



Good News

July/August 2016

Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri

2016 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

In March 2015, Pope Francis declared that 2016 would be the Year of Mercy. With this declaration, he reminded Catholics around the world of the importance of mercy in the Church.

"Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life," he said. "The Church's very credibility—and I dare say—the credibility of her priests—is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love."

In celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Missouri Catholic Conference will focus its Annual Assembly on the meaning of mercy and our encounters with it in daily life and in the public policy arena. Join us to for nine engaging workshops, with topics ranging from the challenges of being a Catholic voter during the 2016 election to the hardships faced by refugees as they make a new home here in Missouri.

The keynote address will be given by the newly installed Bishop Edward Rice of the Diocese of Springfield/Cape Girardeau. It has been said that Bishop Rice's balance of holiness and humor combine to make him both a great priest and powerful speaker. During a recent ordination of a Springfield priest, Bishop Rice encouraged him to embrace mercy.

"Preach Mercy—especially to those opposed to Mercy," Bishop Rice said. "Preach Mercy to those who seem to have no room for it. Preach Mercy to those who have grown cold and sterile. Preach Mercy, so that our eyes can be opened to see the misery of the world, and the wounds of our brothers and sisters."

Bishop Rice's address will echo Pope Francis' call for recognition and celebration of mercy's importance in the Catholic faith, and reflect on his



own use of mercy in his priesthood.

The MCC strongly recommends that you preregister for the Assembly so we can plan for the day's events, including the free lunch you will receive. You can preregister by completing and mailing the registration form found in this Good News, or by calling us at 1-800-456-1679 or visiting our website at mocatholic.org.

Don't miss this year's assembly! We are confident you will find the keynote address and workshop presentations both challenging and informative. And, as in past years, our assembly will close with an inspiring Mass concelebrated by the bishops of Missouri. See you on October 8!

Workshop Descriptions

Mercy Meets the Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), signed into law on March 23, 2010, was intended to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, reduce costs of health care and lower the rate of uninsured citizens. After six years in existence, this panel of experts will look at the ACA from various perspectives and discuss what it means for you and the future of your healthcare. **Presenters:** *Ted Ruzicka, President, St. Louis Association of Health Underwriters; Brian Colby, Director of Policy and Outreach, Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance; David Watson, President, D.A. Watson & Company, St. Louis; others TBA*

Mercy Meets the Catholic Legislator

You have been elected to serve in the Missouri General Assembly. You are Catholic, sworn to uphold the constitution, and represent thousands of citizens back home. How do you bring your values to bear in making policy decisions on the issues that come before you in the political culture of Jefferson City? Hear from someone who has served in the State Capitol in a variety of roles and knows the challenges faced by Catholic legislators. **Presenter:** *Shawn Furey, Former Chief of Staff for Senator Eric Schmitt; Member, Missouri Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee, Kansas City*

Mercy Meets Compassion at the End of Life

As Catholics we believe life is a gift from God; therefore every stage of life is precious and needs to be affirmed. True compassion calls us to embrace those who are dying—not provide them the means to end their lives. This session will discuss ethical issues associated with assisted suicide, and an overview of current “death with dignity” laws and their impact on the elderly, disabled and the state of health care. **Presenter:** *Dr. Nicole Allcock, Director of Pharmacy at Southeast Hospital in Cape Girardeau*

Mercy Meets a Culture of Violence

America has experienced a string of violent attacks in recent years. Is there a common thread that links Dallas, Orlando, Newtown, San Bernardino, Aurora and others? As Catholics, how do we respond to the violence that appears to be permeating our culture? The presenters in this workshop will provide insights on why we cannot ignore the moral and human costs of so much violence in our midst, and examine what we can do individually and collectively to build communities of greater peace. **Presenters:** *Greg White, Sheriff of Cole County Missouri and Jim Kemna, retired, prison ministry volunteer, Jefferson City*

Mercy Meets the 2016 Election and Beyond

Should I vote Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or none of the above? American Catholics face tough choices in a 2016 election, but citizenship is about more than voting. What happens after the election? Can political opponents put aside their differences and act as American patriots? Find out how parties emerged with Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton and whether modern political parties can serve the common good. **Presenter:** *Mike Hoey, Executive Director, Missouri Catholic Conference, Jefferson City*

Mercy Meets the Millennial

Pope Francis’ historic 2015 visit to the Joint Session of the US Congress and the Jubilee Year of Mercy have providentially coincided with one of the most politically charged moments in our nation’s history. What will have changed for society and the Church when this election cycle and, more importantly, this grace-filled year of mercy have concluded? What tasks will remain for the Church, particularly for the young adult members in the body of Christ? This presentation will address the most pressing political issues for the millennial generation and will analyze the shaping of the social and political landscape by Catholic young adults fortified with an authentic vision of hope, joy, suffering and mercy. **Presenter:** *Nick Lee, Director of Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of St. Louis*

Mercy Meets the Poor and Marginalized

The Catholic Church has a long tradition of reaching out to assist the poor and marginalized through a variety of ministries and programs. As part of its mission and identity, St. Louis University has developed several innovative programs, such as the Billiken Teacher Corps, the Health Resource Center and their prison programs, to assist the less fortunate in the St. Louis area. Come learn about young college students who are following Jesus’ call to bring good news to the poor and oppressed. **Presenter:** *Fr. Christopher Collins S. J., Assistant to the President for Mission and Identity, St. Louis University, St. Louis*

