

# Charity and Justice: Walking with both feet!

There are two distinct, but complementary ways we can respond to the call to put love into action... **Christian Charity** is first, a simple response to immediate needs and specific situations: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for and healing the sick, visiting those in prison, etc.” (Pope Benedict XVI) **Social Justice** concerns the social, political, and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions.” (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*) Help us walk with both feet as we love and support the poor this February!



HOPE provides safe and judgement-free shelter, innovative programs and public advocacy to end homelessness. HOPE is committed to helping each guest resolve their homelessness and identify a network of supportive services which they deliver in a trauma-informed setting.

February 19—25<sup>th</sup>, our parish will be loving our homeless brothers and sisters in the HOPE Adult Shelter and HOPE Recuperative Care Shelter by providing home cooked meals, small gifts, and acts of love. Please join us in this beautiful work of charity!

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**Serve with us!**

**February 19 – 25**

Visit: [www.stirenaeus.org/hope/](http://www.stirenaeus.org/hope/)

Questions? Contact Colleen Steyer  
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- Continue to check back on Sign Up Genius for updated donation needs and volunteer opportunities!
- Sign up to donate food, paper products, clothing, or other needed items...
- Roll silverware, prepare desserts, assemble gift bags...
- Prepare dinner, pack for transport, and clean up in our Parish Hall and kitchen...
- Transport food to HOPE Recuperative Care Center.
- Transport food and carpool to HOPE Adult Shelter in Pontiac to serve dinner and clean up—this is a great opportunity to interact with guests, sharing our love and smiles!
- Pray for our week of service and the guests we serve!

## Justice Senate Bill 3 Passed!

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) helps working, low-income families afford basic necessities and incentivizes people to work and earn income. Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) supports the EITC because it helps the poor while upholding the dignity of work because it can only be claimed by someone earning income.

MCC was instrumental in getting Michigan’s EITC passed in 2006 and worked to prevent the elimination of the EITC in 2011, when it was reduced from 20 percent of the federal credit to 6 percent. The EITC is a pro-work, anti-poverty tax credit, and MCC has been working for years to have the EITC expanded to 30 percent because of the massive impact it would have on helping the working poor make ends meet during these times of high inflation and high prices.

Both the state House and Senate introduced bills to increase the EITC. We wanted to ask you to urge our state lawmakers to pass the EITC bill—but lawmakers just voted and **Senate Bill 3 passed!** The average single parent with two children only received \$355 at the 6 percent level. Now that same single parent with two children can claim \$1,776—and it starts with the 2022 tax year that is filed this April!

Our state budget is expected to see a surplus of nearly \$10 billion, and families struggling to keep up with high prices can really benefit from this needed tax relief—if they know about it. Last year, only 80% of the families who qualified for the tax credit filed for it. And, yes, there are even some families who qualify right here in our own neighborhoods! Five percent of the clients in our Rochester area served by Neighborhood House are in poverty, and about 25% are considered ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed—meaning, the death of a family member, divorce, medical emergency, or a car breakdown would have a devastating effect on these families). They barely make it paycheck to paycheck. One could be your neighbor.

Share the success of the EITC with those around you. And learn about new advocacy opportunities (e.g., an upcoming affordable housing bill) from the [Michigan Catholic Conference’s Catholic Advocacy Network](http://MichiganCatholicConference.org/CatholicAdvocacyNetwork).