

Acting for Justice

For the computer comfortable and who have an e-mail address:

If you are a citizen of New York State, go to the website of the New York State Catholic Conference (www.nyscatholic.org) and sign up for their legislative action alerts. Just click on the tab, "Join the Network." New Jersey also has its own conference website with advocacy opportunities as well, www.njcathconf.com
The site for Connecticut is: www.ctcatholic.org

The United States Catholic Bishops have launched a major initiative in support of comprehensive immigration reform. This initiative has its own website (www.justiceforimmigrants.org) where you can learn more about this issue and join their advocacy network.

A second source of good advocacy opportunities on international issues is Catholic Relief Services. They also have an advocacy network that sends out periodic news briefs on issues as well as advocacy opportunities. You can sign up on their website at: www.crs.org. Click on "Get Involved" and you will see opportunities for you at home. Clicking on "At home" will bring you to a number of options for how you can become involved in the work of CRS. Note that CRS also has opportunities for parishes, high schools, and universities to become involved.

CRS and the Catholic Bishops of the United States have joined together in a Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty. Go to: www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/

A great site for education and action on social justice is offered by the Clarentians: <http://salt.claretianpubs.org>

A Christian organization with a long and distinguished history of advocating for hungry persons here in the United States and overseas is Bread for the World. Each year, they have what they call an "Offering of Letters Campaign." It is a specific issue that they are targeting in the United States Congress to assist hungry persons either here in the United States, or in other countries. They always are advocating for initiatives that have bi-partisan support. This year they are focusing on the renewal of the Farm Bill that has important provisions for domestic hunger programs, support for American farmers, and programs for international agricultural assistance. It

would be good to participate as an individual in this year's Offering of Letters Campaign and even better to organize your parish, or a CLC group!, to participate in the campaign. Their website is: www.bread.org. The regional representative in New York is Derrick Boykin – 1-212-870-2329, dboykin@bread.org. Bread also has a number of other advocacy opportunities throughout the year so it is well worth joining their organization.

For those without computer access:

You can certainly join Bread for the World. They send out a monthly newsletter on their work that highlights advocacy opportunities. Participation in their Offering of Letters Campaign does not require computer access. They provide a kit that you can use to participate.

The New York State Catholic Conference also has a monthly newsletter that highlights the advocacy opportunities they are pursuing. They can be contacted at:

New York State Catholic Conference

465 State Street
Albany, NY 12203-1004
Phone: (518) 434-6195
Fax: (518) 434-9796

I presume that New Jersey and Connecticut have something similar, but I can't guarantee it.

Subscribe to America Magazine, Commonweal, or U.S. Catholic to keep yourself informed on issues and to learn more about your Catholic faith. America is published by the Jesuits of the United States in New York, Commonweal is an independent Catholic publication also published in New York City, and U.S. Catholic is published by the Claretians.

Rev. Mark Hallinan, S.J.