

Dear friends of the Worthington Deanery,

November marked my third anniversary working for Catholic Charities in the Worthington Deanery. Time has gone fast, and I am so grateful for all the people I've worked with and met in the various parishes. I feel incredibly blessed to work with the priests of this deanery, the deacons, and so many faithful lay people.

There has been much work to do in the area of Parish Social Ministry, and always more to do as we seek to do God's work in serving others and learning more about our faith. My area of expertise is the mandate of the Church to care for those in need, and I love to instruct adults and youth about the Catholic Social Teachings. These are important teachings of the Church, they are not "optional" or "secondary". They have been emphasized by Pope Francis, and by our Bishop, Robert Barron. If I haven't been to your parish to speak about them, I would love an invitation! I enjoy speaking with groups like Catholic Daughters, KCs, CCW groups, RCIA classes, Bible study groups or Faith Formation classes. I have been in quite a few of our high school faith formation classes over the past few years in an effort to educate our youth about Catholic Social Teachings.

One of my tasks is to help parishes set up and implement Social Concerns Committees in their parish or cluster. Some parishes have done that, and some parishes struggle with getting together "another committee". This is understandable and especially true in smaller parishes, where there might be just a few people passionate about works of service and justice. But every parish has those people. Because of the challenge for some communities, back in 2021 we initiated a Deanery Social Concerns Roundtable that meets monthly on Zoom. This group is made up of representatives of the parishes of our deanery. One of the things the Roundtable did was to plan/host a High School Youth Retreat about Social Justice back in February. This was very well received and we had participants from all the deanery parishes. We are working on another one for this coming February. If you are interested in getting involved in a group that plans together, shares ideas and supports one another in the efforts of serving others, please consider joining us! Currently not all parishes/clusters are represented, so we could use your participation. Please contact me to tell me of your interest.

I wanted to write this note to all the people of the Worthington Deanery, in case you haven't heard or aren't sure of what I do. But I also want to wish you a very blessed Advent and Christmas season and applaud you and thank you for all that you are doing to serve God in your parishes and in your daily lives. In addition, I'd like to share with you a little "gift" in the form of a film you can watch free on YouTube. It's about a letter that Pope Francis wrote to all of us "Laudato Si" (Praise Be To You). The link is here:

[\(2\) The Pope, the Environmental Crisis, and Frontline Leaders | The Letter: Laudato Si Film - YouTube](#)

Or you can search YouTube for "The Letter – Pope Francis". Please watch it, and let me know what you think of it.

May God bless you and yours – and please contact me if I can be of service.

Peace and all good,

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