

OLQP MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church is dedicated to witnessing the teachings of Jesus Christ, especially the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapter 25:31-46. Our mission is to nurture the spirit and to encourage the potential of those we serve through liturgical celebration, educational endeavors and social ministries. The parish will continue to identify with its origin as a Black parish. As a multi-ethnic congregation we will seek to promote racial harmony and social justice. While our primary focus is within the immediate community, we will also work to provide for the well-being of the downtrodden everywhere. In this we strive for our parish community to be a caring, sharing, and loving family.

Welcome to OLQP Catholic Church!
¡Bienvenidos a OLQP Iglesia Católica!

Contact / Contacto:

2700 19th St S, Arlington VA 22204
703-979-5580, office@olqpva.org

Office Hours (mask required)

Horas de oficina (se requiere el uso de mascarillas)

Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm
Lunes a viernes – 8:30am a 4:30pm

Website / sitioweb: olqpva.org

Live Stream Mass Schedule:

Horario de Misas de transmisión en directo:

September 5– 11:15am & 1pm
September 12– 6pm & 1pm

5 de septiembre – 11:15am y 1pm

12 de septiembre – 6pm y 1pm

Masses / Misas:

Weekdays / Días laborables:

Mon-Fri, 12pm / lunes a viernes 12pm

Weekend Mass Schedule /

Horario de misas de fin de semana:

Saturday Vigil — 5:30pm

Misa de vigilia sábados - 5:30 pm

Sundays — 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am,

1:00pm (Spanish) & 6:00pm (Young Adult)

Domingos — 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am,

1:00 pm (español), y 6:00 pm (Misa de jóvenes adultos)

DECLARACIÓN DE MISIÓN DE OLQP

La parroquia de la iglesia católica Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz se dedica a dar testimonio de las enseñanzas de Jesucristo, especialmente el Evangelio de San Mateo, Capítulo 25:21-46. Nuestra misión es nutrir el espíritu y alentar el potencial de aquellos a quienes servimos a través de la celebración litúrgica, labores educativas y ministerios sociales. La parroquia continuará identificándose con su origen como una comunidad afro-americana, pero reflejando una congregación multi-étnica y continuará promoviendo la armonía racial y la justicia social. Si bien es cierto que nuestro enfoque principal es la vecindad comunitaria, continuaremos trabajando para proveer por el bienestar de los más necesitados en general. Es así como nos esforzamos para hacer de nuestra comunidad parroquial una familia que comparte y se preocupa por sus miembros.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

September 5, 2021

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

“Be opened”

Mark 7:34



“¡Abrete!”

Marcus 7,34

**THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION:
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
SEGUNDA COLECTA DE ESTE FIN DE SEMANA:
UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE AMÉRICA**

**NEXT WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION:
OLQP FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM
COLECTA DEL FIN DE SEMANA PRÓXIMO:
OLQP FORMACIÓN DE FE PARA NIÑOS Y ADULTOS**



NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ
5 de septiembre 2021
VIGESIMOTERCER DOMINGO EN EL
TIEMPO ORDINARIO

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION /
PREPARACIÓN SACRAMENTAL**

Baptism / Bautizo:

Please email Baptism Coordinator Sandra Rivera,
srivera@olqpva.org.

Por favor mande un correo electrónico a la coordinadora de los
bautizos, Sandra Rivera, srivera@olqpva.org.

Marriage Preparation / Preparación para el matrimonio:

Please contact the parish office at least six months before wedding
date to complete requirements.

Por favor llame a la oficina de la parroquia seis meses antes
de su matrimonio para completar todos los requisitos.

Reconciliation / Reconciliación—Confesión:

Fr. Ray Hall Library

Biblioteca Fr. Ray Hall

Saturdays 4:45-5:15pm & by appointment

Los sábados: 4:45-5:15pm y por cita previa.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS / COLECTAS DEL DOMINGO

Sunday Collection / Colecta del pasado domingo: \$6,140
USCCB Emergency Disaster Fund— Earthquake relief for Haiti /
Fondode emergencia de la USCCB para desastres—
asistencia para el terremoto de Haiti: \$4,174
Faith Direct (August Average /
promedio del mes de agosto): \$12,901

WORD & EUCHARIST MISSALETTE/

MISAL PALABRA Y EUCARISTÍA

Today's readings can be found on page 650.

Las lecturas de hoy se encuentran en la página 651.

BULLETIN DEADLINE / PLAZO PARA EL BOLETÍN

Wednesday / miércoles —9 AM — office@olqpva.org

OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND STRENGTHEN US /

NUESTROS ENFERMOS Y CONFINADOS NOS FORTALECEN

PLEASE PRAY FOR / POR FAVOR OREMOS POR:

Catherine Algeri, Suri Barahona, Gene Bétit, Grace Bialecki, Cindy Biana, Francis Bilgera, Joseph Leopold Bissonnette, Precious Bowens, April Brassard, Dave Brassard, Evie Brown, Lynne Burgh, Marty Butner Covington, Brody Carroll, Reggie Carter, Louise Chambers, Carmen Rosa Claire, Jeff Cory, Mary DaLuca, Cheryl Darby, Jim Davis, Adrienne DiC-erbo, Ernest Donatto, Patricia "Pat" Dowd, Irene Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth (Bunny) Foster, Yvette Francois, Anne Fullerton, Iva Futrell, Karen Gam-mache, Trishann Ganley, Francine Gemmill, Fred Gladbach, Yolanda Gregorio, Harris Family, Sally Harrs, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Margaret Hodges, Margaret Howe, Patrick Hynes, Beatriz Uribe Jaramillo, Lillian Jay, Pat Johnson, Sharon Jourdan, Cindy Kernick, Sally Krahn, Carmen Andrea Lara, Patrick Lawrey, Bertie Leahy, Lidia Montero Lopez, Olga MacKenzie, Wil McBride, Stefan McGuigan, Martha Gladys Medina, Maria Magdalena Medrano de Ventura, Eileen Melia, Frances Mierzwa, Arthur Miller, Mary Miller, Yvonne Mockler, Carmen Montijo, Dorothy Moran, Rosemary Morrisey, Bob Morsches, Chelsea Murray, Dorothy Myrtle, Mario Amel Najarro, Bruyce Niligis, Julie O'Brien, Peggy O'Brien, Patrick Ogden, Janet O'Neil, Delfima Pacheco-Choque, Roy Pa-co, Catherine Parr, Mary Pasquarella, Mark Pazich, Minnie Pazich, Paul Ramirez, Maddie Respicio-Cabatic, Wally Reyes, Michael Rodgers, Mari-tza Roldan, Marco Cristiaan Rufolo-Roger, Josefina Salgado, Carolyn Santos, Susan Savage, Jane Shepard, Janet Shirvanian, Mary Shookhoff, Jeffrey Smith, Mary E. Smith, Eva Souza, Nina Stewart, Michael Arthur Sweat, Nancy Urquizo, Stephen Utley, Robin Vogel, Kate Witkowski, Midge Wholey, Mary Woods, Claudia Zapata, Kate Zopp.

