

30th Annual Social Action Summer Institute

Archdiocese of Chicago | Saint Xavier University | July 17-21, 2016

“WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? DISCIPLESHIP IN THE YEAR OF MERCY”

Sunday, July 17

Sponsor: Office for Peace & Justice – Archdiocese of Chicago

12:00-2:30 PM

Registration & Check-in

2:30 PM

Smudging Ceremony

McDonough Chapel

3:00 PM

Opening Mass

McDonough Chapel

Very Rev. Ron Hicks, Vicar General, Archdiocese of Chicago

5:00 PM

Dinner

6:30 PM

Welcome from Roundtable

Butler Reception Room

7:00 PM

Opening Keynote

Rev. Michael Louis Pfleger, St. Sabina Parish, Archdiocese of Chicago

“Breaking the Silence of the Church”

In this opening keynote, Rev. Pfleger will address the silence of the Church on some of the most devastating issues such as racism, poverty, and violence affecting our communities today. These ever increasing problems have been met with increasing silence from the Church. Rev. Pfleger will talk about how the Church can become the Moral Conscience to society once again in which every member of the Catholic Church can take responsibility for these issues and become a loving presence that can radically transform our communities for positive change.

8:30 PM

Social

Monday, July 18

Sponsor: USCCB – Dept. of Justice, Peace & Human Development

7:30-8:45 AM Breakfast & Opening Prayer

SXU Diner

9:00-10:15 AM

Large Audience Presentation

Dr. C. Vanessa White, Catholic Theological Union

“The Greatest Commandment - Love God, Neighbor, and Self”

In this year of Mercy, how do we as Disciples of Jesus Christ live and choose a path that is loving towards God, Neighbor and including ourselves. What are the obstacles that stand in the way of us being loving disciples and how do we as ministers of justice - become more loving?

10:30-11:45 AM

Track A: Session for Main Theme

Christopher Cox, Human Thread

“Who Made My Clothes? Seeing the Garment Worker as Neighbor”

On April 24, 2013, 1133 people were killed when the Rana Plaza garment factory collapsed in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Most workers made less than \$60 a month. Many of the objects we take for granted—chocolate, clothing, coffee—are frequently made under conditions that can only be described as slavery. Presenter Christopher Cox, campaign manager of The Human Thread, promotes solidarity between consumers of clothing and the people who produce them in order to create a more just economy and sustainable communities. Indeed, we can see those who make our clothes as neighbor.

Track B: Catholic Social Teaching

Kathleen Maas Weigert, PhD, Loyola University

“Catholic Social Teachings: Making Them Real at the Local Level”

Still considered one of the “best kept secrets” of the Church, the Catholic social teachings offer both vision and guidelines to help respond to the crying needs of our sisters and brothers to help make a more just and humane world. First we will examine core CST concepts and then explore some practical ways that we can make them real in our local worlds.

12:00 PM

LUNCH & MASS

SXU Diner & McDonough Chapel

1:15-2:45 PM

Track A: Session for Main Theme

Deacon Tom Lambert & Connie Rakitan, Mental Illness Ministries

"Working for Justice: Neighbors with Mental Illness and Their Families"

One in every four neighbors is struggling with mental illness – their own or that of a family member – and our Church is called to walk with them in a discipleship of justice: to treat all people equitably. We will explore how the church can be a place of loving support and a voice for systemic change in unjust public policies. Practical tools and networking opportunities will be provided for individuals, parishes, and dioceses.

Track B: Catholic Social Teaching

Kathleen Maas Weigert, PhD, Loyola University

"Catholic Social Teachings: Making Them Real at the Global Level"

As the prophet Micah proclaimed, "This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (6:8). The Church has asked us to "do justice" with and for our sisters and brothers who live far away. We will examine some of the key contributions from CST as we explore how we can realistically respond to that call at the global level.

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Spirituality

Rev. Larry Dowling, St. Agatha Parish, Archdiocese of Chicago

"A Spirituality for Living Anti-Racism"

In this session Fr. Dowling, a white pastor of an African American congregation, will engage discussion on how we need to deepen our conversations on race, racism and the ongoing ways that it saps the spirit of people of color as well as diminishing us all. The session will culminate in an Anti-racism Way of the Cross co-authored by Fr. Dowling.

