

Justice, Peace and Life

December 2022

“Consumerism is a virus that tarnishes faith at its root, because it makes you believe that life depends solely on what you have, and so you forget God who approaches you and who is beside you. ... [T]oday it is our task to watch, to keep watch: to overcome the temptation of thinking that life means accumulating... the meaning of life is not to accumulate, it is up to us to unmask the deception that we are happy when we have many things, to resist the dazzling lights of consumerism, which shine everywhere this month, and to believe that prayer and charity are not time wasted but rather the greatest of treasures.” –Pope Francis

Shop Like a Christian



During these Advent days, we're called to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Gift buying isn't our main focus, but it is one part of this season for many of us. Instead of getting caught in BUY-BUY-BUY consumerism, let's take the opportunity to buy less, love more.

We can buy fewer things while also making purchasing itself **an act of love**, by using our money to advance the Common Good and help our neighbors. Let's be intentional about how we shop instead of simply ignoring the workers who make and sell the things we buy, and our purchases' impact on the environment.

Put Your Money Where Your Values Are

Our Diocesan Catholic Relief Services chapter has teamed up with SERRV, a not-for-profit organization that sells handmade, Fair Trade goods created by artisans from the poor countries around the world. Your purchases help to provide livelihoods and dignity for them.

Access SERRV online through our special CRS web page. **Be sure to use this site:** serrv.org?a=CRSRChap

20% of your purchase price will be donated to CRS! Take a look at the household items, linens, jewelry, clothing, and other beautiful items SERRV has to offer (including those pictured on this page).



You Have Power:

Do Something Good with it

Other ways to use your **spending power** to build up the reign of God that Jesus came to establish:

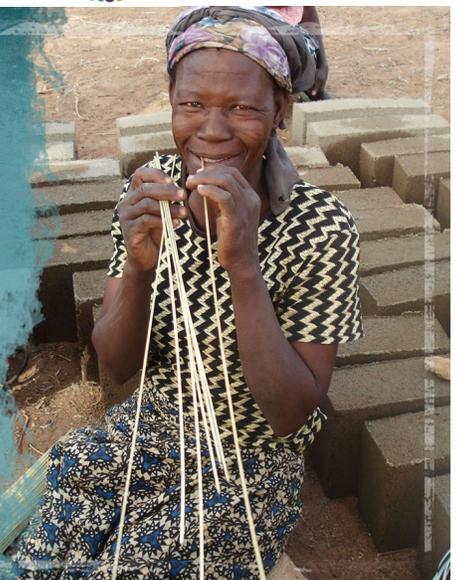
***Support small, locally owned businesses and artisans** They're your neighbors. They keep wealth local. They deserve your support.

***Support businesses with a social mission, for example:**
www.koinoniafarmstore.com
Koinonia, a **Christian farm community** in Georgia, established in 1942, has always stood for racial equality and justice.

Your purchase makes a difference

A fair trade nonprofit since 1949, SERRV International partners with small-scale artisans & farmers in rural and urban communities around the world.

SERRV INTERNATIONAL



A Christmas Gift for Your Local Economy

Want to help keep the owners and employees from local businesses in your town employed?

Want to help ensure your local and state governments collect enough sales tax so they can fund social services for local youth, elders and low income people?

Want to stop enriching a billionaire while his workers are exploited in harmful working conditions?



Photo: Awood Center

Support Local Businesses! **Boycott Amazon!**

Locally Owned Enterprise with a Social Mission, Selling Fair Trade, Organic Coffee—
All the good stuff in one place!

The Coffee Connection is a social enterprise that empowers women in recovery from addiction, trauma, and incarceration. They create jobs and train women for sustainable employment as a not-for-profit business selling fair trade, organically-grown, and sustainably-farmed coffee to retail and wholesale customers. And they provide comprehensive support for their participants on the journey toward sustainable recovery.



In years past, Coffee Connection successfully obtained national Catholic Campaign for Human Development grants and deserves our continued support!

Support Coffee Connection by purchasing for individuals and/or making your parish or business a wholesale customer.

www.ourcoffeeconnection.org/shop

www.ourcoffeeconnection.org/wholesale

You can visit their coffee shops at:

681 South Avenue, Rochester, NY

Market Place Mall

1 Miracle Mile Drive, Rochester NY

Two Gifts for The Earth, Our Common Home, and Each Other



1. Call Governor Hochul say THANK YOU for signing the legislation (hooray!) that will place a two year moratorium on new crypto-currency operations in New York State. This is the bill that our Diocesan Public Policy Committee was highlighting last spring. Call **518-474-8390**.

2. Sign the petition in support of the Bigger Better Bottle Bill which would increase the deposit on beverage containers from a nickel to a dime and would expand the types of containers requiring deposit. The current law, passed in 1982, has greatly boosted recycling rates and reduced litter on the streets and in waterways. Expansion would cut solid waste costs for municipal governments and decrease landfill use. Please sign the online petition in support at this [link](#). **We need 699 more signatures to reach our goal.**

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