH CATHOLIC CHARITY-[Foster Care for Immigrant Youth](#)

Our Vision: We see those who are often unseen: the struggling parents, lonely adults, scared children, the homeless, the sick, and the vulnerable. We are committed to improving their quality of life.

At Commonwealth Catholic Charities our mission is to provide quality, compassionate human services to all people, especially the most vulnerable, regardless of faith.

Commonwealth Catholic Charities is in desperate need of foster parents to provide loving homes for the immigrant children currently crossing the border in large numbers. They are also in need of volunteers, especially those who speak Spanish, to provide tutoring, mentoring, and transportation assistance to these children. Please consider opening your hearts and homes to help a child in need. You may contact John Elwell directly if you are interested or would like further information: John.Elwell@cccova.org

10. The Norfolk Street Choir Project-www.thenorfolkstreetchoir.org

Engaging the community to encourage and support our neighbors in need.



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Introducing Stephanie: [Staff — The Norfolk Street Choir Project](#)

Stephanie Van Leeuwen
Executive Director
The Norfolk Street Choir Project

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

J&P Resources:

May 2021 Bishop Shelton Fabre on the Death of George Floyd <https://www.usccb.org/committees/ad-hoc-committee-against-racism>