2/12

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
VIGESIMOTERCER DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

Isaiah 35:4-7a (128B); James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

Isaías 35,4-7a (128B); Santiago 2,1-5; Marcos 7,31-37

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

VIGESIMOCUARTO DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Isaiah 50:5-9a (131B); James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

Isaías 50,5-9a (131B); Santiago 2,14-18; Marcos 8,27-35

MASS INTENTIONS, SEPTEMBER 4-10

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

INTENCIONES DE LAS MISAS, 4-10 SEPTIEMBRE

VIGESIMOTERCER DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Saturday September 4th

5:30 pm Ginja Bethal (D) by Mary-Parker Lamm

Sunday September 5th

8:00 am Michelle Klopner (L) by Jacqueline Klopner
9:30 am the Parish

11:15 am Annie John (D) by Judy and Wally Reyes

1:00 pm María Linares (D) by Ysabel Milagros Lovo

6:00 pm Barbara Hipkins (D) by Kathy Kostka

Monday September 6th

12:00 pm Wedding Anniversary- María Teresa Laguna & Carlos Mendez
by the family

Tuesday September 7th

12:00 pm Sonia Dias D'souza (D) by Jude Dias

Wednesday September 8th

12:00 pm the Parish

Thursday September 9th

12:00 pm the Parish

Friday September 10th

12:00 pm Thanksgiving Favors Obtained by Sperling/Cherestal Families

OLQP PARISH STAFF / PERSONAL DE LA PARROQUIA

Pastor / Párroco: **Fr. Tim Hickey, CSSp**, thickey@olqpva.org

Parochial Vicar / Párroco Asociado: **Fr. Martin Vu, CSSp**,
mvu@olqpva.org

Ministerio Latino: **Fr. Joseph Nangle, OFM**,
j.nangleofm@yahoo.com

Deacon / Diácono: **Dcn. Tony Remedios**, tremedios@olqpva.org
(@ajremedios) on Twitter

Parish Office / Oficina parroquia/

Business Manager / Gerente de Negocios: **Christina Kozyn**,
ckozyn@olqpva.org

*Social Justice & Outreach Minister / Ministro de Justicia Social y
Acercamiento (bilingüe):* **Sally Díaz-Wells**, sdiazwells@olqpva.org

Youth & Young Adult Minister / Ministro de Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos:

Rebecca Grant Jenkins, rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org

Faith Formation Director / Director de Formación de Fe (bilingüe):

Cecilia López Oetgen, clopez@olqpva.org

Faith Formation Assistant Director (bilingüe):

Sandra Rivera, srivera@olqpva.org

Receptionist (bilingüe): **Thelma Molina**, tmolina@olqpva.org

Administrative Support:

Jeannette Gantz Daly, jgantzdaly@olqpva.org

Monica McCormick, mmccormick@olqpva.org

Maintenance Department Support (bilingüe):

Mel Cabrera, mcabrera@olqpva.org

Michael Hill, mgdvet53155@yahoo.com

Zulema Ramallo

A Consistent Ethic of Life Catholic Community

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION For 2021-2022 NOW OPEN

The registration form is on the parish website (olqpva.org >> our faith >> registration) or you can call the Faith Formation office to receive a copy by mail. We are registering for all 2021-2022 programs including first year sacramental programs (First Communion and Confirmation are 2-year programs). There is a family book fee for Foundations of \$20; one fee per family. Program/book fees are also in place for the sacramental programs. Fees can be paid on-line through Faith Direct (Faithdirect.net, parish code VA271, note "foundations") or families can mail in a check with "foundations" on the memo line. Details on all the programs being offered for 2021-2022 school year are available on the parish website under "our faith" tab. Please contact our new Director of Faith Formation, Cecilia (clopez@olqpva.org), with any questions or call 703-979-5580 to leave a message for a return call.

NEWS FROM MEDOR:

Timote Georges, Director of Medor's agro-forestry program, sent an assessment of the damage caused by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tropical storm on the 74 square mile area of St. Joseph parish. Some farms were destroyed, 3 of the 10 tree nurseries were severely damaged, 106 homes are now uninhabitable, and 20 animals (goats, pigs, cows) have gone missing. While this level of destruction is mild in comparison to that sustained by communities closer to the quake's epicenter, it still significantly increases food insecurity in our sister parish. Timote would like to address the situation by a) increasing seeds in the community seed banks, thereby empowering farmers to replace lost crops; b) increasing the community animal sharing programs to help replace lost livestock; and c) repairing and rehabilitating the damaged tree nurseries. He will let us know more details of the Medor Earthquake Relief Proposal in the coming week.

