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CATHOLIC CHARITIES Connections

SUPPLEMENT TO ARKANSAS CATHOLIC • CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS • 2415 N. TYLER ST. • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72207 • JUNE 15, 2013

AT A GLANCE

Catholic Charities of Arkansas serves

■ **Adoption Services:** Birth parent services, adoptive family services and search and reunion

■ **Immigration in Northwest Arkansas:** Family-based legal assistance, domestic violence and crime victims services, refugee resettlement, employer trainings, education and advocacy

■ **Immigration in Little Rock:** Family-based legal assistance, domestic violence and crime victims services, supporting survivors, legal assistance for foreign national priests, legal assistance with applications for DACA, education and advocacy

■ **Parish social ministries:** Parish-based ministry development, disaster recovery parish-based teams, emergency assistance

■ **Social Action:** Prison ministry, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, legislative advocacy, alcohol and drug, Catholic Charities Summer Institute

■ **Westside Free Medical Clinic:** Medical and dermatology clinics for noninsured adults, outreach and community education

■ **Development:** Grants management, Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic, Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl and St. Nicholas Partners

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Catholic Charities of Arkansas
 2415 N. Tyler St.
 Little Rock, AR 72207
 (501) 664-0340
 www.dolr.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES' MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Catholic Charities of Arkansas of the Diocese of Little Rock is rooted in the challenge of the Gospel: To serve persons who are poor or marginalized; to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable; and to actively promote charity, justice, and the sanctity of life in the Church and the community.

Refugee boom gets aid in Clarksville

Catholic Charities resettles refugees from Myanmar

CLARKSVILLE — More than 300 refugees from Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, are now living in Clarksville.

They receive English as a Second Language training, immigration assistance and other services from the Catholic Charities refugee program, based in Springdale.

The sudden Myanmar population boom started more than two years ago when management at the Tyson chicken rendering plant in Clarksville hired a Myanmar recruiter to help address problems with turnover and chronic absenteeism. The recruiter has been traveling to various U.S. cities with large populations of Karen refugees, offering them employment in Clarksville. Most of the recruits work as deboners.

According to Rebecca Bryant, who runs the refugee program, "The Burmese are considered highly desirable factory workers because they are nimble and have a good work ethic."

The Clarksville population consists almost entirely of Karen people, an ethnic minority in Myanmar. For centuries, they lived in small villages in the jungle of eastern Myanmar until persecu-



The Karen refugee community in Clarksville celebrates the Lunar New Year Jan. 25. The Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Office provides English as a Second Language classes and other services to the refugees.

tion from the country's military dictatorship became a crisis. Starting in the 1980s, many fled for their lives to Thailand, and nine refugee camps were established along the

Thailand-Myanmar border.

The U.N. High Commission on Refugees finally started a permanent resettlement program in 2005. Tens of thousands have come to

the United States since then.

"I have many clients who were born or grew up in the refugee

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Every parish in Arkansas is a Catholic charity

It may seem obvious, but every parish is a Catholic charity.

Parishes pull the heavy loads, doing the hands-on charity work in their communities. This is where Pope Francis directs our efforts as individuals and as a Church. Charitable community outreach will undoubtedly play a key role in this year's push for evangelization.

I never cease to be amazed at the open goodness in the hearts of people. That is not to say that there is not plenty of other stuff there as well. Sometimes we need to be reminded to show the charity. That is why we have our priests and our



From the Director
 Patrick Gallaher

bishop: to teach and lead us to the Gospel vision of charity. But frankly, it does not take much; I see the goodness every day.

Recently I gave an after-supper talk to a group of successful, professional Catholics who had traveled to Arkansas from all parts of the country for a weekend of friendly socializing. To digress for a moment: this was a Catholic singles group, each of the members hopeful of finding someone as their life's complement.

It occurs to me the singles ministry is not one having high visibility and it has subtle challenges. We should be more aware of it and

supportive. But back to my original point: I gave my talk and expected a small honorarium from the organization for the entertainment value of the speech.

It was surprising to see that each person there made an individual contribution for the express purpose to reach those in need in our state. This generous charity came from the kindness of strangers having no stake in our Church in Arkansas, which says a great deal about the goodness in the hearts of individuals.

