



# Human Concerns Herald

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2010

## Special points of interest:

- Immigration
- Sudan
- IRATE
- Legislative Dialogue
- Facebook

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## From the Director

As September comes as so many of our activities begin again we wanted to send out our newsletter to let you know all that is going on in the works of charity and justice throughout the Archdiocese.

After just a few months here in the Office of Human Concerns I have been so impressed by all that Kay Furlani, our recently retired Director, had accomplished in her years of ministry and service here at the Archdiocese. As I speak to many people they always say how tireless and effective Kay was in her work. I hope that we continue on her great work.

I have also been visiting many of our shelters and soup kitchens and so many other projects that have been serving the needs of our poor for so many years. There are so many parishes and dedicated people who make great sacrifices in their service. It builds my faith to see your hard work and dedication.

You will see many of our activities and projects in these pages. Know that it is only with the dedicated service of so many that we are able to accomplish that which the Lord has entrusted to us.

Thanks again for all that you do.

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## Websites from this Issue

[www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org) - Justice For Immigrants - Page 2

[www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org) - National Immigration Law Center - Page 3

[www.irate-firstfriends.org](http://www.irate-firstfriends.org) - Interfaith Action Refugee Team of Elizabeth - Page 6

[www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) - Catholic Relief Services - Page 6-8

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops - Page 6-8

[www.rcan.org](http://www.rcan.org) - Archdiocese of Newark



See Justice for Immigrants web site:  
[www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)



Bishop da Cunha addressing parishioners at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in River Edge.

## Immigration Reform Forum

In June, the Global Solidarity Team of the Archdiocese of Newark sponsored an Immigration Reform Forum at St. Peter's Church in River Edge. The hope for the night was to present the Church's teaching on Comprehensive Immigration Reform as well as put a human face on the problems that immigrants face every day. About 120 people attended the forum which turned out to be an informative and inspiring night for all who came.

Bishop Edgar da Cunha, the Regional Bishop of Essex County, gave a very thorough and clear presentation on the teaching of the Church on immigration. Drawing on the statements of the US Bishops and his own personal experience he was able to show the call of the Church for all to work for this important effort.

It was the desire of the Global Solidarity Team to also show how the lives of immigrants in our own Archdiocese are effected by the need for Immigration Reform. After an introduction by Sr. Rita Schneider, IHM, Pastoral Associate at St. James Church in Newark, several of the parishioners of St. James shared their stories and their struggles to live as immigrants here. Leaving Brazil, sometimes as young children, they find their opportunities very limited and daily struggle like so many others living under similar circumstances.

Many thanks to all who came out to make this a very successful forum. A similar forum will hopefully be held in another part of the Archdiocese in the near future.

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## The Global Solidarity Team

The Global Solidarity Team of the Archdiocese was started by Kay Furlani, then Director of the Office of Human Concerns, well over a year ago. It was hoped that it could become a way for the needs of all people not only in our own Archdiocese but also throughout the world to be recognized and valued by all members of our Archdiocese.

They were sponsored by the very successful Forum on Immigration Reform last June and were able to pick up several new members from that meeting.

At subsequent meetings Task Forces were formed to deal with Immigration, Fair Trade, Global Poverty, Education and Advocacy. In the Fall they will be meeting to make plans for the coming year.

Anyone who may be interested in joining the Team or seeking further information is asked to contact Fr. Timothy Graff at 973-497-4341 or by email at [grafftim@rcan.org](mailto:grafftim@rcan.org). The next meeting will be held at the Archdiocesan Center on **Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.**

## The DREAM Act

In the coming months much attention will be given to the DREAM (The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act. It has been supported by both the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops and the New Jersey Catholic Conference for the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey.

**What is the DREAM Act?** The DREAM Act is a bill to legalize immigrant high school graduates of good moral character who were brought to the United States at a young age without legal status. The terms are simple: those who complete two years of college education or military service will be eligible for their green card (legal permanent resident status).