5:30 PM

Dinner Provided

SXU Diner

8:00 PM

Social

Tuesday, July 19

Sponsor: Catholic Relief Services

7:30-8:45 AM Breakfast & Opening Prayer

SXU Diner

9:00-10:15 AM

Large Audience Presentation

Elisabeth Vasko, Duquesne University

“From Bystander to Allies: Seeking Authentic Relationships in Community”

How can a group of well-intentioned, and sometimes, socially aware individuals, repeatedly bypass opportunities for resisting violence? In part, this is a question about the dynamics of group behavior. Yet, it is also a question about the nature of Christian discipleship. Christians are called to confront all that denies human flourishing. Too often, Christians, especially those who occupy social sites of privilege, have been bystanders to violence. Drawing insights from Christian tradition and democratically-engaged pedagogies, this interactive session invites participants to engage the complexities of discipleship and community-engagement in contexts marked by social inequality. Particular attention will be given to the topic of white racism and white privilege.

10:30-11:45 AM

Main Session I

DeAngelo Bester, Worker Center for Racial Justice

“Structural Racialization and Implicit Bias”

This workshop will introduce participants to the concepts of structural racialization and implicit bias, how they shape and influence public policies, the impact on communities, and how we can address them.

12:00 PM

LUNCH & MASS

1:30-3:15 PM

Main Session II

C-ROAR (Chicago Regional Organizing Anti-Racism)

“How to Dismantle Institutional Racism in your Parish”

To create an inclusive and just society, institutions, including parishes, need to examine how they perpetuate racism and other forms of oppression. Trained Transformation Teams expose these oppressive structures and practices, develop and carry out a strategic organizing plan with the outcomes of building an anti-oppressive culture, creating policies and practices that promote racial equity, and equipping organizational stakeholders with tools and skills to sustain the organization’s commitment to racial justice. In this workshop you will learn about Crossroads model of creating internal antiracism Transformation Teams which are at work in institutions across the country.

3:30 PM

Free Time & Dinner on Your Own

Wednesday, July 20: CCHD Immersion Sites

Sponsor: Catholic Charities USA

7:30-8:45 AM	Breakfast
<i>SXU Diner</i>	
8:15 AM	Mass
<i>McDonough Chapel</i>	
9:00 AM	Buses Depart For AM Visits
<i>Lot 11 (Near Chapel)</i>	
10:00-11 AM	Arrive for 1st visit: 10AM - 11AM
11:00 AM	Buses Depart for Co-op Visits w/ Lunch
12:00 PM	Arrive for Coop Visit w/ Lunch: 12 - 1:30PM
1:30 PM	Buses Depart for PM Visits
2:00-3:00 PM	Arrive for 3rd Visit: 2-3:00PM
6:00 PM	Dinner and Regional Breakouts
<i>SXU Diner</i>	
8:00 PM	Social

CCHD TRACK 1:

AM Visit - Alliance of the South East

The Alliance of the Southeast is a multicultural, interfaith alliance consisting of churches, schools, businesses, and community organizations that prioritize grassroots participation to address the challenges facing southeast Chicago. They have been a leader with Community Benefits Agreements and through their “Development not Displacement” campaign, they have been working with a powerful developer to secure that any development in the Southeast side must benefit the community and bring more resources to it.

LUNCH - Centro de Trabajadores Unidos

Lunch will be provided by Centro de Trabajadores Unidos (CTU) by their Latina-owned catering worker cooperative. The Southeast Worker Cooperative is a long-lasting, broad, and reliable economic opportunity that will lead to a positive social and economic shift in the Southeast side of Chicago. CTU also organizes and supports a continual stream of workers to develop their own leadership potential, advocate for themselves and their community, and take action to address the injustices in the workplace.

PM Visit – IIRON

IIRON is a grassroots, not-for-profit organization devoted to social, economic, and racial justice and the creation of a more democratic society. IIRON’s purpose is to provide an organizing vehicle for ordinary people to create collective power, to have their voices heard, and get their interests met. This year, IIRON helped pass state legislation decreasing penalties for nonviolent drug offenses and kicked off a series of actions with coalition partners against state budget cuts to social services for low-income communities.