I heard on the news the other night that since 1953, Arkansas ranks ninth on the list of states in the number of presidential disaster declarations. This frequency might be one reason why we Arkansas Catholics are so generous

in answering the call to help others when a natural catastrophe strikes. Historically, our charitable response to disasters is breathtaking. Recently, after Hurricane Sandy came ashore, as a diocese we were exceptionally giving of our treasure to help those in the storm's path recover. And in answer to the Moore, Okla., tornado, not only was there extraordinary financial generosity, but there was a groundswell of interest among many to travel to Moore to help our neighbors. This selflessness among Arkansas Catholics is astonishing, positive and distinguishing.

Charity from Arkansas Catholics does not wait for catastrophe. Generous community outreach

See **Every parish** page 10

Prison ministry not just inside prison cells and walls

By Tom Navin

When most people think of prison ministry, they envision confrontation with dangerous people or sitting with a condemned murderer for his last meal.

However, it is very unlikely that anyone in prison ministry will ever encounter situations like this.

Prison ministry involves a lot of aspects and some don't even involve going inside the prison or jail.

All you really need to be active in prison ministry is a sincere desire to use your gifts and talents to serve our Lord as we are reminded in Matthew chapter 25.

You might consider being a pen pal to one or more inmates. Inmates are very lonely people. All of their so-called friends are gone from their life and some are even forgotten about by family members. They feel forgotten; however, God has neither left them nor forsaken them, and neither should we. Corresponding with an inmate can serve as



Patricia May / Arkansas Catholic file

Father John Antony baptizes Vicky Anglin Aug. 12, 2010, during Mass at the Northwest Arkansas Community Corrections Center. Anglin and Tessa Plum were baptized, confirmed and received the Eucharist.

an important reminder that God cares.

An important part of prison ministry is reaching out to the families of the incarcerated. They

are experiencing a big loss. Dad, Mom, brother or sister drops out of the family picture if they are sent to jail. The spouse and children left behind have trouble ad-

All of their so-called friends are gone from their life, and some are even forgotten about by family members.

justing and perhaps even have financial problems.

Reaching out to these families is very important. But remember you have to reach out; they will not come to you. There is usually shame and embarrassment involved. You can play an important role in showing support for the family, reminding them that the situation is not their fault, and they still have a lot of opportunities. Like the prisoner, their friends sometimes disappear and create a lonely atmosphere in the family.

Another aspect of ministering to the family involves transportation to visit a parent or spouse in prison. In Arkansas, our 16 prisons are located in rural areas some distance from population centers. Does your parish have a bus or van that could go to one of the prisons on Saturdays taking families with no transportation to

visit loved ones?

Think about the wonderful opportunity here to reach out and help families. What if you had a family member in prison 65 miles from your home and no transportation? You would be grateful for the ride and the caring.

The key to a ministry to the families of inmates is compassion. The parishioners involved must reflect the attitude of the parish and the leadership of the church. If you don't have compassion for these people, it will show.

If you or your parish has a heart for people who are hurting, this ministry can be very rewarding to the family, the inmate and you.

For more information, call (501) 664-0340 or e-mail tnavin@dolr.org.

Tom Navin is the director of social action and prison ministry.

Seeking a balance between openness and confidentiality in adoptions

By Antje Harris

Director, Catholic Adoption Services

I wish I could write about the amazing real-life stories we have been involved with this past year at Catholic Adoption Services. You would be deeply moved by the love and sacrifice of the birth families and inspired by the open hearts of the adoptive families. You would be blessed to know about the babies with whom we are privileged to work. That is not possible as adoptions are confidential according to Arkansas law, and we work very hard to protect privacy for all of our clients throughout the process.

You probably have no idea how many lives are touched by adoption in your parish, school, neighborhood or even your own family. We have placed children with wonderful adoptive parents where the birth parents chose to be totally confidential.

In the "old days," adoptions were much more of a secret than they are today. Young women and girls might stay with a relative or at a maternity home to hide their pregnancies.

More women today are willing to share with family and friends about their courage and love in making a plan for the adoption of their child. They have helped to select the adoptive family and have usually met the new parents-to-be. Many things are taken into careful consideration; for exam-



ple, the family's faith, their values and beliefs, health, education, occupation, home life, child-rearing plans, hobbies, interests and even their pets are a part of the process.

The pre-adoptive family has gone through an exhaustive home study before they create a personal profile that will be shown to prospective birth parents. These profiles show a lot about what the family is like and what they have to offer the child. This helps the birth parents consider if they want to meet the family before they make their decision about placement.