**Who is eligible?** An applicant is eligible provided he or she:

- Entered the US before age 16 and are currently under 35;
- Have been continuously physically present in the US for at least 5 years prior to enactment.
- Have a high school diploma or GED or have been accepted to college;
- Demonstrate good moral character;
- Is not inadmissible or removable for crimes or national security reasons; And was never under a final order of exclusion (subject to limited exceptions).

**Why is DREAM necessary?** Immigrant students graduating in the US without legal status have virtually no options. Legally, they cannot get a job. They cannot join the military. In most states, they cannot attend college. Moreover, most did not decide to enter the country illegally; their parents made the decision for them. The DREAM Act provides them with the option to remain in the country if they attend college or join the military.

**Why don't these students just apply for a green card?** Under current law, these students derive their immigrant status from their parents. If their parents are here unlawfully, they have no mechanism to adjust to legal status even if they have spent most of their young lives in the US.

**How many immigrants would benefit from the DREAM Act?** About 1,000,000. Experts estimate that about 350,000 people would be eligible as soon as the bill became law. Another 750,000 would become eligible soon after.

**Isn't this just another form of amnesty?** No. If amnesty is rewarding illegal behavior without significant consequence, then the DREAM Act is not amnesty. First, DREAM-eligible students are not lawbreakers; they possessed no willful intent to break the law when they entered the country. Therefore, they do not merit legal punishment. Second, DREAM's rewards are not free; they require hard work and achievement. Students must graduate high school to be eligible and must finish a two-year college degree or two years of military service to gain legal status.



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## Prayer Vigil: Immigration Reform & DREAM Act

Join with your brothers and sisters as we join together in a Prayer Vigil in support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act is a bill to legalize immigrant high school graduates of good moral character who were brought to the United States at a young age without legal status. The terms are simple: those who complete two years of college education or military service will be eligible for their green card.

Speakers will include Bishop Manuel Cruz, Regional Bishop of Union County, and students directly affected by the DREAM Act.

**We will gather at:  
Felician College, 223 Montrose Ave, Rutherford, NJ  
Wednesday, September 15, 2010  
6:30 PM**

We will gather together for prayer, information and support for all who believe in the need for reform.

Cosponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark Office of Human Concerns, Campus Ministry, Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Elizabeth Coalition for Social Justice

For further information please contact the Office of Human Concerns:  
973-497-4341 or [grafftim@rcan.org](mailto:grafftim@rcan.org)



See Justice for Immigrants web site:  
[www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

## Coming Soon To A Parish Near You

As part of our effort to come to know the many wonderful works of charity and acts of justice that are going on in the parishes of the Archdiocese, we will be holding area meetings for everyone involved in the Social Justice ministry. We would like to invite everyone on Social Concerns Committees, those working in areas of direct service like food pantries and soup kitchens, Legislative Network Volunteers and all who serve in any other ways in service of the poor and justice to come to the meetings.

It is a chance to gather together to see what is happening in our areas, to see if we can combine our efforts in common initiatives and to learn of what the Office of Human Concerns have to offer us.

The meetings scheduled so far are:

- October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark, at 7:30 pm
- October 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Catherine's, Glen Rock, at 7:30 pm
- October 21<sup>st</sup> at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Jersey City, at 7:30 pm
- October 25<sup>th</sup> at Little Flower, Berkeley Heights, at 7:30 pm
- October 26<sup>th</sup> at St. John's. Bergenfield, at 7:30 pm
- October 28<sup>th</sup> at Holy Trinity, Westfield, at 7:30 pm
- October 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Anne's, Fair Lawn, at 1:00 pm (please note the afternoon meeting time)

Please plan on joining us at these important meetings. If you would like to host a meeting in your area please contact the Office of Human Concerns at 973-497-4341.



