Dear Friend,

February is a unique month. It is shorter than all the other months and once every four years it rebels and adds a day to its uniqueness. Some call February the month of “love” with Valentine’s Day falling in the middle of it. But there is another day in February that I would like to call special attention to and that is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

I admit that I sometimes struggle with Lent. It can be difficult to be reminded of our death, our need for repentance and conversion, and secretly, I am not so good at fasting. Lent is also about a radical love so powerful that it can humble us to our knees. A love that Christ wants to freely give us; but the catch is we need to be willing to accept it.

In thinking about this radical love, I call to mind a personal story that Fr. Bob Robeson shared during one of his homilies.

The story goes something like this…

During Fr. Bob’s days at Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary, the seminarians would often do service projects in the community. One such place was the Cathedral Soup Kitchen where hot meals and bags of food were offered to the homeless in the area. It was during a day of service that Fr. Bob found himself handing out groceries to those in need when a visibly angry man came up and demanded that he be given more cereal boxes than what was allotted to each person. Fr. Bob explained that everyone was only allowed so many cereal boxes or they wouldn’t have enough to give to everyone who stood in line. The man became belligerent and loud, demanding that he be given more cereal boxes. Fr. Bob shares that it was at this point that he felt his temper begin to rise. He admitted that he was just about to let his anger take over when Lucia, a petit older woman who ran the soup kitchen, walked up, gently placed her hand on this man’s hand, and while looking him in the eyes said,

“Someday you will recognize all that we do for you, and you will be grateful, because you will recognize we do this because we love you.”

Fr. Bob shared that in that moment it felt like everything stood still. As everyone around them stopped to watch what this man would do, he just looked at Lucia…and began to cry. Through his tears he shared his story of abandonment, loss and a series of bad choices that left him feeling hopeless. He told how his wife had left him, and his children wouldn’t speak to him. He was homeless and he just lived to get to the next day. Through his tears this man shared his pain, as Lucia gently held his hand.

As I reflect on all that I am going “to do” this Lent—prayer, fasting and almsgiving—I cannot help recalling Lucia’s words and realize that these words were meant for me too. This man’s story is a little bit of my own story—a story of stubbornness, ungratefulness, anger or unkindness that I have been guilty of showing during my lifetime.

Lucia’s words could easily also be God’s words to each of us:

“Someday you will recognize all that I do for you, and you will be grateful, because you will recognize I do this because I love you.”
And as I contemplate these words, I realize Lent is our love story. It is the story of God's love that He continues to shower upon us, even when it can be hard for us to receive that love or to show that love to others.

My prayer for each of us this Lent is that we experience, and accept, the radical Love of God in all that we do; and that we are inspired in our relationships with our families, our parishes, our schools, and our communities to love others as God first loved us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Theresa Chamblee
Catholic Charities - Director of Social Concerns

PS: Make sure you scroll down to learn more about our new Archindy Anti-Trafficking Ministry and our expanded CARE Ministry. You have the power to change lives!!

Visit our Website - Catholic Charities - Social Concerns

Roundtable on Unaccompanied Children

Each year, thousands of children from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador make the dangerous journey to cross the border into the United States.

But why would they do that?!

And what happens to them when they get to the U.S.?

Please join Catholic Charities, as part of our CARE Ministry, in partnership with Bethany Christian Services, to learn more about unaccompanied children who cross our southern border and how you can make a difference in the lives of these children.
Please join us at the...

**Roundtable on Unaccompanied Children**

**Thursday, March 12, 2020**
**9-11:30 AM**
**1400 N. Meridian Street**
**Indianapolis, IN 46202**

The event is FREE, if possible please RSVP to Theresa Chamblee at [Tchamblee@archindy.org](mailto:Tchamblee@archindy.org) or 317-236-0414

Download the flier [HERE](#)

---

**NEW Archindy Anti-Trafficking Ministry**

The International Labour Office estimates that there are approximately 25 million men, women, and children subjected to labor or sex trafficking worldwide. It is important to understand how to prevent and recognize incidents of human trafficking within our own communities.
To learn more on how you and your parish can make a difference in preventing and combating human trafficking, please attend one of our two Archindy Catholic Charities Anti-Trafficking Ministry Information Events.

