

Statement by the Virginia Catholic Conference,
After the election, the work for life and justice continues



For many months Virginians have watched the political campaigns taking place here and wondered how the outcome would affect the direction of our commonwealth. Yesterday, they made their decisions. Today, we at the Virginia Catholic Conference and in the Catholic Dioceses of Arlington and Richmond assure Governor-elect Ralph Northam and all those elected yesterday of our prayers for them and our appreciation for their answering the call for public service. As they strive to serve the more than eight million men, women and children who live in Virginia, we will work with them whenever possible to ensure Virginia laws and policies reflect the common good and the inherent dignity of every human being – from the very beginning of life, through and until natural death. We pledge to reach out to them and continue to advocate for policies that protect the most vulnerable in Virginia, especially people who are unborn, elderly, sick, poor, immigrants or refugees. We will work for legislation that protects the family, and that assures Virginia continues to respect religious liberty, especially for faith-based entities that serve so many of our sisters and brothers in need. In this great state, foundational to American democracy, we call on Catholics, people of all faiths and good will and all Virginians to work together to address the needs of our commonwealth through respectful dialogue and civility.



Spotlight on: Parish Life

The group coordinates and plans parish social activities such as the St. Patrick's Day Feast, Thanksgiving Dinner, and receptions.

Skills: Must have some experience in planning a large meal and enjoy working with others in the preparation and serving of food

Duties: Coordinate and plan parish-wide social activities

Seeking: Adults 18 years of age or older, ideal for adults in all family groups

Time Commitment: No meetings or training; Coordinator assists with parish activities; hosts coordinate a parish activity annually-about 4 hours each

Contact: Kathy Burant 291-1189

Haiti Donations: Dr. Kerschl (RHMA) needs our help. He and a group of doctors and nurses are headed to Fond Pierre next week on a Medical Mission. He has asked for donations of girl's underwear, sizes 5 and up to take on his mission. As we all know, girls in third world countries who wear underwear are less likely to be raped. Please put your donations in the Haiti basket in the Narthex on or before Monday. The Haiti Committee will be helping RHMA pack meds on Monday evening and will include any underwear donations we receive. Thank you for your support.

SPARC: Do you make a regular habit of going to confession or has it been years since you have availed yourself of the graces of the sacrament? Do you regularly examine your conscience (daily) to make you more aware of your sins when you confess? Do you know the seven deadly sins? SPARC will be studying the seven deadly sins and their corresponding virtues during the next sessions which will begin in January. We will be using the video series by Father (now Bishop) Baron. If you would like to know more about recognizing sin, leading a more Christ-centered life, and sharing your ideas with other like-minded Catholics, these sessions are for you. We will begin signups the weekend of November 18-19. Location of sessions will depend on need. For more information, call Marilou Schindler 291-2992.



Christmas Flowers: As is our tradition at Christmas, you are invited to memorialize or honor a loved one through a flower donation. An envelope for November 26 is designated for this gift. Please write the name of your loved one on the back of the envelope and note if it is a memorial remembrance. Our Christmas environment is more beautiful because of your generosity.

FORMED: Access Catholic education, entertainment, prayer, and inspiration for free on your computer or smartphone! Go to www.formed.org, then scroll and click Register, enter our parish code: T2WDQ3, then enter your personal info and follow directions from there! Benefit from this generous gift to our parish!

11/12/2017

Diocesan Youth Conference: Feb. 9–11, 2018, Richmond. Early bird discount registration starts now! Forms in the narthex. Complete and bring to the parish office for DRE to register online. Registration costs paid by parish – let us take advantage of the discount NOW! Two adult chaperones needed (free registration with gas payment for driving to and from event).

SVU Conference on Reformation Welcomes Local Congregations: Southern Virginia University in Buena Vista will sponsor a conference on "The Cultural Impact of the Reformation" on Thursday-Friday, Nov. 16-17 in the university's Main Hall. It will feature scholars and local clergy from the local area as well as James Madison University and the University of Virginia. The public is most welcome to attend. Sessions begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday and 9 a.m. on Friday. One highlight will be the address on Friday at 11 a.m. of Professor Mark Rankin of JMU at the university's weekly Forum in the Stoddard Center.

Rockbridge Interfaith: Rockbridge Interfaith will be hosting a panel discussion "Who is a stranger?" on Monday, November 13, 6:30-8 p.m. at the W&L Hillel House. In a time when we are gripped by the 'Us vs. Them' dichotomy, we must stop to ask: Who, really, is a stranger? What is and should be the relationship between the 'outsider' and the 'insider?' And what is the implication of that relationship for society as a whole? We hope, through a conversation initiated by representatives from various faith and spiritual traditions, to engage the question of the stranger from a broad perspective. Panelists include Judi Rhodes, Mohamed Eltoweissy, Rachel Reibach and Avtar Moore. Mohamed Kamara will be moderating the panel. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit us at our Facebook page: Rockbridge Interfaith or contact us at rockbridgeinterfaith@gmail.com.

Haiti Update: We are collecting school supplies (pens, paper, solar-powered calculators, folders, pencils, drawstring or sling backpacks for youngsters 1st to 6th grade, white chalk, black board erasers, pencil erasers, rulers, and etc.), soccer balls (no basketballs), small air pumps, jump ropes, travel size soap, toothpaste, shampoo, personal hygiene items, combs, barrettes/hair elastics, brushes, and vegetable seeds for shipment to Fond Pierre, Haiti. Please place items in the container in the narthex.

Virginia LARCUM Conference: "500 Years Later. Ecumenical Dialogue as Gift and Call" is the theme of the 2017 Virginia LARCUM Conference in Richmond, VA. The dates are Fri. and Sat., Dec. 1-2. The locations are St. Bridget Catholic Church and neighboring St. Stephen Episcopal Church, both Three Chopt Road, Richmond. Sister Susan K. Wood, SCL, Ph.D., a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, is the main presenter. She will focus our thoughts at this centenary and consider a path to the future. For more information, contact Rick Caporali, Registrar, 703-451-8576 or rcaporali@stbernapar.org.

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites are lay people inspired by the Holy Spirit to answer the call to holiness through prayer, study, and apostolic works of charity. Their formation is founded on the writing and teachings of the Carmelite Saints: St. Teresa of Jesus, St. John of the Cross, and St. Therese of Lisieux, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Lady of Mount Carmel. If you desire to learn more about this way of life, the Secular Community of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity meets at St. Francis of Assisi in Staunton on the second Sunday of each month from 12:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For further information, please pick up a brochure in the narthex or call Laurie Strong at 463-9879.

CCCseason of Gratitude: "I thank my God every time I remember you," Philippians 1:3. During this month of giving thanks, we extend our sincere appreciation to your parish for its support of Commonwealth Catholic Charities. We are incredibly grateful to our supporters, donors and sponsors who help us work alongside local parishes to provide programs and services to those in need in our communities.



#GivingTuesday: Celebrated around the world on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Since its inaugural year in 2012, #GivingTuesday has become a movement that celebrates and supports giving and philanthropy. Learn more on Commonwealth Catholic Charities's Facebook page!