## A Peaceful & Stable Sudan

### Urge Your Representative to Support a Peaceful and Stable Sudan by Co-Sponsoring House Resolution 1588

**Take Action Now:** Contact your representative now and encourage him/her to co-sponsor the bipartisan House Resolution 1588 that supports full implementation of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement and efforts to promote peace and stability in Sudan.

**Why is this action important now?** Sudan is at a crossroads. The volatile situation in the country – not just the Darfur region, but also in the tenuous peace between Northern and Southern Sudan brought about 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is becoming more serious. The country is bracing for a referendum early next year when southern Sudan will decide if it will secede from the north. The potential for increased violence, death and displacement as a result of the war is real. Significant steps must be taken to avoid such a disaster.

**What does House Resolution 1588 do?** Representatives Capuano (MA), McCaul (TX), Payne (NJ), Smith (NJ), and Wolf (VA) have introduced HR 1588, similar to Senate Resolution 404 passed earlier this year, that shows the United States' strong commitment to prevent increased violence and promote peace and stability in all of Sudan. The resolution specifically calls on President Obama to strengthen engagement on this issue and on the international community to coordinate their efforts closely. It urges the responsible actors in Sudan to comply with the provisions of the CPA, resolve outstanding issues and avoid actions that escalate tensions.

**What is the Church's position?** The Catholic bishops in Sudan have raised serious concerns about the situation in their country. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) are taking action in light of the potential for increased violence to avert conflict by helping people in need, promoting reconciliation and advocating for strong US leadership for peace. CRS and USCCB support H Res 1588 and urge all members of Congress to co-sponsor this important resolution.

**What does the situation in Sudan have to do with my Catholic faith?** Our Catholic faith calls us to uphold the life and dignity of all human life and to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Conflict in Sudan has already cost millions of lives, displaced millions more and deepened widespread poverty. As Catholics, we must take action, to prevent violence and save lives as well assist our neighbors in need.

### **How is the Catholic Church promoting peace and stability in Sudan?**

Working in partnership with the Catholic Church in Sudan and with affected communities, our focus in Darfur is to provide humanitarian assistance such as food and essential household items as well as establishment of shelters for people displaced by violence. Throughout the country, we also promote development assistance through education, agriculture, water and sanitation and health care initiatives and promote peace efforts that strengthen civil society and civic education.

## Places of Hope: Help For Those In Need

There are so many wonderful programs and outreaches to those in need throughout the Archdiocese that we would like to highlight one with each issue of our newsletter. This is to share the good news and hard work of so many members of our Archdiocese and also to offer possibilities for service for parishes and people who might be looking for opportunities of direct service to those in need.

IRATE (Interfaith Refugee Action Team of Elizabeth) and First Friends started in 1997 as a collaboration of Jesuit Refugee Services and the Archdiocese of Newark to provide English Language and Bible Studies at the Elizabeth Detention Center. Volunteer visitors began visiting asylum seeking detainees many of whom had no family in this country. Soon they added advocacy to their mission by lobbying for the end of detention for asylum seekers and better conditions at the EDC. After 9/11 IRATE joined with other volunteer visitors to form First Friends to provide on-going visiting and support for those detained at the EDC.

They state their mission as follows:

- Visit non-criminal detainees at the Elizabeth Detention Center (EDC) and in the Hudson County Corrections Center (HCCC)
  - Provide training for those willing to visit detainees
  - Speak to groups on detention or immigration reform
  - Collaborate with partner organizations seeking humane treatment of all detainees, and the end of detainment for asylum seekers
  - Work nationally on behalf of comprehensive immigration reform
  - Organize demonstrations to keep the plight of detainees in the news
- Invite you to join our efforts

For those interested in helping with this very worthy organization please feel free to contact them at 908-965-0455 or visit their website at

[www.irate-firstfriends.org](http://www.irate-firstfriends.org)

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Justice, Peace and  
Human Development



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3211 4TH Street, N.E.  
Washington DC  
20017-1194  
202-541-3000