**North Diocesan Event**
May 9, 2020  
9am - 12pm  
Our Lady of the Greenwood  
Madonna Hall  
345 S. Meridian Street  
Greenwood, IN 46143

**South Diocesan Event**
May 16, 2020  
9am - 12pm  
St. Augustine  
Parish Hall  
315 E. Chestnut St.  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

For More Information - Click [HERE](#)

Space is limited, so please RSVP to Theresa Chamblee at tchamblee@archindy.org or 317-236-1404

St. Josephine Bakhita  
Patron Saint of Trafficked Persons
Stations of the Cross

Walking the Stations of the Cross with St. Josephine Bakhita

April 3rd
6pm
Nativity Catholic Church
7225 Southeastern Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46239

Additional Stations of the Cross

Walking the Stations of the Cross with St. Josephine Bakhita

Praying the Stations of the Cross for Victims of Human Trafficking
En Espanol

Catholic Relief Services
Global Emergency Update

Catholic Relief Services is pleased to share the following end-of-year highlights of our major emergency response and recovery activities that took place in 2019, as well as a forecast of the most urgent humanitarian needs - and opportunities for global impact - in 2020.

To find out how YOUR GENEROSITY and PRAYERS have aided our brothers and sisters around the world, please click on our GLOBAL EMERGENCY UPDATE. En Espanol.

This work is possible thanks to the generous support of private and public donors, the dedication of our local partners, and the unwavering presence of Caritas (Catholic Charities) and the Catholic Church.

A Refresher on Catholic Relief Services?
Founded in the aftermath of World War II by the U.S. bishops, Catholic Relief Services is an international humanitarian organization that seeks to end poverty, hunger and disease. We are now one the most trusted international relief and development agencies in the world. We work in 100 countries and reach more than 136 million people each year.

And as the official overseas development agency of the Catholic community in the United States, we help Catholics in parishes, diocese and schools live their faith by participating in programs that work to end poverty and injustice.

Focusing on innovative programs in agriculture, health and emergency response, our partnerships with communities and Church institutions overseas continue to grow. Our 77 years of experience have enabled us to address urgent needs and develop sustainable solutions that help end poverty now - and for future generations.
Through CRS Rice Bowl, we journey with members of our human family around the world, and commit our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving to deepening our faith and serving those in need.

**Theme:** Rice Bowl will use the scripture story of the miracle of feeding 5,000 from the Gospel of Mark. We are called to feed the hungry and CRS Rice Bowl invites us to reflect on the challenge of global hunger—and how proper nutrition gives young people the opportunity to dream.

**Countries:** This year, rather than focusing on one country each week, three stories of three girls from three countries (Honduras, Vietnam and Kenya) are woven throughout each week of Lent. Each week we’ll learn something new about the girls and their lives.

**Me llamo Maria Ana.**

My name is Maria Ana.

Maria Ana is 16 years old. Serious and kind, she lives with her parents, four brothers and one sister in Honduras, a country in Central America. Her village, El Pinal, is surrounded by hills. Maria Ana speaks Spanish.

**Tên tôi là Nguyen Thi Trinh.**

My name is Trinh.

Trinh is a hard-working, energetic 12-year-old. She lives in the farming community of Binh Dao, located outside of the city of Hoi An, Vietnam with her parents, two older brothers and younger sister. Her country is in Southeast Asia and is surrounded on three sides by water. Trinh speaks Vietnamese.

**Jina langu ni Yvone.**

My name is Yvone.

Ambitious and intelligent, Yvone is 11 years old. She lives with her grandparents, her aunt, three siblings and three cousins in Konjiko, a village in Kenya. Her community is located near Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa. The village is also close to the Equator, so it is very hot there. Yvone and her family speak Kiswahili and English.

**Recipes:** There will be three meatless meal recipes, one from each country. Archived recipes are available on the Rice Bowl website.