CCHD TRACK 2:

AM Visit - *STOP: Southside Together Organizing for Power*

Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP) has led a Mental Health Movement Program by mental health service consumers, to organize and preserve public mental health services, erase the stigma of mental illness, and build the movement for the human right to health care.

LUNCH - *Mujeres Unidas of St. Eulalia*

Lunch will be provided by *Mujeres Unidas*, a Latina-owned catering worker cooperative invested in providing healthier food options in the Maywood area. They are advancing their main goal of empowering low-income women through participatory learning and leadership development to help them create economic opportunities.

PM Visit - *Progress Center for Independent Living*

Progress Center for Independent Living (PCIL) is run by and for people with disabilities. It provides services to help members and others live independently, while focusing on securing more integrated, affordable housing. PCIL's mission is to change public policy and decision making in favor of accessible housing focused on educating legislators, helping leaders continue their leadership development, and recruiting more members.

CCHD TRACK 3:

AM Visit - *Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation*

Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation (PBMR) works toward creating a Community Restorative Justice Hub whose mission is healing those impacted by conflict, division, and violence. PBMR is a leader in training peace circle keeping to youth, probation officers, and police officers. They are currently working to create a Restorative Justice Court for juveniles.

LUNCH - *Las Luciernagas Cooperativa*

Lunch will be provided by *Las Luciernagas*, a Latina-owned catering worker cooperative aimed to tackle local economic and gender-based disparities by spurring alternative job creation and empowering women in the Little Village area.

PM Visit – *Enlace Chicago/Imago Dei*

Enlace Chicago is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of the residents of Little Village Community, also known as the "Mexican Capital of the Midwest," by fostering a physically safe and healthy environment in which to live and by championing opportunities for educational advancement and economic development. Enlace has also supported numerous violence prevention efforts throughout the community, such as Imago Dei from St. Agnes of Bohemia. Imago Dei works with at-risk youth who are invested in creating murals with positive and faith-filled imagery as a means of proclaiming restorative justice and peace.

Thursday, July 21

Sponsor: JustFaith Ministries

7:30-8:45 AM Breakfast & Opening Prayer

9:00-10:15 AM **Large Audience Presentation**

Mary Gonzalez, Gamaliel

“A Church that is Bruised: A Radical Commitment to Addressing Injustice”

This morning keynote will provide a foundational framework around Pope Francis’s prophetic vision for, “A church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets,” by addressing the obstacles that prevent Catholics from deeply engaging in injustices in their parishes and surrounding communities and how community organizing can provide a path to revitalizing our individual and communal commitment to addressing such injustices, including racial injustice.

10:15-10:30 AM Break

SESSION A:

10:30-11:45 AM **Diocesan Skill Building**

Susan Sullivan, Dept. Justice, Peace & Human Development

“Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship”

Every four years the U.S. bishops issue a major statement on political responsibility. Last November, they overwhelmingly adopted “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility.” The statement is a framework for political engagement for Catholics in the U.S. Although it has relevance for the national election, and needs to be used with care to foster dialogue on the issues and to encourage Catholics to vote, it has relevance every year for the engagement of Catholics in the public square. Find out what the document does and does not include, do’s and don’ts for the election season and more.

Conference Theme Session

Aaron Chassy, Catholic Relief Services

“Conflict Resolution & Peace Building”

This session will explore CRS’ and its partners’ justice and peacebuilding work overseas as well as our initial efforts to apply these approaches and tools to violence in inner city Baltimore. Examples from ongoing interreligious peacebuilding will be shared by CRS staff from Africa and Asia as well as similar

efforts, working with Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development, to address systemic injustice and violence here in the U.S.

Parish Skill Building

Greg Galluzo, Gamaliel

“Faith Based Organizing: A Strategy for Ministry”

Much has been written about the struggles facing religious institutions. At its heart, a congregation is a community. But, there are many new challenges facing our society, and, impacting our parishes. This workshop will further explore what challenges face parishes today and how the tools and attitudes of faith based community organizing can address those challenges.