CARPENTER'S SHELTER DINNER -- Thursday, September 16

This month's meal is black eyed peas with ham or your favorite bean dish, collard greens, cornbread, green salad, and of course, brownies. Contributions can be brought to Fr. Ray Hall kitchen on the day of dinner 12:00-5:00PM and placed in the fridge, freezer or on the counter as required. If you have a hardship delivering, please let us know and we'll find a way. Use labels on the counter to indicate what item is and the date of dinner. You may bring food to the Shelter on the day of dinner, clearly labeled the same. See Carpenter's website for current delivery protocol. Previous donors will receive the usual email containing the signup form. Others, please contact Mary at mary.resnick@gmail.com, or call 703-462-4841 to add your contribution. Thank you to all!

YOUTH MINISTRY: There will be a Youth Ministry Program Year registration and kick-off, for parents and students, grades 7-12, on Thursday, September 9, at 7:00pm. Volunteers are needed to accompany our youth throughout the program year, including teen nights, clubs, outings and work camp 2022. Join us!

LA MATRÍCULA PARA LA FORMACIÓN DE FE PARA EL 2021-2022 ESTÁ ABIERTA AHORA

El formulario de inscripción está en el sitio web de la parroquia (olqpva.org >> our faith >> registration) o puede llamar a la oficina de Formación de fe para recibir una copia por correo. Estamos matriculando para todos los programas del 2021-2022 incluyendo los sacramentales del primer año (Primera comunión y Confirmación ahora son programas de 2 años). Algo nuevo para el año escolar del 2021-2022 es una cuota por familia de libros de \$20. Hay también cuotas adicionales para programas/libros para los programas de los sacramentos. Las cuotas se pueden pagar en línea por Faith Direct (Faithdirect.net, código de la parroquia VA271, "foundations") o las familias pueden enviar un cheque por correo con "foundations" en la línea del asunto. Detalles acerca de todos los programas que se ofrecen para el año escolar del 2021-2022 están disponibles bajo la pestaña (tab) "our faith" del sitio web de la parroquia. Por favor contacte a nuestra nueva directora de la Formación de fe, Cecilia (clopez@olqpva.org), si tiene alguna pregunta o llame al 703-979-5580 para dejar un mensaje para que le llamen.

NOTICIAS DE MEDOR:

Timote Georges, Director del programa agroforestal de Medor, mandó una evaluación de los daños que el terremoto de magnitud 7.2 y la tormenta tropical que le siguió causaron en el área de 74 millas cuadradas de la parroquia de St. Joseph. Algunas fincas fueron destruidas, 3 de los 10 viveros de arboles sufrieron grandes daños, 106 hogares ya no son habitables y se han perdido 20 animales (chivos, cerdos, vacas). Aunque este nivel de destrucción es leve comparado con el sufrido por las comunidades más cercanas al epicentro del terremoto, aumenta considerablemente la inseguridad alimentaria en nuestra parroquia hermana. A Timote le gustaría hacerle frente a la situación a) al aumentar el número de semillas en los bancos comunitarios de semillas, así capacitando a los agricultores a reemplazar las cosechas perdidas; b) al aumentar los programas de intercambio de animales para reponer los animales perdidos y c) al reparar y rehabilitar los viveros de árboles dañados. Durante las próximas semanas él nos va a comunicar más detalles de la Propuesta de ayuda a Medor por el terremoto.

LA CENA REFUGIO DEL CARPINTERO – el jueves, 16 de septiembre

Nuestra cena este mes va a ser black eyed peas (frijoles de carete) con jamón o su plato de frijoles favorito, collard greens (berza), pan de maíz, ensalada verde y por supuesto, brownies. Puede traer las contribuciones a la cocina de Fr. Ray Hall el día de la comida entre las 12:00 y 5:00PM y ponerlas en el refrigerador, congelador o el mostrador. Si se le dificulta traer la contribución, por favor déjenos saber y le ayudaremos. Por favor use las etiquetas del mostrador para indicar lo que contribuye y la fecha de la comida. También puede traer la comida directamente al Refugio e identificarla de la misma manera. Vaya al sitio web del Carpenter Shelter para ver el protocolo de entrega sin contacto. Las personas que han donado antes van a recibir un correo electrónico de Mary que tendrá la hoja para apuntarse. Si alguien más quiere donar, por favor contacte a Mary: mary.resnick@gmail.com, o llame al 703-462-4841. ¡Gracias

MINISTERIO DE ADOLESCENTES: Vamos a tener la matrícula y el comienzo para padres y estudiantes de los grados 7-12 el jueves, 9 de septiembre a las 7:00pm. Se necesitan personas que se ofrezcan de voluntarias para acompañar a nuestros jóvenes durante el año del programa. Se incluyen las noches para adolescentes, los clubes, las excursiones y el campamento de trabajo 2022. ¡Únete a nosotros!

**A HUGE THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE
ANNUAL BACKPACK AND
SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE!**

Thank you for sending 650 children back to school in style this week and last!! You helped neighborhood, foster and refugee children and neighborhood schools. Many thanks to a few dedicated volunteers and our confirmandi for tirelessly packing the backpacks.

Special thanks to Julene Jarnot for arranging for R.E.A.D. to allow each child to choose a new, free book when picking out their backpack. Hopefully, we helped get these families off to a great start for the new school year. Thank you for your extremely generous donations, volunteer hours, smiling faces and dedication to our parish community. As Father Tim would say "discipleship in action!"

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

How can I develop a deeper relationship with God through prayer? How can I integrate faith and work responsibilities? If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and practices, the RCIA is for you!

- **Inquirers:** The process is open to all those interested in learning about the Catholic tradition and considering joining the church, and those who are seeking to be confirmed. A new group is now forming, and our journey begins with a "no-strings" inquiry session on Thursday, September 30 at 7 p.m., either in person or virtually (as circumstances dictate).
- **Sponsors and Companions on the Journey:** We are seeking members of our community who are willing to support our candidates during the RCIA journey. This can take several forms: journeying with a specific individual during the coming year as a sponsor or supporting one of our candidates through prayer and periodic messages of support. Companions are not required to attend our weekly RCIA sessions.

For additional information about becoming an inquirer and/or to volunteer to serve as a sponsor or companion, please contact Alice or Kevin Curtin at 703-461-3082 or acurtin947@aol.com.

