BUZZ REPORT

OFFICE OF SPIRITUALITY AND FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

APRIL 2020

FROM THE DESK OF SR. KATHY....

Dear Friends:

Please know that I remembered you in prayer during these times of challenge and hardship this Easter of 2020. I believe we will never forget this pandemic. What I do find hopeful, though, are the post-Easter readings that the Church gives us. I hope you take the opportunity to pray the readings of the liturgical day.

Jesus has triumphed over evil by rising from the dead, and he calls each of us into a deeper relationship with him. As he appeared to the women, to the apostles and to Thomas, so, too, he appears to us daily. We just need to take the time to recognize him. Time seems to be the greatest gift we have presently. I do hope each of you are able to pray more and do some spiritual readings to sustain you and reassure you that God is always with us.

In this April issue of Buzz, we see how important it is to have such a wonderful leader of our Church. The Pope's Easter message was entitled "The Contagion of Hope." The entire message can be read at: https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/pope-easter-urbi-et-orbi-blessing.html

Nationally, four bishops urge the FDA to develop an ethical vaccine for COVID-19. Four bishop chairmen of committees for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have urged Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to ensure that vaccines for the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) are developed ethically and are free from any connection to the exploitation of abortion. Read more at: http://www.usccb.org/news/2020/20-62.cfm

Locally, please be aware of the ministry of Catholic Charities, as they try to meet the needs of the most vulnerable with produce and food. Many people are suffering and wondering how to meet the needs of their families, especially single women with children.

May the Lord grant you peace and hope during these tragic times.
Sister Kathy Adamski, Associate Director

GLOBAL

POPE'S EASTER URBI ET ORBI (MESSAGE TO THE CITY OF ROME AND THE WORLD) "THE

CONTAGION OF HOPE"

During times of crisis, we look to leaders in government, healthcare and most especially as people of faith, we look to our Holy Father for guidance and hope. The Pope's Easter message was one of hope and challenge. As we prepare to re-enter the world vastly different, I pray the Pontiff's message will bring consolation at this time.

Pope Francis' 'Urbi et Orbi message on Easter Sunday challenges us to ban indifference, self-centeredness, division and forgetfulness during this time of Covid-19 – and to spread the "contagion" of hope. His Easter proclamation was continually repeated: "Christ, my hope is risen!"

Christ's resurrection is not a "magic formula that makes problems vanish", he continued, "it is the victory of love over the root of evil". This victory "does not 'by-pass' suffering and death, but passes through them, opening a path in the abyss, transforming evil into good", he added. Pope Francis stated that now is a time of solidarity with all nations of the world, especially those most affected by the virus. He also shared that "we all need to recognize ourselves as part of a single family and support one another."

Let us remember that Christ dispels the darkness of fear and loss of control and let us pray with Our Holy Father: "May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of His glorious day. A day that knows no end". (Vatican News)

Read the full message here:

https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/pope-easter-urbi-et-orbi-blessing.html

Photo from Vatican News Agency

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY IS TUESDAY, APRIL 21

We remember all victims of intolerance and injustice
who have been victims of genocide.

Photo courtesy of timesofisrael.com

EARTH DAY APRIL 22

April 22 will be the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. May we always remember Mother Earth, pray for Mother Earth and think of ways to curb the destruction of Mother Earth. The health of our communities is inextricably linked tied to the health of our planet.

Meditate on the Canticle of Creation by St. Francis

Creation - Featuring the Canticle of Creation by St Francis of Assisi

NATIONAL

USCCB RESPONDS TO CORONAVIRUS

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has issued the following regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19):

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity; that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.

We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

(www.usccb.org)

Photo credit Brittanica.com

LOCAL

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION IN WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY

April 29 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

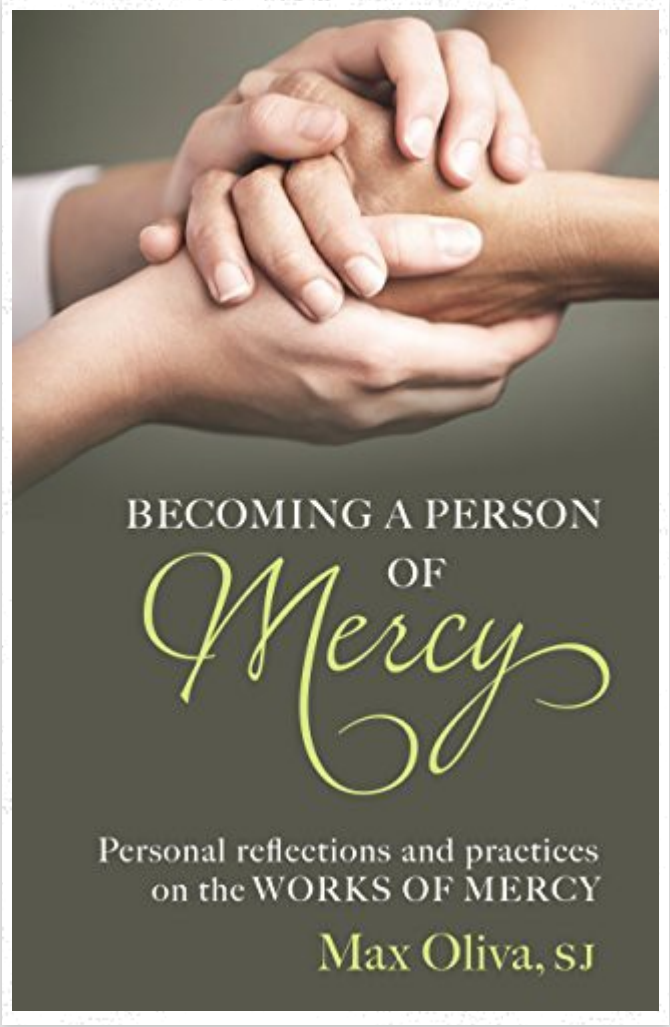
Catholic Charities Pee Dee Office is hosting a free produce distribution in Williamsburg County. The distribution will be held at Williamsburg County Rec, 2084 Thurgood Marshall Hwy, Kingstree, SC 29556.

To learn more or volunteer, contact the Pee Dee Office at 843.438.3108.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

BECOMING A PERSON OF MERCY, MAX OLIVA, SJ

Fr. Max Oliva shares stories and insights from decades of ministry around the globe with people whose lives are enriched by giving and accepting ...



FACTOID

If there's one universal truth about organizational management, it's this: an organization is only as good as its staff.

- 38% of people increased their Bible readership last year by downloading a Bible app or by listening to religious podcasts and streaming services
- 96% of pastors use a computer at church
- Pope Francis has 9.5 million followers on Twitter (One Call Now)

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ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON

OFFICE OF SPIRITUALITY AND FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

901 Orange Grove Road, Charl...

843.261.0498

kadamski@charlestondiocese...

charlestondiocese.org/formati...