Catholic Relief Services  
228 W. Lexington Street  
Baltimore, Maryland  
21201-3413  
888-277-7575  
info@crs.org

## What Your Advocacy Has Accomplished *conti...*

**One of the key works of the Office of Human Concerns is to promote Advocacy for the poor and the marginalized. We recently received this update from the US Bishops Conference on what our advocacy has accomplished in the last few months.**

**Unemployment Assistance:** In July, we asked you to urge your Senators to [extend unemployment insurance](#) benefits for laid-off workers through November 2010. On July 21, the Senate voted 59-39 to do just that, providing Extended Unemployment benefits to millions of people who are without work and granting back payments to about 2.5 million people who have been out of work for six months or more and have seen their jobless benefits lapse. The House passed the bill (HR 4213) quickly thereafter and the President signed it into law on July 22, 2010. Thank you for your hard work! You are making a difference!

**Tax Credits for Low-Income Persons:** We asked Congress to protect and strengthen key tax credits that make a difference to low-income workers and their families, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit. Both of these provisions are part of the broader tax legislation passed in 2001 and 2003 (known as the "Bush Tax Cuts") that will expire on Dec. 31 if Congress does nothing. Although no legislation has been introduced, there is much debate about the pros and cons of extending the tax cuts. The EITC and CTC help low-income and middle-income families trying to pay their mortgage, catching up on payments after a job loss, or paying for school clothes. Please continue to urge Congress to extend these credits regardless of whether or not they extend other tax cuts.

**Housing:** Catholics across the U.S. participated in a sign-on letter to urge Congress to provide funding for the [National Housing Trust Fund](#) as a way to help communities build and preserve housing for people with the lowest incomes, as well as to create needed jobs. You can continue to urge Congress to include funding for the Housing Trust Fund in economic recovery or jobs legislation when it returns from recess.

**Child Nutrition:** United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, and National Catholic Educational Association have jointly written Congress urging the reauthorization of the [Child Nutrition Act](#), which includes the School-Lunch, School-Breakfast, the Summer Feeding Program, and the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC). In the past academic year, 3,680 Catholic schools nationwide participated in these programs, which improve children's access to the nutritious food they need. Although the programs are not controversial, there is no agreement in the House and Senate on how to there is no agreement in the House and Senate on how to pay for improvements to the programs. The Senate passed a version of Child Nutrition Reauthorization that reduces SNAP benefits (food stamps) to pay for other provisions in the bill. The House has yet to act on its version of the bill. Passage of a Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill this year will ensure significant movement towards the goals of ending child hunger by 2015 and dramatically reducing childhood obesity.

**Climate Change:** We asked you to [urge key senators](#) to include and strengthen provisions in climate legislation that would protect poor and vulnerable people, in our country and around the world, from the impacts of climate change and the effects of policies needed to address it. Unfortunately, the Senate will not consider climate legislation this year. When Congress takes up this important legislation in the future we will call on you again to urge your members to strengthen these protections. In the meantime, we will continue to engage the Administration and members of Congress about the bishops' priorities and to educate Catholics about this important issue.

## What Your Advocacy Has Accomplished *cont...*

### International Updates

**Nuclear Weapons:** We asked those of you whose Senator is a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations to urge them to support the [New START Treaty](#), which reduces U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons and implements new verification requirements. The Committee is expected to take up action after the August recess (the week of Sept. 15). Please continue to urge your senators to support the New START Treaty when it comes to the Senate floor in the fall.

**Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC):** Due to your successful [advocacy efforts](#), provisions are now included in the financial reform bill requiring large U.S. companies to take steps, including regular audits, to ensure that the minerals used in their products are not financing militia violence in the eastern Congo. The bill also allows companies to label goods as “conflict mineral-free” and directs the U.S. government to develop a strategy that addresses the links among human rights abuses and illegal extraction of minerals from the Congo. Thanks to your advocacy efforts, the prayers of the Church and people in DRC have been answered.