WEEKLY OLQP MOMENT

Join the parish community on Tuesday at 7:37pm to reflect on the topic of **Alleviation**. There is no time requirement for your reflection and no virtual meeting to join. Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, please pause for your reflection knowing you are with others from the OLQP community. Anyone wishing to add the OLQP moment to their calendar can email "OLQP Moment" to Patrick Julius at patjulius@verizon.net to receive the information in a calendar request. Please specify if you want the reminder in Spanish.

**OLQP ANNUAL PICNIC SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26, 1-5PM:**

Celebrating "75+1" Years as a Parish!

All are welcome to join us at Barcroft Park for a day of food, fellowship, and family fun. Hotdogs, hamburgers, sides, chips, and water will be provided and individually portioned. Safe activities for both children and adults are in the works! We are excited to see you to celebrate our beloved parish, now in its 76th year. We are still looking for help with set-up, clean-up, children's activities, cooking, or to share any other talents to make this day a success! Please contact Leah Tanyag, lenrique33@gmail.com to volunteer.

**¡UN MILLÓN DE GRACIAS POR SU APOYO A
LA CAMPAÑA ANUAL PARA RECOGER MOCHILAS Y
MATERIALES ESCOLARES!**

¡Gracias por mandar a 650 niñas y niños al colegio "de moda" esta semana y la pasada! Usted ayudó a niñas y niños del vecindario, de cuidado tutelar y refugiados y escuelas del barrio. Muchas gracias a unas cuantas personas voluntarias dedicadas y a nuestros confirmados por empacar incansablemente las mochilas.

Un agradecimiento especial a Julene Jarnot por coordinar con R.E.A.D. para que cada niña/o escogiera un libro nuevo gratis para poner en su mochila. Esperemos que hayamos ayudado a estas familias a tener un gran comienzo del nuevo año escolar. Gracias por sus generosas donaciones, horas ofreciéndose de voluntarias/os, sonrisas y dedicación a nuestra comunidad parroquial. Como diría el Padre Tim, "el discipulado en acción".

RITO DE INICIACIÓN CRISTIANA PARA ADULTOS (RICA)

¿Cómo puedo desarrollar una relación más profunda con Dios por medio de la oración? ¿Cómo puedo integrar la fe y las responsabilidades del trabajo? Si está interesada/o en aprender más acerca de la fe y las prácticas católicas, ¡el RICA es para usted!

- **Indagadores:** el proceso es para todas las personas interesadas en aprender acerca de la tradición católica, personas que están pensando ser parte de la Iglesia y las que buscan ser confirmadas. Se está formando un grupo nuevo y nuestra jornada comienza con una sesión de indagación "sin compromiso" el lunes, 20 de septiembre a las 6:30pm, en el 2^{do} piso del Ministry Center.
- **Padrinos/madrinas y compañeros en la jornada:** Buscamos a miembros de nuestra comunidad que están dispuestos a apoyar a nuestros candidatos durante la jornada del RICA. Esto se puede lograr de varias maneras: apoyando a una persona específica durante el próximo año como padrino o madrina o como acompañante de una persona por medio de la oración y de mensajes de apoyo. Los acompañantes no tienen que asistir a las sesiones semanales del RICA.

Para obtener más información de cómo ser indagadores y/o para ofrecerse de voluntaria/o para ser madrina, padrino, compañera o compañero, contacte a Cecilia López – clopez@olqpv.org o llame al 703-979-5580.

MOMENTO SEMANAL DE OLQP

Únase a la comunidad parroquial el martes a las 7:37pm para reflexionar sobre el tema del Alivio. No se requiere que se reflexione por un tiempo específico y no hay que asistir a una reunión virtual. Dondequiera que esté, sin importar lo que está haciendo, por favor pare para reflexionar sabiendo que está unida/o a otras personas de la comunidad de OLQP. Cualquier persona que desea añadir el momento a su calendario puede mandarle un correo electrónico "Momento de OLQP" a Patrick Julius – patjulius@verizon.net para recibir la información en una solicitud para el calendario. Por favor especifique si quiere el recordatorio en español.

**PICNIC ANUAL DE OLQP EL DOMINGO,
26 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1-5PM:**

¡Celebrando "75+1" años como parroquia!

Todos son bienvenidos a unirse a nosotros en Barcroft Park para compartir un día de comida, compañerismo y diversión familiar. Ofreceremos perros calientes, hamburguesas, platos adicionales, papitas y agua en porciones individuales. ¡Se están planeando actividades adecuadas para niñas/os y adultos! Estamos muy emocionados por verlos para celebrar a nuestra querida parroquia, ahora al cumplir sus 76 años. ¡Todavía estamos buscando ayuda para organizar, limpiar, las actividades para los niños, cocinar o para compartir cualquier otros talentos para que el día sea un éxito! Por favor contacte a Leah Tanyag, lenrique33@gmail.com para ofrecerse de voluntaria/o.

*Programs that are open to the entire community, but offered in English only.
Programas que le dan la bienvenida a toda la comunidad, pero que solo se ofrecen en inglés.*

INVITATION TO JOIN: Fires, flooding, hurricanes and extreme weather are increasing. Earth is changing. Our parish has an active Integrity of Creation ministry which seeks to raise awareness of God's gift of creation and how our faith calls us to take action to protect and enhance it. To learn more, contact Bill Larme (blarme@msn.com).

**OLQP "SHARE THE WORD" BIBLE STUDY
2nd and 4th Saturday Mornings**

Sept - May, 9:30 - 11:00 via ZOOM, Begin 9/11

Would you like to explore the meaning that the Bible holds for you today? If you are interested OLQP offers a study twice a month. We use Little Rock Scripture Study as our guide. The program does require some reading but nothing very time consuming. There are no prerequisites. The heart of the program is in the shared discussions that allow us to bring our own experiences to bear on the scripture. Each session consists of a short reading review and video lecture followed by group discussion. The cost of The Gospel According to Matthew by Barbara E Reid can be purchased from Little Rock Scripture Study for \$16.95 plus shipping. Ebay also has a selection of new and used books at lower prices.

