

# CSWNA January 2015 Newsletter



CATHOLIC SOCIAL WORKERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

January 2015

## January Prayer

Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again.  
Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame  
So that in our time, many will see the  
wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious  
name.

Amen



### Special points of interest:

- WILL RAINFORD, DEAN OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE APPOINTED AS THE BOARD CHAIR
- CHAPTER CREATED AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
- CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER
- PAPAL VISIT
- MARCH FOR LIFE 2015

## Announcements

- Will Rainford, Dean of the National Catholic School of Social Service, has been appointed as the Board Chair of CSWNA
- 42nd March for Life held on January 22, 2015 in Washington D.C.
- 2015 annual conference will be held at The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. (Dates to come)
- Pope Francis will be visiting Philadelphia, New York and Washington D.C. in September of 2015
- Get connected with us on LinkedIn and Twitter! @CSWNA\_Official
- Email us if you are interested in volunteering or presenting for our annual conference
- We welcomed 12 new members from The Catholic University of America, National Catholic School of Social Service! They have started a CSWNA chapter on campus

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Will Rainford, Board Chair, and members of Catholic University at March for Life 2015

## March for Life 2015

The 42nd annual March for Life took place on January 21st on the National Mall. Hundreds of thousands of high school students, college students, and adults marched for the protection of innocent lives. Prior the march, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception held a prayer vigil the night before. 20,000 pilgrims attended this vigil. The march began at noon at the National Mall and ended at the steps of the Supreme

Court. Speakers at the March for Life included: Rev. Joseph Kurtz, President of the USCCB, Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, and senators from New Jersey, Illinois, South Carolina and Washington. The youth of America came out in large numbers which is evidenced by the 23,000 retweets the Pope received on his tweet on Twitter about the march. Reports from the day really highlighted how young people are

getting very involved in the fight for life and how this could change the future of the right to life in America. Will Rainford, board chair, marched with The Catholic University of America. Catholic University had a strong presence at the march with 500 students in attendance.

## Will Rainford appointed as Board Chair of CSWNA

“WHEN WE GATHER, IN SPIRIT OR IN PRESENCE, WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER, LIFT EACH OTHER, VALIDATE EACH OTHER. “

When Kathleen Neher, President of CSWNA, asked me if I would serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors, I was at once humbled, flattered, and deeply concerned! On the one hand, I want to always be ready to answer God’s call to use my time, talent and treasure in service to His people. On the other hand, as Dean of the National Catholic School of Social Service at The Catholic University of America, time is my most precious commodity. Trusting God, and knowing the vital importance of the success of CSWNA, I accepted the post with enthusiasm!

Practicing social work, while remaining true to Catholic values is challenging, only in that the world expects us to be “social worky” while we are required to water down our Catholic beliefs. Thus it is that CSWNA is vital as an organization that brings us

together in mutuality as Catholic social workers. When we gather, in spirit or in presence, we support each other, lift each other, validate each other. Our common bond makes our walk that much easier!

Allow me to introduce myself, and, in doing so, invite you into relationship as a brother or sister Catholic social worker. I was born in St. Louis, Missouri and baptized Catholic at St. Elizabeth’s Roman Catholic Church. However, my parents suffered divorce when I was four and left the Church. When I was 28 years old, while a graduate student at Washington University, I wandered into the Catholic Student Center seeking some connection to my baptism. Wonderfully, God took me on an amazing journey of faith and I was confirmed on Easter Sunday, 1995. I have been so very blessed since, growing

in faith and falling ever deeper in love with the Church and God!

I have been a social worker for 20 years. I hold a BSW from San Jose State University, an MSW from Washington University, and a PhD from UC-Berkeley. I have worked in a homeless shelter for street youth in San Jose, as a school social worker, in a pediatric trauma center, in a homeless shelter for families and as a legislative advocate. In my academic life, I held faculty positions at University of Missouri-St. Louis and Boise State University. I served as the director of the Worden School of Social Service at Our Lady of the Lake University and am currently the dean at CUA’s NCSSS. God has blessed me with an abundance of opportunities to grow and serve as an academic leader in social work higher education!

