

Justice, Peace and Life

June 2024

"The virus of polarization and animosity permeates our way of thinking, feeling and acting. We are not immune from this and we need to take care lest such attitudes find a place in our hearts, because this would be contrary to the richness and universality of the church." -Pope Francis

*Can We Disagree Agreeably?
What can Catholics do
to lessen polarization
in our country and our Church?*

Image by Rod Anderson



2024 Diocesan Social Ministry Conference

Following Jesus in a Polarized World

Wednesday July 24, 2024

10:00am-3:30pm

Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Road, Canandaigua NY

\$30 registration fee, includes lunch and materials

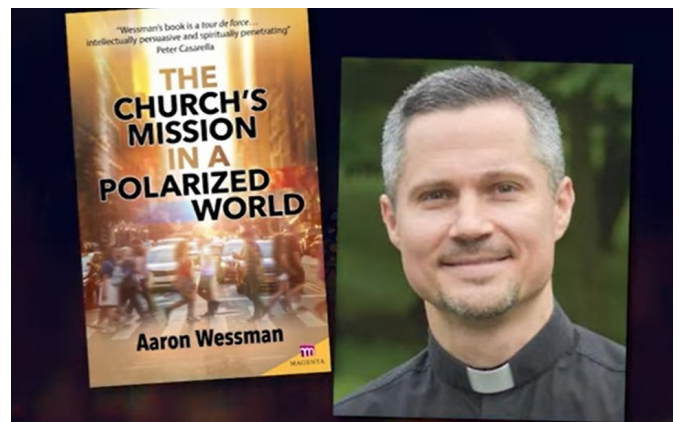
To register, contact: Kathy.Dubel@dor.org or 607-734-9784 ext. 2135

Keynote Speaker:

Fr. Aaron Wessman, G.H.M.

Author of the newly published book
[The Church's Mission in a Polarized World](#)
and featured speaker with the
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Workshops and discussions led by
Braver Angels, the citizens' organization
uniting red and blue Americans in
a working alliance to depolarize America.





Speaking Up for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Over fifty years ago, our U.S. Bishops established the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** (CCHD) to fund efforts by low-income people to address the root causes of their poverty and oppression. CCHD has supported thousands of projects that empower people to improve their working and housing conditions and claim their rights to a decent life.

Through the annual CCHD collection, Catholics have stood with people on the margins who are making real social change.

However, CCHD's future is uncertain and the current grantmaking cycle has been postponed. Please click [here](#) to sign the online petition **by June 9** asking the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to continue their support of this critically important work. CCHD is one of the most powerful ways that the U.S. Catholic Church fights poverty and defends human dignity. Let's stand with people on the margins by standing with CCHD.

Grassroots groups in the Diocese of Rochester that have received major CCHD grants include:

a land trust that renovated blighted properties and empowered homeowners in inner city Rochester

an organization of and for refugees that provided English classes, job skills training, and tenants organizing

a farmworker group empowering its membership by advocating for workplace rights legislation

a wholesale and retail coffee business providing job skills and a supportive, sober environment for women in recovery from addiction

a workers' center led by low-income people which promotes living wages and assists workers who are victims of wage theft and other mistreatment in the workplace



The House Agriculture Committee recently voted to approve a Farm Bill proposal. While the bill has some positive points, it includes a provision that could potential cut billions of dollars from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), what used to be called Food Stamps, which is the nation's largest anti-hunger program.

Constituents of Reps. Molinaro and Langworthy: please tell them, as members of the House Agriculture Committee, that they should especially be champions of SNAP and oppose these new provisions.

Click [here](#) to write to your Representative to ask them to oppose these changes. Then take the next step and call too!
House switchboard: **(202) 224-3121**

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