**JustFAITH -- Choose how you
want to make a difference**

JustFaith is a small group program of JustFaith Ministries that invites participants into a process of learning and discovering how to live more simply and compassionately. Interested/questions contact Sally Diaz-Wells at sdiazwells@olqpva.org.

COMING THIS FALL! -- Be encouraged in your efforts to live as a disciple of Jesus! Gain confidence in your identity as a child of God - hear the Lord's word for yourself and others -learn to evangelize with joy. **Encounter School of Ministry** draws from the richness of our Catholic heritage as we seek to teach, equip, and activate disciples to demonstrate the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. This one year program with Encounter DC begins Sept. 21 and meets weekly on Tuesday nights in Gaithersburg with worship, teaching, and time for ministry activation. Join the hundreds who have found new grace and power to live out their calling. Check out encounterschool.org/dc for more information and to register.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: ED TALKS ARE COMING

This year's *Ed Talk* theme is Spirituality. On Thursday, September 23, at 7 p.m. Father Tuck Grinnell will speak about the roll and benefits of spiritual direction in our life with Christ. In October, parish member Dolores Leckey will speak about the spirituality of the laity. Finally, we close the program with another great parish member, Michele Chang, who will speak in November about Spirituality as the well-spring for racial justice.

"HOLD ON". All are invited to Minkisi's Scripture Prayer and Reflection, at 6:45-9:00 pm, September 13 in Zoom. Gail Meighan will lead the meditation on Psalm 50:12. For program questions, contact facilitator Cecilia Braveboy, jisaac3@verizon.net or for registration assistance, Melody Atkinson, melatkinson72@gmail.com. Further details and registration: <https://bit.ly/MinkisiSeptember>.

JUST A THOUGHT...OR TWO...

In the second reading St. James speaks to us about the importance of showing the same impartiality to others that God shows to us. If God doesn't make distinctions between rich and poor, then who are we to do so?

In fact, if there is to be any partiality to be shown, it should be shown to the poor whom God chooses to be the people through whom the kingdom of God is passed on to the rest of humanity. Today we call this "a preferential option for the poor", a corner stone of Catholic Social Teaching.

Throughout the Gospels we see Jesus doing the same. Jesus not only attracted but invited and reached out to the poor, the sick, the sinner and the social outcast. His message of God's deep and profound love for all of us was most strikingly demonstrated in his care and concern for those who were marginalized by his society. He continually reached out to and raised up the "the least ones" of his society.

Often enough they were people who others found a bit uncomfortable to be around...they were not the ones given seats of honor at banquets or at synagogues, they were the ones that most people would cross to the other side of the street in order to avoid contact with them.

In the ancient world very often sickness was tethered to sin; it was thought to be a punishment from God. Remember when Jesus and a group of followers encountered the man born blind and they asked Jesus: who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, "Neither, this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him." (John 9: 1-3).

So, the man we encounter in today's Gospel was most likely thought to be a sinner by some and yet Jesus immediately responds to the request to heal him -- no questions about who he is or what his background was. Jesus responds with compassion and heals him and thus restores him to bodily wholeness and restores him to his community, for no one could any longer claim his illness as a sign of his sinfulness.

It's completely understandable that we all want our lives to be prosperous and neat and tidy and full of agreeable people, but what do we do when "other things happen" and "other folks" show up—the same kinds of marginal situations and people Jesus himself loved and welcomed? In the midst of so much division, hurt and anger in our world, our country and in our church, how is the Holy Spirit calling me to respond to "the other"?

I think these readings today beg the question: how do I show my preferential option for the poor? Who do I seat at the head of my table?

We need to ask ourselves: on what realities or qualities do I judge the value of other people...by their clothes, their occupation, by where they live, their politics, by who they love, how attractive they are, by their physical abilities, their gender, or where they were born, by the color of their skin, by their immigration status...?

Or, filled with the Holy Spirit are we able to see them as they truly are, based on the reality of their identity as children of God, our sisters, our brothers, the beloved of God?

Blessings,
Fr Tim

SEASON OF CREATION: NURTURING OUR LOVE FOR THE EARTH September 1-October 4, 2021

Week 2, Sept. 5, 2021

Whether you were born in 1925 and are approaching your hundredth birthday, or you were born in 2015 and just learned to read, you have heard about human-caused climate change. But did you know that human activity (primarily the burning of fossil fuels) has increased the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere (45% since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in 1850) and is the major cause of global warming?

CO₂ is one of several greenhouse gases that change the balance between the amount of heat from sunlight that stays in the atmosphere and the amount of heat that gets reflected out to space. Anyone who ever got in a car with the windows closed on a sunny day—knows what the greenhouse effect is—just as that car warms, so too our earth is warming and that warming is causing significant changes to our earth.

Pope Francis wrote about our responsibility to care for creation in *Laudato Si* in 2015 (more on this next week), based on the science available at the time. Scientists continue to collect and assess the data to give us more precise information about the effects of greenhouse gases. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the physical science section of the sixth assessment report <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/> on August 9, 2021 to reflect current evidence on climate change.

Findings in the IPCC Report:

The increase of greenhouse gases since about 1850 is unequivocally caused by human activity and has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land causing widespread and rapid changes.

- In 2019, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations were higher than at any time in **2 million years**, and glaciers were melting at

the fastest rate in 2000 years contributing to rapid sea level rise.

- As a result, we are already experiencing frightening increases in extreme heat, drought, fires, hurricanes, storm and flood damage. Unless we make rapid and drastic changes, the world will face dire consequences from water and food shortages, hunger, and massive population displacement which will disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable.

Some Catholic Responses to the Report:

“It’s bad news,” says Sister Teresa Kotturam, *UN Representative for the Sisters of Charity Federation*. “It’s bad because you need political will and economic capacity to implement change. The steps we need to reduce greenhouse emissions are costly.”