**Accountability and Extractive Industries:** Thanks to your efforts, the financial reform legislation also now includes a provision requiring large U.S. companies that extract minerals, oil, and gas to publish what they pay to the governments of the countries in which they work. This requirement will make it easier for civil society in those countries to hold their governments accountable for how these revenues are used. Thanks to your successful advocacy efforts, poor and vulnerable people throughout the world will benefit.

**Haiti:** We asked you to urge Congress to provide much-needed emergency relief and funds for long-term reconstruction in Haiti. Congress passed the Haiti Economic Lift Program ([HELP, S. 3275](#) and [H.R. 5160](#)) and the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery Act for Haiti (H.R. 4573 and S. 2961) and both pieces of legislation were signed by the President. These are huge victories that will help Haiti to recover and rebuild. We are deeply thankful for your support of Haiti as it struggles to recover from the devastating earthquake.

**FY 2010 Supplemental Budget Request:** Thanks in part to your advocacy around the [Emergency Supplemental](#), Congress approved \$ 2.8 billion for Haiti (our ask was \$2.5 billion), of which \$1.23 billion went to relief and reconstruction, \$943 to debt relief, and \$150 million to food assistance. Of the \$1.597 billion we requested for global emergency needs, Congress approved \$165 million for migration and refugee assistance and \$460 million for International Disaster Assistance. Although the amounts allocated for global emergency needs did not reach the levels CRS and USCCB had requested, in these difficult economic times, the additional funds are welcome and will save lives and help protect human dignity.

**Land Mines:** We asked you to let President Obama and your Senators know that you support a comprehensive review of U.S. landmine policy so that the U.S. can join the [Mine Ban Treaty](#). While that review is in process, you can still voice your support for the Mine Ban Treaty.



Justice, Peace and  
Human Development



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## What Your Advocacy Has Accomplished

### International Updates cont.

**Peace in the Holy Land:** We continue to urge strong U.S. leadership for a two-state solution to the [Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#)—a secure and recognized Israel living alongside an independent and viable Palestinian state. In addition to your grassroots advocacy, Christian leaders, including Bishop Dennis Madden, have met with a high ranking Administration official to urge action for a just peace.

**Sudan:** We asked you to urge President Obama to do everything he can to support full implementation of the [Comprehensive Peace Agreement](#) and other efforts to promote peace and stability in Sudan. Thanks to your efforts and the recent visit by Bishop Daniel Adwok and Bishop Rudolf Deng of Sudan to meet with key Administration officials and a number of members of Congress, Sudan is getting more attention. A number of members of Congress are now contacting the Administration about this issue. In addition, Special U.S. Envoy Scott Gration met with the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), of which the Catholic Church is a member, to listen to their concerns.

**Reduce Nuclear Weapons and Enhance Child Survival:** We urged members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to support the [Global Security Priorities Resolution](#) (H.Res. 278) which would use savings from nuclear weapons reductions to secure nuclear materials from terrorists and to support child survival programs in developing nations, a real “swords into plowshares” initiative. The Committee has not yet acted. If your representative is a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, please [continue to express your support](#) for this Resolution.

You can find out if your Congresspersons co-sponsored particular legislation and how they voted on particular legislation by entering the bill number at [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov). We hope that during the August 9 – September 12 recess you will visit or contact your Congresspersons to thank them for their support when appropriate and to ask for their support on other issues.

Thank you for your continued advocacy in support of human life and dignity!

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# Legislative Dialogue



## Save the Date!

Meet your legislators.  
Learn about issues of concern to the Catholic Community. Exercise your responsibility as faithful citizens.

# EVENING OF Legislative Dialogue

Hosted by Archbishop John J. Myers

Wednesday, October 20, 2010  
From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

At Mother Seton Regional High School  
1 Valley Road, Clark, NJ 07066

Sign Language Interpreted for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.  
 Simultaneous translation for Spanish speakers.