That first meeting can be intense and emotional for both parties. The profile can help take out some of the stress and be used as a discussion aid as they all get to know each other. The agency generally provides the office location and a meal as everyone shares information while still protecting confidentiality on both sides.

Some birth moms feel very close to the new parents and want a lot of openness. We have even had adoptive mothers in the labor and delivery room who have been

able to cut the cord. Once the child is born and the birth parents sign the consent-to-adoption, they still have either five or 10 days to be sure this is the right plan. No one at Adoption Services puts any pressure on them as only the birth parent can make this difficult decision. We write up all the important medical and social history information necessary for the new parents to make an informed consent-to-adopt and to take the best care of the child. The adoptive parents sign an agreement regarding the sharing of photos and keeping in touch with the birth family through our agency.

It may be possible to totally open an adoption, but that is done by mutual voluntary consent and generally when the adoptee is 18 years old. There may be good reasons to carefully open the placement before then on a case-by-case basis.

We also are very aware now in the internet and social media age that it may not always be possible for an adoption to remain completely confidential. Birth families want to support the integrity of the new family and want what is in the best interests of their child.

We do want you to know that through your support we are able to provide caring and professional adoption services here in the diocese, even though you might not know the names of those whom you and we have helped.

Refugees

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camps," Bryant said. "The rest arrived in the camps as teenagers or adults."

ESL classes are offered in the camps, but the majority of refugees arrive in America unable to speak English. Bryant teaches beginner and intermediate classes in Clarksville. In addition, the refugee program helps with permanent resident and citizenship applications, medical issues and cultural orientation.

"The Burmese are considered highly desirable factory workers because they are nimble and have a good work ethic."

Rebecca Bryant, Catholic Charities refugee program

Every parish

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takes place every day throughout the diocese. Led by our priests, deacons and lay leaders, parishes offer care for those in their neighborhoods in many differing ways depending on the resources and capabilities of the parish and the needs of the communities.

A few examples include a daily feeding program at St. Edward Church in Texarkana, ESL classes, a food pantry and a clothing closet through Centro San Martin at Holy Redeemer in El Dorado, utility assistance and budgeting advice to young families at St. Andrew Church in Yellville and extraordi-



nary contributions to Catholic Relief Services at Holy Spirit Church in Hamburg.

Parishes help individuals. Some parishes collaborate with other groups in their communities, magnifying their capabilities to reach more in need. Some parishes even help other Catholic parishes. The community outreach by each parish in the diocese is a Catholic charity. We should capitalize on this surprising tendency that seems so natural to us as Arkansas Catholics and make it an important part of our efforts to evangelize.

Commit to help the Catholic charity in your parish and evangelize by your example to work for the common good.

Lobby your delegation to support immigration reform

Comprehensive immigration reform is presently on the agenda of both houses in the federal legislature.

Senate Bill 744 has passed out of committee with bipartisan support and is in the process of being considered by the full Senate. Alternative bills are under consideration in the House of Representatives.

There are a large number of issues involved in this legislation, which is fairly complicated. Senate Bill 744, nearly 900 pages in length, generally meets the criteria for immigration reform supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The bishops have based their position on the Scriptures and Catholic social teaching. The USCCB has published guidelines for comprehensive immigration reform supporting the following principles:

■ **Earned legalization:** An earned legalization program that would allow foreign nationals of good moral character living in the United States to apply to adjust their status to obtain lawful permanent residence.

■ **Future worker program:** A worker program permitting foreign-born workers to enter the country safely and legally with a goal to reduce illegal immigration and loss of life in the American desert.

■ **Family-based immigration reform:** Changes in the present system to increase the number of family visas available and to reduce family reunification waiting times.

■ **Restoration of due pro-**



CNS / Larry Downing, Reuters

Claudio Masche rallies for comprehensive immigration reform April 10 near the U.S. Capitol in Washington. Thousands of demonstrators gathered to urge lawmakers to support a path to citizenship.

cess rights: Restore the due process rights taken away by the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act.

■ **Addressing the root causes:** Recognize that the antidote to illegal immigration is sustainable economic development in the countries from which people emigrate.

■ **Enforcement:** Any enforcement measures must be targeted,

proportional and humane. The focus of enforcement should be upon those who threaten public safety: drug and human traffickers, smugglers and terrorists.