Dan Misleh, Executive Director of the Catholic Covenant: “We must urgently cut fossil fuel production to protect God’s gift of creation and for the future of our children and grandchildren. As the IPCC report notes, we have a small window to minimize the worst effects of global warming. That window is NOW.”

“Climate outlook is grim but not hopeless, if immediate, systematic and sustainable action is taken.” Various religious leaders.

Pope Francis: On Oct.4, Pope Francis will host leaders of world religions and scientists at the Vatican to draft a statement to government leaders calling for greater global commitment to climate action at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, Nov. 1-12, 2021.

*Contributed by Eileen Janas,
Member of the Integrity of Creation Team*

Actions We can take to Nurture our Love for the Earth

Learn about and participate in groups working for climate change and climate justice. Pray that individuals and governments around the world will take bold and comprehensive actions to fight climate change.

- Compute your carbon footprint and start conservation measures in your household.
- Request and sign the Catholic Climate Petition to send to President Biden.



Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) / Catholic Charities solicits support for newly arriving Afghan refugees

New, household items/furnishings to outfit apartments for the new arrivals are badly needed. The intersection of COVID19, coupled with the State Department requirements for outfitting refugee housing translates into delivering as many new items to the families as possible.

1. MRS's **AMAZON Wish List** link to the list of household furnishings needs is below:

<https://a.co/3CwylQ9>

Using this list allows you to have the gifts sent immediately to Catholic Charities. Feel free to use this list as a guide at other stores such as at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Burlington, Kohl's, or Big Lots – they have many similar/equivalent items. (Please send items to: **MRS/Catholic Charities, 80 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203 | tel: 703.520.4011.**)

2. **(Very) Gently Used Furniture** (Pictures are very helpful to determine if donations can be accepted!) – Currently, the following can ONLY ACCEPT:

Dining Room Tables & Chairs

Medium to small sofas, couches

MRS/CC will arrange with you to pick-up and drop-off, preferably directly to the new apartments found for arrivals. Please be patient – as you can imagine their staff & warehouse space are stretched to the limit.

Contact: Belayneh Loppisso |
Belayneh.Loppisso@ccda.net | 571.292.2259

3. **GIFT CARDS** - Gift cards for **Target** or **Walmart** are most welcome! MRS/CC distribute these cards to families so that they can purchase personal items, household needs, and groceries. Denominations of \$25 or \$50 are best.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington

office: 703.520.4011 | website: www.ccda.net

<https://www.ccda.net/give-help/donate-goods-and-transportation/help-immigrants-and-refugees/>

SERVICIOS DE MIGRACIÓN Y REFUGIADOS (MRS POR SUS SIGLAS EN INGLÉS) / CARIDADES CATÓLICAS SOLICITAN APOYO PARA REFUGIADOS AFGANOS RECIÉN LLEGADOS

Se necesitan con urgencia artículos nuevos para la casa/muebles para equipar apartamentos para los recién llegados. La realidad del COVID19, junto con los requisitos del Departamento de estado para habilitar las casas de los refugiados significa donar tantos artículos nuevos como sea posible a los refugiados.

1. El enlace para la lista de deseos de MRS de **AMAZON** a la lista de los artículos que se necesitan:

<https://a.co/3CwylQ9>

El usar esta lista permite que las donaciones se envíen inmediatamente a Caridades católicas. Siéntase libre de usar esta lista como guía en otras tiendas como Bed, Bath & Beyond, Burlington, Kohl's o Big Lots porque tienen muchos artículos similares o equivalentes. (Por favor mande los artículos a: MRS/Catholic Charities, 80 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203 | teléfono: 703.520.4011.)

2. **Muebles muy poco usados** (¡las fotos ayudan mucho para determinar si la donación se puede aceptar!) Actualmente, solo PODEMOS ACEPTAR:

Mesas de comedor y sillas

Sofás medianos o pequeños

MRS/CC se encargará de coordinar con usted para recoger la donación y llevarla, preferiblemente directamente al nuevo apartamento para los recién llegados. Por favor sea paciente porque como se puede imaginar, su personal y el espacio en el almacén casi no dan abasto. Contacte a: Belayneh Loppisso |
Belayneh.Loppisso@ccda.net | teléfono: 571.292.2259

3. **TARJETAS DE REGALO** – ¡Tarjetas de regalo para Target o Walmart se aprecian muchísimo! MRS/CC distribuye estas tarjetas a familias para que puedan comprar artículos personales, cosas para la casa y alimentos. Las mejores son de \$25 o \$50.

<https://www.ccda.net/give-help/donate-goods-and-transportation/help-immigrants-and-refugees/>

Labor Day Statement 2021

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City
Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
September 6, 2021

A Dream for a Better Economy

Brothers and sisters, a year and a half after the country started shutting down due to COVID-19, we see signs of both encouraging recovery as well as ongoing trials. There are still many uncertainties around this pandemic; however, we do know that our society and our world will never be the same. In this time, Pope Francis has given us much to reflect on in relation to Labor Day, including his latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, and the initiative with young economists and entrepreneurs known as the *Economy of Francesco*. As Pope Francis has said, “We never emerge from a crisis unaffected: either we end up better or worse.”¹ What do the signs of the times tell us, and how can we apply what the Holy Father is offering to inspire us towards a better economy?

Recovery for Some; For Others, Difficulties Persist

On this Labor Day, I express my gratitude to the many workers who have kept our country functioning during these trying times and worked under difficult and often underappreciated conditions. We also pray for those who lost or continue to lack resources or income, as research indicates that 47% of adults experienced employment income loss between March 2020 and February 2021. Recent reports of increases in personal income and spending give us hope that the economy is recovering in meaningful ways. Compared to March of last year, when the unemployment rate had increased by the largest over-the-month increase since 1975, the unemployment rate today is considerably lower. However, it remains higher than it was prior to COVID; even before the pandemic, nearly 40% of Americans struggled to cover an unexpected \$400 expense.