**Website:** The [Rice Bowl website](https://www.ricebowl.org) has a new look this year as well, but all the same great resources are available.
Videos: Check out the CRS Rice Bowl - Stories of Hope videos. Also, there are many Rice Bowl videos available online (in English and Spanish), including a Holy Week video and “how to” videos like How to Talk to your Pastor, How to Kick Off Rice Bowl and a video about the 25% that stays in the diocese.

Social Media: CRS Rice Bowl Facebook Group contains the most content on the main English and Spanish channels. Twitter is no longer active.

To Learn More - Visit CRSRiceBowl.org

Catholic Social Teaching
Sacraments and Social Mission

In Deus Caritas Est (God is Love), Pope Benedict XVI writes that "love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is an essential to [the Church] as the ministry of the sacraments and the preaching of the Gospel" (no.22). Proclaiming the Word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity, he says are "inseparable" (no.25). In other words, there is an essential connection between our faith and the way we put love into action in the world.

This guide is for priests and lay ministers, teachers and students, adults and young people, and those who are preparing for the sacraments. It is a for all Catholics who seek to better understand the connections between the celebration of the sacraments and our social mission as followers of Jesus and the members of the Body of Christ.

Each of the Seven Sacraments is laid out in an easy to read, two page format with reflection questions for each sacrament.

Download the entire USCCB Document HERE.
Call For Volunteers

Transportation and Light Meals Needed

Catholic Charities Refugee & Immigrant Services help resettle our brother and sister refugees to the Indianapolis area. Soon after arrival, adult clients begin taking classes to help them on their path to self-sufficiency. We need volunteers to help with transportation in the mornings and/or afternoons. We also need help providing a light lunch two days a week. Prayerfully consider this wonderful experience!

Please contact Beth Carney at ecarney@archindy.org or (317)236-1592 for more information. (A recent copy of your Safe & Sacred will need to be provided)

Catholic Charities News

Terr Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank Celebrates 40 Years!! '
To learn how you can be a part of the celebration - Visit HERE
St. Andrew Catholic Church is looking for homes for School Desks, Bleachers, and possibly some long folding tables. If you are interested in learning more about these items.
Please contact Theresa Chamblee at Tchamblee@archindy.org.
Please put in the Subject Line of email: St. Andrew Desks

A Little
Ash Wednesday
Humor

A Catholic Guide to Ashes, Extended Edition

First in Line
The Blob
The Hasty
Rorschach
OCD
Father’s Revenge
The Hipster
The Dripster
Load Toner
The Franciscan
Harry Potter
iPriest
The Mini
Pirate’s Booty
The One Stroke
The Hitchcock
Reflection for February

USCCB - Communities of Salt and Light (1994)

“The most important setting for the Church’s social teaching is not in a food pantry or in a legislative committee room, but in prayer and worship, especially gathered around the altar for the Eucharist. It is in the liturgy that we find the fundamental direction, motivation, and strength for social ministry. Social ministry not genuinely rooted in prayer can easily burn itself out. On the other hand, worship that does not reflect the Lord’s call to conversion, service, and justice can become pious ritual and empty of the gospel.”

Prayer of the Month

Life and Dignity of the Human Person Prayer

God of all life,
Help us to appreciate the great gift that is human life formed in your image, a reflection of your holiness.
Help us to recognize you in all whom you have created:
children not yet born,
families affected by poverty and war,
people of different abilities,
people from other lands, and
all who are victims of hatred and racism.
Help us to bear witness to the dignity of all whom you have created, regardless of stage of life,
or wealth,
or ability,
or color, or creed,
for every person is fully equal in your loving eyes.
Share with us your holy knowledge that we are all your children, each bestowed with inherent dignity.
May your justice reign forever!
Amen.

(From USCCB)
What is Social Concerns?

Social Concerns encourages the Community to grow in a deeper understanding of Catholic Social Teaching by providing resources and strategies for effective action in parishes, schools and surrounding communities. Most importantly, it calls us to a deeper understanding in living out the Two Greatest Commandments, which is to Love God and to Love our Neighbors, both locally and globally."

Below are the Ministries that fall under Catholic Charities - Social Concerns.

CARE
Catholic Accompaniment and Reflective Experience

Archdiocesan - Catholic Charities Anti Trafficking Ministry