Bishop Anthony B. Taylor and Catholic Charities of Arkansas, in conjunction with the USCCB agencies charged with immigration issues, have petitioned the Arkansas congressional delegation to support immigration reform to mixed

results. All Catholic citizens in the state have a stake in the outcome and the common good of Arkansas will be advanced by immigration reform that meets the USCCB criteria.

In this regard, all Catholic voters should make their positions on the issue known to their elected representatives. Contact elected representatives through the House and Senate websites or through

ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Sen. Mark Pryor
Sen. John Boozman
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Rick Crawford
Rep. Tim Griffin
Rep. Steve Womack
Rep. Tom Cotton
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

the Justice for Immigrants website at <http://www.capwiz.com/justiceforimmigrants/issues/alert/?alertid=14503781&type=CO>.

One effective method of voicing an opinion is a handwritten letter. It is easy for the congressional staff members to discount the content of e-mail messages, phone calls and pre-printed postcards. It is another thing to discount the personal appeal of a constituent in handwriting.

Let your representative know you are a concerned constituent and that you agree with the U.S. Catholic bishops that the immigration system is broken and in need of repair. Ask your representatives to support immigration reform legislation that keeps immigrant families together, adopts smart and humane enforcement policies and ensures that immigrants without legal status register with the government and begin a path toward citizenship.

BRIEFS

RICE BOWL

Approximately 70 parishes and schools in Arkansas participated in Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl this year. More than \$25,000 has been collected so far, and more is expected to come in during the next few weeks.

Seventy-five percent of the donation will go to CRS to support vital projects. Twenty-five percent of the collection will remain in the diocese. Donations go into the Catholic Charities' Poor Fund.

Catholic Relief Services acts as our hearts and hands in action in more than 100 countries worldwide.

REGIONAL TRAINING

Parish Social Ministry Regional Training will be held Oct. 18-19 in Memphis. During the weekend conference, participants can learn more about the Catholic social mission and discover effective strategies to respond to need and injustice in the parish. Rebecca Cargile, director of parish social ministry and development, is part of the planning committee.

The training is open to parishioners, catechists, youth minis-

Graduating volunteers



Graduating fourth-year medical student volunteers for Westside Free Medical Clinic celebrated May 9 with a reception at the home of clinic director Karen DiPippa. In this photo are Lauren August Clark (left), Aaron Strobel, Dr. Jeff Carfagno, DiPippa, third-year student Jenny Mehl, Amy Lee, Steve McKee, Katee Castleman and Cary Cameron. Strobel and McKee were honored as the outstanding volunteers.

ters, social ministry volunteers, and diocesan leaders. Speakers and workshop presenters include Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, and Rachel Lustig, senior vice president

of mission and ministry for Catholic Charities USA.

Registration information will be available soon. For more information, call Cargile at (501) 664-0340 ext. 355.

ROCKEFELLER GRANT

The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation gave Catholic Charities Immigration Services in Springdale a \$150,000 grant to assist families with the citizenship process and provide referrals for workplace readiness training, English as a Second Language courses and other services.

More than 25,000 Arkansas immigrant families have received help navigating the citizenship process from CCIS.

"CCIS is the state's leading non-profit providing naturalization and workforce development services to immigrants," said Dr. Sherece Y. West-Scantlebury, president and CEO of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. "CCIS is a valued resource to Arkansas' immigrant families because they assist and advocate for immigrants to attain family unity, economic independence and social integration."

Arkansas' immigrant population is rapidly increasing, according to the foundation's report "A Profile of Immigrants in Arkansas 2013." The state had the fourth-fastest-growing immigrant population nationwide between 2000 and 2010, with the foreign-born popu-

lation increasing by 82 percent.

"The rapid growth of the immigrant population in Arkansas has increased the demand for our programs and services," said Frank Head, director of CCIS. "We seek to bring these families together in Arkansas so they can provide even greater contributions to the state's communities and economy."

GOLF CLASSIC

The 19th Annual Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic will be held at Maumelle Country Club Monday, Sept. 16, with tee times at 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, and snacks and beverages will be available throughout the day. Player registration brochures will be mailed in July and also will be available at www.dolr.org. The Golf Classic is the main fundraiser that supports all Catholic Charities programs. Information on sponsorship opportunities can be found at www.dolr.org/offices/catholiccharities/golffpage.php. To become a sponsor, download the form or contact Rebecca Cargile at (501) 664-0340, ext. 355 or Patrick Gallaheer at ext. 352.