As is, sadly, common with economic crises, COVID increased people’s vulnerability to exploitation. The national human trafficking hotline handled a 40% increase in emergency trafficking cases in the month after shelter-in-place orders. Communities of color have been particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and have been disparately impacted by income loss and job loss. Adults in lower-income households were more likely to experience employment income loss than those from higher income households. And women accounted for more than half of the job losses during the first seven months of recession, even though they make up less than half of the workforce.

Of course, this is all in the context of grieving for the more than 600,000 people who have died due to COVID in the U.S.



alone. It is especially heartbreaking that up to 43,000 minor children in the U.S. have lost a parent as a result of the pandemic. The families who lost a breadwinner are now more financially vulnerable, with a projected 42 million people in the United States experiencing food insecurity this year, including 13 million children.

Imagining A Better Economy and a More Fraternal World

In *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis shares a vision for a post-COVID world that aspires to a global fraternity which leaves no one at the margins of society. He decries the reality that women are not yet recognized as having the same dignity as men, that racism shamefully continues, and that those who are poor, disabled, unborn, or elderly are often considered dispensable.² In response to this throwaway culture, the Holy Father invites us all to, "...dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home..."³

Pope Francis reflected that such a universal fraternity can only be accomplished when our social and economic systems stop producing victims.⁴ Rejecting a neoliberal vision, Francis writes that markets cannot solve societal problems on their own; therefore, proactive policies centered on the common good must be created.⁵ In an effort to "'re-animate' the economy" with a new economic model based on fraternity and equality, last year Pope Francis launched the Economy of Francesco event, rooted in Saint Francis of Assisi's example of embracing the poor and an integral ecology.⁶ In his video message to participants, the Holy Father shared with participants, "Once the present health crisis has passed, the worst reaction would be to fall even more deeply into feverish consumerism and forms of selfish self-protection..."⁷

Instead, Pope Francis promotes a new *ethos* around economic thinking, as he writes of the thinking of economists Mariana Mazzucato and Kate Raworth:

"I see ideas formed from their experience in the periphery, reflecting a concern about the grotesque inequality of billions facing extreme poverty while the richest one percent own half of the world's financial wealth. . . . I see thinking that is not ideological, which moves beyond the polarization of free market capitalism and state socialism, and which has at its heart a concern that all of humanity have access to land, lodging, and labor. All of these speak to priorities of the Gospel and the principles of the Church's social doctrine."⁸

It is our task not only to reflect on the present ills of our economy, but also to build consensus around human dignity and the common good, the bedrocks of Catholic social teaching, and to answer the Pope's call to propose new and creative economic responses to human need, both locally and globally.

The Church's Ministries Respond

From theory to practice, Catholic parishes and ministries have been working during this crisis to fulfill Pope Francis' vision that, "all those places where the Church is present, especially our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!"⁹ In the first six months of the pandemic, Catholic Charities agencies distributed nearly \$400 million in emergency assistance including food, personal protective equipment, baby supplies and quarantine housing for the homeless. Additionally, the work of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has been more vital than ever during the pandemic. For example, the Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center hosted Covid-19 Safety Awareness Worker & Community Training in order to keep essential workers safe. The Chicago Workers' Collaborative protected workers by monitoring and reporting safety violations by factories and warehouses, and worked to increase essential workers' access to vaccines.

Throughout the pandemic, the bishops have advocated in favor of nutrition programs, an eviction moratorium, income and employment support, safety measures for those who are incarcerated, and access to health care.¹⁰ During consideration of legislative proposals on infrastructure, the bishops shared with members of the U.S. Congress that Pope Francis considers employment to be the "biggest issue" in politics as it relates to reducing economic inequality. We emphasized the importance of creating jobs for those who are poor and marginalized, prioritizing organized labor and continued protection of workers' rights. We also called for the legislation to support working families and address the ecological crisis that impacts all workers.¹¹

Going Forward

This Sunday's second reading instructs us to show no partiality as we adhere to the faith. St. James tells us that we become judges with evil designs when we remain distant from the poor (James 2: 1-5). Pope Francis has made a similar point as he observes that we sometimes justify our indifference for the poor by looking the other way and living our lives as if they simply do not exist.¹² Not only are our actions insufficient, but our sight as well, when we ignore the poor and do not allow their pleas to touch our hearts. Let us accept together the challenge of reemerging from this crisis with an economy that works for all of God's children. Let us first pray for those who have died, their loved ones, those who are ill, those who have lost their jobs, and for an end to this crisis. Let us do what we can to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities from rising infections. We also invite all who are able to volunteer and donate at your local parish, Catholic Charities site, or CCHD-supported organization in rebuilding our communities. Finally, let us engage in building "a better kind of politics" by entering into dialogue with elected officials, calling them to an authentic politics that is rooted in the dignity of the human person and promotes the common good.¹³

The pandemic has universally presented us with many shared experiences. May we build on this moment with a global fraternity that transcends partisanship and eradicates injustices in all its forms.

¹ Pope Francis, Video Message of His Holiness Pope Francis to Participants in the Meeting (Nov. 21, 2020). https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20201121_videomessaggioeconomy-of-francesco.html (hereinafter Economy of Francesco Video Message).

² Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, nos. 23, 20, 18. https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html#_ftnref104 (hereinafter *Fratelli Tutti*)

³ *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 8.

⁴ Pope Francis, Letter Sent by the Holy Father for the Event "Economy of Francesco" (Mar. 26-28, 2020). https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2019/documents/papa-francesco_20190501_giovani-impreditori.html (hereinafter Economy of Francesco Letter).

⁵ *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 168.

⁶ Economy of Francesco Letter.

⁷ Economy of Francesco Video Message.

⁸ Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream* (2020), 64-65.

⁹ Pope Francis, Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2015 (Oct. 4, 2014). https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20141004_messaggio-quaresima2015.html

¹⁰ <https://www.usccb.org/resources/backgrounder-covid-19-relief-meets-needs-poor-vulnerable-january-2021>

¹¹ <https://www.usccb.org/resources/letter-congress-concerning-legislation-infrastructure-april-22-2021>

¹² *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 73.

