

Two Feet Social Action Newsletter



Walking the Walk in Our Daily Lives

News, information and calls to action
from the Office of Social Action and Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of Davenport

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL ACTION:

As I write this, it is now July 1st. It feels as if Summer is moving quickly!

Saturday evening, I drove to Sacred Heart Parish in Melcher-Dallas. I visited in my capacity as a diocesan director and as a CRS Global Fellow. Though I was only able to be at their Saturday evening Mass, I wanted to thank the members of the parish for their incredible generosity expressed during the CRS Rice Bowl campaign. The funds they collected led the diocese and enabled us to realize one of the strongest collections I can remember. As 25% of Rice Bowl funds collected stay in the diocese, it also enabled Rice Bowl grant recipients to have solid support as they address hunger in communities in our diocese. For all the times we ask parishioners to prayerfully consider giving, it is important to also personally deliver the heartfelt **THANK YOU!**

The Social Action Office also has a diocesan Social Action Commission. We meet regularly on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 8:30am by Zoom. We presently have representation from 4 of the 5 deaneries. In addition to our newsletter, if you would like to receive minutes from the meetings, please let us know. Our office, in support of the Bishop's Office, monitor a myriad of justice issues and realizes that updates from all parts of the diocese are incredibly valuable.

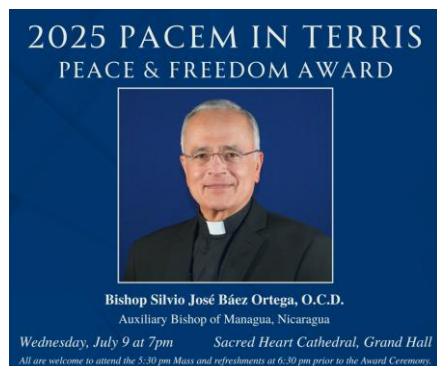
Updates and Action Alerts that appear in our newsletter are compiled by our Administrative Assistant, Esmeralda Guerrero, who also provides me the prompt to prepare Director's Notes. We have a core group of folks who remain committed to love of God AND neighbor, and Esmeralda is like the air traffic controller of our friendly skies. Thank you, Esmeralda!

Peace and All Good, Deacon Kent, OFS

UPCOMING _ For a complete list of upcoming events see the ([Social Action Calendar](#))

JULY 9TH

PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD CEREMONY:



Wednesday, July 9th at 7pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport. All are also welcome to attend Mass at 5:30pm and refreshments at 6:30pm. The award will be presented by Bishop Walsh.

This year's recipient is Bishop Báez, who lives in exile in the United States after risking his life advocating for justice and peace in his beloved homeland of Nicaragua. He is among hundreds of Nicaraguans expelled or deported in recent years for criticizing the administration of President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo. [View flier.](#) **Order of events:** (All the events are at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 422 E 10th St, Davenport, IA 52803)

- Mass 5:30 pm
- 6:30 pm Refreshments
- 7:00 pm Award Ceremony

Link to the Catholic Messenger Article: <https://catholicmessenger.net/2025/06/nicaraguan-bishop-will-receive-pacem-in-terris-award/>

JULY 16TH

IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT:



The 2025 Iowa Hunger Summit is hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation. This is an annual free, public event that brings together food security leaders from across our state. The theme is *"From the Ground Up."* [Click here for more information.](#)

JULY 30TH

WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS:

To learn more about human trafficking in Iowa, [click here](#). Are you a business owner who would like to learn and do something about this issue? Please visit [here](#). To find a local Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT) coalition, [click here](#).

This day was established to raise awareness, to promote the protection of the rights of the trafficking victims

[Click here to view theme for 2025.](#)

NICARAGUAN BISHOP WILL RECEIVE PACEM IN TERRIS AWARD:

By Barb Arland-Fye
The Catholic Messenger

Bishop Silvio José Báez Ortega, O.C.D., who has risked his life advocating for justice and peace in his beloved homeland of Nicaragua, will receive the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award on July 9 in Davenport.

Bishop Báez, 67, lives in exile and teaches at a seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida but continues to speak out for human rights and democracy in Nicaragua. He is among hundreds of Nicaraguans expelled or deported in recent years for criticizing the administration of President Daniel Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo.

[Click here to read more....](#)

THE PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD HISTORY:

The Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award was created in 1964 by the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council. Since 1978, the award has been presented by the Quad City Pacem in Terris Coalition. The award honors Pope John XXIII and commemorates his 1963 encyclical letter, *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)*, which called on all people to secure peace among all nations.