12:00 PM

SXU Diner

LUNCH

SESSION B:

1:30-2:45 PM

Diocesan Skill Building

Rev. Chuck Dahm, St. Pius V & H.O.P.E, Archdiocese of Chicago

“Extending God’s Mercy to Hidden Neighbors: Victims of Domestic Violence”

Even though studies document that domestic violence is rampant in the United States, few Catholics hear sermons about it or see their parishes, or even dioceses, develop a ministry to victims of domestic violence. This session will highlight how an anti-domestic violence ministry was developed in Chicago, that exists in more than 65 parishes, and how parishioners can learn to replicate this model in their home dioceses to bring God’s mercy to so many suffering abuse in silence and in secret in their own homes.

Conference Theme Session

Tom Dobbins, Archdiocese of New York

“Encountering Other Believers through Shared Works of Mercy”

In the years since 9/11 – while the world has witnessed growing insecurity and unrest – many have reclaimed the potential of religious teaching to promote peace and mutual understanding among diverse cultures and traditions. But at a time when many are seemingly more preoccupied with building walls as opposed to bridges, how does one engage other believers in constructive ways that underscore common practices and shared values as common ground for dialogue? Participants will hear about the Catholic-Muslim Joint Social Services Project: a pioneering, large scale and sustained collaboration among Catholic

Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, Catholic and Muslim social services organizations, and Catholic and Muslim congregations in New York City. With a goal of bringing together social service providers of each faith to address commonly shared concerns, the program sought to bridge the gap between “education” and “action”, bringing people into dialogue about their shared religious commitment to justice, and translating that commitment into action to assist their neighbors in need. The workshop will offer “how to” guidance for anyone interested in replicating interfaith joint action, along with discussion of opportunities for parishes to engage in interfaith cooperation with other congregations in constructive ways.

Parish Skill Building

Laurene Heybach & Patricia Nix-Hodes, Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

“Understanding and Ending Homelessness”

This session will focus on understanding homelessness in its many dimensions: families, youth and those on the street. Those who experience homelessness are often regarded our “unseen” neighbors. This session will highlight long and short term strategies to produce housing, protect basic rights and reduce criminalization of homeless persons.

2:45-3:00 PM

Break

SESSION C:

3:15-4:30 PM

Diocesan Skill Building

Michael Nicolás Okinczyc, VOICE Buffalo & NOAH

“Bringing a Pastoral Letter to Life: Moving from Theology to Action”

An examination will be presented of how faith leaders in Buffalo and Niagara Falls through Gamaliel of Western New York (WNY) worked to support a pastoral letter written jointly by the Catholic and Episcopal Bishops in WNY by organizing major campaigns to address workforce diversity and criminal justice issues in the region. The conversation will then move to an examination of the local context and what theological resources are available for organizing around Chicago's most pressing social issues.

Conference Theme Session

Mary Wright, JustFaith Ministries

“Dialogue and Other Critical Tools for Discipleship”

"More prayer and more dialogue are necessary. The world suffocates without dialogue." - Pope Francis

In The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis speaks about the challenges of today's world, and states that dialogue is in itself an ethical commitment which brings about a new social situation. This session will engage participants in a brief exploration of dialogue and discipleship and in a discussion of some tools needed both to be transformed and to go forth to transform our social situation.

Parish Skill Building

Rev. Tom Boharic, St. Agnes of Bohemia, Archdiocese of Chicago

"Imago Dei: Finding God's Image Amidst Street Violence"

In this session, Fr. Thomas Boharic will describe his outreach to the street violence in his parish in the Little Village community, also called Mexico of the Midwest. He will highlight our call to realize Jesus' peace in the world which comes forth from a personal relationship with Christ as his disciples. The Church's identity as the Mystical Body of Christ prolongs Christ's own model of being an outreach worker and an interrupter of the violence in his time.

5:00 PM

McDonough Chapel

Closing Mass

Bishop Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of VIC VI, Archdiocese of Chicago

6:30 PM

Dinner

7:30 PM

Closing Keynote

Bishop Braxton, Diocese of Belleville

"The Catholic Church and the Black Lives Matter Movement: The Racial Divide in the United States Revisited"

Bishop Braxton has noted that his Pastoral Letter, "The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace, 2015," was written before the Black Lives Matter Movement attained the high visibility and considerable influence it has today. Yet, in anticipation to his SASI Keynote, he encourages audience members to first read the Pastoral Letter so that his presentation can help attendees "...ponder how the new awareness of the racial divide urges Christians to break their silence and discuss these matters."

8:30 PM

Social