

Springing Into Action

Just as Easter follows Good Friday, spring will return -one of these days- after this long upstate winter. Read on for opportunities to put your faith into action during this season of hope and new life by learning how to better serve our parishes and people who are hurt and struggling in our communities.

2014 Social Ministry Conference:

Weaving Social Ministry Into Parish Life

Saturday May 10, 2014

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Lunch included

**Our Lady of Peace Parish Center
Geneva NY**



"Effective social ministry helps the parish not only do more, but be more of a reflection of the gospel, more of a worshiping and evangelizing people, more of a faithful community. It is an essential part of parish life."

"For too many parishioners, our social teaching is an unknown tradition. In too many parishes, social ministry is a task for a few, not a challenge for the entire parish community. We believe we are just beginning to realize our potential as a community of faith committed to serve those in need and to work for greater justice."

Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish

~ U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Parishioners involved in social ministry often ask, "How can we bring more people into this work?" At this annual conference, we're going to turn that question inside out and ask, "How can we bring this work to more people?" In other words, how can we weave social ministry into every aspect of parish life? For example, how could our youth group and our RCIA catechumens get engaged in social justice work? How could our Sunday liturgy inspire greater understanding of and solidarity with the poor and marginalized? How could we make the way we're managing our church buildings and investing our parish finances less harmful to God's Creation?

We'll use a method called Open Space, in which people have the opportunity to propose the topics on this theme that most interest them, and then reflect with others who are passionate about those same topics. Conference participants will be able to share their questions, ideas, and experiences in small group discussions. It's a fun and fruitful way of utilizing the collective wisdom of those gathered together.

Fr. Jim Hewes, long-time supporter of social ministry in rural, urban and suburban settings, will be our keynote speaker. Fr. Jim developed one of the first social ministry training programs in our diocese. He has served as Director of Project Rachel for the past 18 years, helped found Catholic Charities of Wayne County and Catholic Charities of Livingston County, and chaired the Diocesan Human Life Commission for seven years. Fr. Jim has truly been a champion of the Consistent Ethic of Life and will inspire us!

The conference is free but we ask that you **RSVP by May 5** with the Justice & Peace staff person for your county. See reverse side for their names and contact information. We hope to see you there!

PROJECT RACHEL TRAINING –The Healing Journey

Tuesday May 20
9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Our Lady of Peace Parish Center
Geneva NY

Project Rachel is a Catholic outreach of healing and reconciliation to women and men of all faiths who are experiencing emotional and spiritual pain after an abortion. Parish staff, mental health professionals, social workers and other compassionate people are invited to attend this training on May 20 in Geneva.

The diocesan Project Rachel director, Fr. Jim Hewes (our social ministry conference keynote speaker) writes of this opportunity, *“I know that you have many demands on your time, but this training will be a tremendous asset in your care for people that come to you. In my 18 years of directing Project Rachel, it remains one of the most transforming processes of God’s grace that I have ever witnessed.”*

Please register by May 16th by contacting Fr. Jim at fhewes@dor.org or 585-247-4322 ext. 10.

Learn more about Project Rachel here: <http://www.projectrachelrochesterny.org/home.html>



Faith Communities
Mental Health Conference
Education and Tools for Church Leaders
Agape Counseling

Faith Communities Mental Health Conference

Friday, April 25, 2014

8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

All Nations Church, Pinnacle Rd, Henrietta NY

We have no better example of how to respond to those with mental illness than that of Jesus Christ. ... we must reject the twin temptations of stereotype and fear, which can cause us to see mentally ill people as something other than children of God, made in His image and likeness, deserving of our love and respect.

“For I Am Lonely and Afflicted”: Toward a just response to the needs of mentally ill persons

~Statement of the Catholic Bishops of New York State

Studies show that those dealing with mental health concerns are **40% more likely** to consult their church leader over a mental health professional or even the family physician. However, church leaders are among the most ill-equipped to respond to these needs. This conference brings focus to the intersection between mental health and the unique and important role of the church, and is designed specifically for pastoral and lay church leaders. If you encounter people with mental illness in your outreach or ministry, consider attending. Call 585-385-6030 for more information. You can register at www.agaperoc.org/2014FaithCommunitiesMentalHealthConference.en.html

Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities

Monroe 585-546-7220 Marvin Mich ext. 7021; MMich@cferochester.org / Ruth Marchetti ext 7099; RMarchetti@cferochester.org
Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784; KDubel@dor.org
Cayuga/Ontario/ Seneca/Tompkins/Yates Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; LKonwinski@dor.org
Livingston Tabitha Brewster 585-658-4466 ext. 13; TBrewster@dor.org
Steuben Lynda Lowin 607-776-8085 ext. 217; LLowin@dor.org
Wayne Peter Dohr 315-331-4867; PDohr@dor.org