[Click here to learn about Past Recipients.](#)

RECOMOMENDED READING:

[Bishop Seitz Urges Gospel-Based Solidarity With Refugees, Migrants](#) | OSV News

Solidarity with refugees and migrants is "not an option" but "a living testimony of the Gospel," said Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, a CLINIC board member and the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration. He shared his thoughts in a statement for World Refugee Day, which is observed on June 20 and was established by the United Nations (UN) in 2001. The UN Refugee Agency says that by the end of 2024, more than 123 million people had been displaced from their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and instability. Just over 43 million were refugees. More than 73 million were displaced in their own countries. Another 8.4 million were asylum seekers, and 4.4 million were stateless persons. [Click here to read complete article.](#)

USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services: recently released a document, *Explainer: [Refugee Resettlement and the Catholic Church](#)*, which provides an overview of what has happened to the resettlement program over the past several months.

Learn about Immigration and the Catholic Church: <https://youtu.be/4hWYfJ28mLY?si=-TmujXkF7NNsTNnu>

RESPECT LIFE:

RESPECT LIFE PACKET: ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY 4:00 PM. ON JULY 13TH.

2025-2026 Respect Life Packet: Parishes interested in receiving ONE FREE Respect Life Packet may submit their order online at <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/respect-life-order-form>. **Orders must be placed by 4:00 pm. July 13.**

The 2025-2026 Respect Life Program theme "**Life: Our Sign of Hope**" reflects the ongoing Jubilee Year of Hope. The parish kits contain a cover letter from Bishop Thomas, Chair of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities (English/Spanish on reverse sides), a poster (English/Spanish on reverse sides), and two copies of a new prayer card (one each in English & Spanish).

You can also e-mail me your order to guerrero@davenportdiocese.org if you prefer.

Please include:

- **Parish name and address**
- **Name, phone number and email address for the main contact if not the pastor or parish secretary**



The Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities has launched [The Respect Life Podcast](#)

In this first episode, Bishop Daniel Thomas, chair of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, joins Kat Talalas from the secretariat for a conversation about the anniversary of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. He also shares what formed his pro-life views from childhood and how he found out that he had been appointed to be a bishop. [Click here to watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAK5riWhlIM) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAK5riWhlIM>) or [Click here to Listen](#).

Respect Life useful links:

- Respect Life Month resources are accessible by their webpage: <https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month>
- Respect Life store where resources can be purchased, <https://store.respectlife.org/collections/2024-respect-life-resources-i-came-so-that-they-might-have-life>

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED: NEW VIDEO



Learn about [Walking with Moms in Need](#) and how everyone has something to contribute and can make a difference in the life of a mother in need.

[Click here to learn how to get started.](#)

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS:

With our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, taking the name Leo, we have taken it as a signal that he aligns with the ideas of ***Rerum Novarum***, the foundational document of Catholic social doctrine and the rights of labor written by of Pope Leo XIII. Vatican spokesperson Matteo Bruni confirmed that the name was a “direct recall” of Leo XIII’s commitment to social doctrine, particularly in the context of modern challenges like artificial intelligence and economic inequality. While Pope Leo XIV hasn’t issued a formal statement on the Church’s social doctrine, his comments to date on fraternity, unity and the equality of all people continue in that vein. Certainly, a re-reading of ***Rerum Novarum*** would be appropriate now. The Catholic Labor Network, a Catholic non-profit devoted to the promotion of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching on dignity of work and the rights of workers, has assembled a brief description of ***Rerum Novarum*** and of five succeeding documents on the topics with links to the documents themselves. One, [Economic Justice for All](#), is particularly appropriate reading at this time of struggle over a Federal budget. You can find them at: [Six Key Church Documents Addressing Labor](#).

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| 1. Rerum Novarum, 1891 | 4. Laborem Exercens, 1981 |
| 2. Quadragesimo Anno, 1931 | 5. Economic Justice For All, 1986 |
| 3. Gaudium Et Spes, 1965 | 6. Caritas in Veritate, 2009 |

The Catholic Labor Network is a Catholic nonprofit & private association of the faithful that unites clergy, religious, laity, & people of goodwill to advance the principles of Catholic Social Teaching on dignity of work and the rights of workers through prayer, education, & action. [Click here to learn more...](#)

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:

Bishop Mark J. Seitz, chairman of the Committee on Migration, reflects on one of the topics of Religious Freedom Week: the rights of religious organizations that serve migrants. [Click here to listen to his message.](#)

Learn more <https://ow.ly/PFBP50WeRwk>

POPE'S JULY PRAYER INTENTION: 'FOR FORMATION IN DISCERNMENT'



Vatican News

[USAID cuts predicted to have deep global impact, require urgent response](#)

[World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation: God's creation is not a battleground for vital resources](#)

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