¹³ *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 154.



Faith leaders call for reforms that ensure workers' right to join a union

By: **Dennis Sadowski**

Date: **July 1, 2021**

As the pastor of the increasingly diverse St. Joseph Parish in Vancouver, Washington, Father Gary Lazzeroni finds himself ministering to people in a wide variety of work settings.

Some parishioners hold well-paying jobs with benefits. Others, especially a rising number of Hispanic immigrants, are in low-wage positions whose work on farms, in construction and in service positions are often overlooked or taken for granted.

All workers, especially those who were considered essential during the pandemic, deserve to be protected on the job with basic rights, including the freedom to organize a labor union if they desire, Father Lazzeroni told Catholic News Service.

A member of the Labor Priest Network, Father Lazzeroni is one of nearly 400 religious leaders who have signed on as public supporters of a statement calling for passage of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act currently pending in Congress. Known as the PRO Act, the bill proposes the most significant overhaul of labor law in decades.

"It's really about human dignity," the priest said of the bill. "This act is consistent with the teaching of the church going back to the 19th century."

That teaching, detailed in Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical "Rerum Novarum" on workers' rights, firmly roots Catholic social teaching in the necessity to protect human dignity. Similar teaching is among tenets of non-Catholic religious traditions as well.

The Inter-religious Network 4 Worker Solidarity, working with partner agency Catholic Labor Network, released the religious leaders' statement of support for the bill during an online news conference June 30.

Muslim, Christian and Jewish representatives spoke in

favor of the measure, which passed the House of Representatives March 9 225-206, a largely party-line vote. They called on the Senate to follow suit. No action has been scheduled in the upper chamber.

Business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, however, oppose the legislation, saying it would kill jobs.

The religious leaders' statement declared that workers' rights have been "under assault" for decades, and called union membership without retaliation or threat "a fundamental human right."

"This right can unlock the door to a just wage, a safe workplace and respect on the job for America's working families. Workers' right to organize and to be heard is a critical part of any healthy democracy, and is essential to ensuring that human beings are treated with dignity and not as mere objects or means to others' ends," it said.

The measure was introduced in the both houses of Congress in January at a time when overall union membership continues a decadeslong decline. Its supporters say labor law reforms are needed to head off business management tactics ranging from threats to fire workers to closing an enterprise despite employee protections in the National Labor Relations Act of 1935.

The PRO Act would bar employers from retaliating against unionization efforts, permit independent contractors in the emerging "gig" economy to unionize and expand labor protections to immigrant workers. It also allows for penalties up to triple an employee's wages when worker rights are violated.

In 2020, union membership stood at 14.3 million, about 10.8% of the workforce, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in January.

The figure represents an increase of 0.5% from 2019, even though overall union membership declined by



321,000. The bureau attributed the increased percentage of union members in the workforce to the disproportionately large decline in total employment compared with the loss of the number of union-affiliated jobs during the pandemic.

Public-sector union membership stood at 34.8%, more than five times higher than the rate of private-sector workers, which stood at 6.3%.

In contrast, the proportion of American workers who held a union card peaked at nearly 35% in 1954, according to the Congressional Research Service. The total number of union members peaked at 21 million in 1979.

The downward trend concerns labor law reform supporters such as Clayton Sinyai, executive director of the Catholic Labor Network.

“The fact that very few private sector workers enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining and the protection of a union are the reasons we need to reform labor laws,” he said.

Bishop John E. Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky, addressed the need for the bill during the news conference.

He earlier told CNS it is important for the Catholic Church to speak in favor of laborers’ right to organize and stress the dignity of work because it is “the cornerstone of Catholic social teaching.”

Labor law reform is needed, he said, because “we’ve lived in a few decades that have been pretty hostile to labor.” He cited “right-to-work” laws adopted by several states that have undermined labor unions and threats of firing for exercising the right to join a union.

Pope Francis repeated his support for worker rights in a June 17 video message to participants at the International Labor Organization’s “World of Work” summit. He warned that in hastily returning “to greater economic activity” after the pandemic, world leaders must “avoid excessive fixations on benefit, isolation and nationalism, blind consumerism, and denial of the clear evidence of discrimination against our ‘disposable’ brothers and sisters.”

“On the contrary, let us look for solutions that will help us build a new future of work based on decent and dignified working conditions, originating in collective bargaining, and promoting the ‘common good’ — a phrase that will make work an essential component of

our care for society and creation,” he said.

Joseph McCartin, executive director of the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University and a convenor of the year-old interreligious network, told CNS the statement from religious leaders is meant to offer a prophetic voice in support of workers.

The act would “strengthen the ability of workers to speak for themselves,” said McCartin, a Catholic signer of the statement.

During the news conference, United Church of Christ Bishop Dwayne Royster, executive director of the multi-congregation Faith in Action Philadelphia, expressed concern that many of those who were classified as essential workers during the pandemic — delivery persons, those who provide car-ride services, warehouse workers, meatpackers, hotel and hospital cleaning staff — have been denied the right to organize by their supervisors and managers.

“During the pandemic, we saw signs thanking essential workers. How about letting them organize? How about making sure they have decent wages? How about making sure they get decent benefits? How about making sure they get paid time off? It’s all the things they need because we don’t know when we’re going to find ourselves in this situation again,” Bishop Royster said.

The future of the PRO Act lies in the Senate. Supporters admit passage faces long odds. President Joe Biden has said he would sign the bill if approved by Congress.

Father Timothy Graff, a signer of the statement and director of the Social Concerns Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, believes it’s the workers themselves joined by fellow churchgoers who may have the biggest influence on senators.

“My hope,” he told CNS, “is that one of the good things that come out of the pandemic is that people have more of a heart. ... The swath of poverty is much wider than it was a year ago. So we need to raise our voices. As powerful as U.S. businesses are, as powerful as multinational corporations are, there’s nothing like the power of the people of God together with one voice.”

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