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## Great Reasons to Attend:

1. Learn about state-wide legislation and issues that are of concern to the Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Newark.
2. Legislators will be present to hear concerns of the Catholic community related to social concerns/social justice, Catholic schools, and respect-life issues
3. Have an opportunity to meet your state legislators

Senator Raymond J. Lesinski  
 Assemblyman Joseph Ryan  
 Assemblywoman Annella Caputo  
 Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
 Assemblyman John M. Brambilla  
 Assemblywoman Nancy F. Murray  
 Senator Nicholas P. Scabar  
 Assemblyman Jerry Dixon  
 Assemblywoman Linda Stender  
 Senator Michael J. DeBary  
 Assemblyman John D'Alles  
 Assemblyman Ed Palumbo  
 Senator Steven V. Oroz  
 Assemblyman Gary R. Chiosso  
 Assemblywoman Alison Litali McHale  
 Senator Anthony R. Buccia  
 Assemblyman Anthony M. Buccia  
 Assemblyman Michael Patrick Cantal  
 Senator Joseph Pennacchio  
 Assemblyman Alan DuCasso  
 Assemblyman Jay Weidner  
 Senator Richard J. Codey  
 Assemblywoman Mia M. Jaray  
 Assemblyman John F. McLean  
 Senator Ronald L. Rice  
 Assemblyman Ralph R. Caputo  
 Assemblywoman Chappela G. Tucker  
 Senator M. Teresa Ruiz  
 Assemblyman Albert Costello  
 Assemblywoman L. Grace Spenser  
 Senator Robert W. Singer  
 Assemblyman Russell S. Casar  
 Assemblyman Joseph R. Marino, III  
 Senator Sandra B. Gormley  
 Assemblyman Anthony Chapanza  
 Assemblyman Charles Malin  
 Senator Nicholas J. Sacco  
 Assemblyman Vincent Prato  
 Assemblywoman Jan M. Gajjaj  
 Senator Brian P. Stack  
 Assemblyman Ruben J. Rotolo, Jr.  
 Assemblywoman Gerald Rodriguez  
 Senator Ma H. Gill  
 Assemblyman Thomas P. Giller  
 Assemblywoman Sheila Y. Oliver  
 Senator John A. Giganti  
 Assemblywoman Elaine Espar  
 Assemblywoman Nellie Pou  
 Senator Paul A. Soto  
 Assemblyman Frederick Spina  
 Assemblyman Gary S. Schaefer  
 Senator Linda Weinberg  
 Assemblyman Gordon M. Johnson  
 Assemblywoman Valerie Vainelli  
 Senator Robert M. Ondino  
 Assemblywoman Jean M. Vitale  
 Assemblywoman Dennis Wagner  
 Senator David Casella  
 Assemblyman Robert Schneider  
 Assemblywoman Charita Vandenak  
 Senator Keith J. O'Brien  
 Assemblyman Scott T. Pataone  
 Assemblyman David C. Russo

More details will follow.  
For more information call  
Mary McElroy at 973-467-9396 or  
Marissa Acosta at 973-497-4013

## Legislative Dialogue Registration Form

If you plan to attend, please let us know by October 8, 2010.  
Please complete this form and fax to 973-497-4192 or mail to:

**The Archdiocese of Newark, Evening of Legislative Dialogue,  
c/o Mary McElroy, 171 Clifton Ave., Newark, NJ 07104-9500.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Human Concerns Office is on Facebook

In our effort to appear high-tech and to better communicate with more people the Human Concerns Office is now on Facebook. Visit often to keep up with the latest happenings of the Office, the different events that you could plan to participate in and to share your insights of the issues that we deal with everyday.

Look for the Archdiocese of Newark Human Concern Office on Facebook and join today!

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## OFFICE OF HUMAN CONCERNS

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### MISSION STATEMENT

**To continue the mission of Jesus bringing glad tidings to the poor... Proclaiming liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, letting the oppressed go free and announcing a year acceptable to the Lord.**

**(Luke 4: 18-19)**