Mercy Meets the Refugee

There are approximately 19.5 million refugees in the world today, and half of them are children. Though less than 1 percent of the refugee population is resettled in other countries, including the United States, some are resettled in Missouri. The Catholic Church is taking a lead role in their adjustment to their new homeland. Come learn about our refugee brothers and sisters in Missouri and how we can work together to shower them with our King’s mercy. **Presenters:** *Alissa Shoemaker and Nicole Reimer, Job Developers, Office of Refugee and Immigration Services, Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, Columbia*

Mercy Meets the “Unemployable”

The Advanced Skill Workforce Centers (ASWC) in St. Louis work with some of the roughest men in the area: former gang members, men with criminal records, and others who are struggling to find the right path. These men are often written off by potential employers—deemed as unreliable, even unemployable. But after completing the rigorous ASWC program, they are able to transform into dedicated and skilled full-time trade workers and model citizens. Hear from ASWC program leaders and graduates about how these kinds of programs are helping to battle unemployment, violence, and poverty. **Presenters:** *Steve Wayland, Painters DC #58 Director of Business Development and Gregg Smith, Painters DC #58 Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer, St. Louis*

Keynote Speaker



The newly-elected Bishop of the Springfield/Cape Girardeau diocese, Bishop Edward Rice, believes in using prayer and a pastoral approach to best reach the people of his diocese. Archbishop Robert J. Carlson calls him, "A pastor first, one who carries the joy of the resurrected Christ into his daily ministry." Since his ordination in 1987, Bishop Rice served the Archdiocese

of St. Louis in many roles: as a priest, teacher, and most recently an auxiliary bishop. He spends much of his time praying in the chapel, and another good portion of his days helping others, whether it be a young man on his journey of discernment or a homeless man on his journey to find his next meal. As he transitions to his new role in the Diocese of Springfield/Cape Girardeau, hear Bishop Rice tell of the importance of mercy in the lives of Catholics, and how he incorporates mercy into his priesthood.

Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. Registration (3rd floor state Capitol Rotunda)
- 10 a.m. Keynote Address, Bishop Edward Rice
- 11:15 a.m. Morning Workshops
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch (free) 2nd/3rd floors
- 1:15 p.m. Afternoon Workshops
- 2:30 p.m. Closing Session
- 3:15 p.m. Closing Mass, concelebrated by Missouri Bishops, St. Peter Church

Cut and mail the attached form to register for the 2016 Annual Assembly today!



Preregister to enter our basket giveaway!

One winner from each diocese will receive a prize basket from the MCC during the closing session. This year's basket includes a book on Mercy by Pope Francis and more! Must be present to win.

Registration Form

Three ways to register:

1. Register online at MOcatholic.org.
2. Call 1-800-456-1679
3. Mail this form to:
Missouri Catholic Conference, PO Box 1022,
Jefferson City, MO 65102

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

Parish & City: _____

Email: _____

- ☐ My child (children) will attend the youth activities.
Names & ages: (6th grade and up)

- ☐ My child (children) will attend child care.
Names & ages: (Ages 4-12)

Total # in family attending: _____

Total # preferring vegetarian meal: _____

- ☐ I am an individual with a disability & would like assistance
- ☐ I would like to join the Citizen Network
- ☐ I am interested in Theology on Tap

Please Rank Your Workshop Selections 1-4

To celebrate the 2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy, workshops will focus on the many ways mercy meets Catholics and non-Catholics throughout life and in the public policy arena.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ The Affordable Care Act | ___ The Catholic Legislator |
| ___ Compassion at the End of Life | ___ A Culture of Violence |
| ___ 2016 Election & Beyond | ___ The Millennial |
| ___ The Poor and Marginalized | ___ The Refugee |
| ___ The "Unemployable" | |

Bus Transportation (\$10/person, \$20/family)

St. Louis:

Cardinal Rigali Center ☐ North County ☐ Wentzville ☐

Kansas City: North KC ☐ Independence ☐

Springfield: Springfield ☐ Lebanon ☐

Add my name to a carpool list and call me if a carpool is available in my area. ☐

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Youth Schedule

****NEW SCHEDULE FOR 2016****

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Senate Chamber Mock Legislature

Join other youth from around Missouri in debating controversial bills that have been discussed in the Missouri General Assembly. Youth are asked to follow all rules and procedures that Missouri Representatives and Senators follow day-to-day in the Missouri General Assembly.

11:15 a.m. - Noon Legislative Scavenger Hunt

The State Capitol contains a wealth of history about Missouri and the legislative process. What a perfect place for a scavenger hunt! Don't miss this opportunity to have fun while learning about our state government. Prizes will be awarded.

12:15 p.m. Lunch (free)

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. - Capitol Tour

The Capitol covers three acres in downtown Jefferson City. Its dome rises 238 feet above ground level and is topped by a bronze statue of Ceres, the Roman goddess of vegetation. In addition to housing the two legislative bodies, the building provides office space for the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, state auditor and administrative agencies. It holds the Missouri State Museum, which features exhibits of historical significance. Join the tour to learn more about your State Capitol!

Child Care (Ages 4-12)

Child care, along with activities, will be available during the Annual Assembly. If your child requires a nap, please bring a mat for him/her to sleep on. If your child is not potty trained, please provide diaper products. Please enroll your child(ren) on the registration form by September 23.

Theology on Tap

Join other young adults and MCC staff for post-assembly discussion of issues and food and drink at Prison Brews, a local microbrewery.