I am married to Rosio Gonzalez-Rainford, who is also a social worker, currently working as an associate director of Catholic



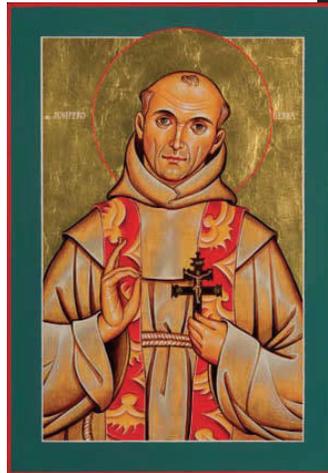
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Charities in Washington, DC. She has served as executive director of Catholic Charities for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise and as the Director of Pastoral Offices for the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Antonio. Importantly, Rosio is a new member of CSWNA! We both look forward to years of service and fellowship through CSWNA and hope to meet each of you at the conference this summer!

## Papal Visit to America

Pope Francis has officially announced that he will be making his first visit to America this coming September. His plans include visiting Philadelphia, New York and Washington D.C. The Pope's visit will last from September 22nd to the 27th. While in Philadelphia, the Pope will attend the World Meeting on Families. This event was started by Pope John Paul II in 1994 and is meant to strengthen and support families. Pope Francis will be arriving in D.C. Sept. 22, visiting The White House and celebrating mass at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Im-

maculate Conception Sept. 23, and addressing Congress Sept. 24 before traveling to New York to address the United Nations Sept. 25. The mass at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will be open to the public and will also be where the Pope is canonizing Blessed Junipero Serra. Blessed Junipero is an 18th century Spanish Franciscan friar who founded several missions in California.



Blessed Junipero Serra

"I REALIZED I WANTED TO DO MORE WITH MY LIFE AND THAT I WANTED TO DEDICATE MY LIFE TO HELPING OTHERS."

## CSWNA Student Spotlight: Kelly Dohony

During my kindergarten graduation, each student was asked what he or she wanted to do when they grew up. I stood up on that stage in front of the microphone and told the audience that I wanted to be a teacher. That answer remained my response for most of my life, and I thought that it was my destiny to become a teacher. It was not until high school, until I began to volunteer through my church and in my community that I realized that I wanted to do more with my life and that I wanted to dedicate my life to helping others. I did not want to be confined by the walls of a

classroom, and instead desired to go out into the world and change the lives of others on a deeper level. It was then that I discovered the field of social work, and I never looked back. I am now a sophomore social work student at The Catholic University of America, and have loved every second of it. I am currently a research assistant and working on a human trafficking conference for bishops, priests, and other religious figures occurring at the university this summer. I also volunteer at a local shelter for young mothers and their children, am a member

of the National Catholic Social Work Association, and am on the Irish dance team at Catholic. My faith and my involvement in my local church led me to the field of social work, and will be a very important part of my career as a social worker. Ten years from now, I hope to be working with homeless youth who are struggling with abuse and human trafficking. After gaining experience working with people, I hope to work in public policy and advocate for those who do not have a voice.



Kelly Dohony, CUA  
National Catholic School of Social Service  
Class of 2017



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*Catholic Social Workers National Association is a Professional Membership Association that was formed on the belief that professional associations should support not only your profession, but also your beliefs, values, and your faith. CSWNA has been established for social workers who are faithful to the teachings of the church and are looking for support and direction within their profession based upon church teachings. Catholic Social Workers National Association affirms and supports the teachings and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church.*

*Catholic Social Workers are called to care for the poor and the poor of spirit. They work with those who abuse, and are abused as well as who have been neglected in body, mind, or spirit. They advocate for the youngest of the young, in their mothers wombs, the elderly, the sick and the dying until Jesus calls them home. Catholic Social Workers humbly walk with their clients through life's joys and challenges, living out Jesus' command to love, by following his example in washing the feet of our fellow man.*

## Letter from the President

We will soon be on our Lenten journey. Lent and Easter are my favorite time of the year. I look forward to Lent all year long. The passion and death of our Lord helps us truly see the blessed gift given to us on the cross. We have so much in our world today and we take most of it for granted. Our world's focus is on material wealth and status instead of living a life for Christ; hopeful for eternity with Jesus in heaven. Our faith teaches us that faith is dead without works. Living our life for others, giving to others in need is what we are called to do. This is the mission of Catholic Social Workers National Association. As members, we follow Christ and serve the marginalized with love and compassion. As an organization, we support and educate our members so they can serve God and their fellow man to the best of their ability.

We continue to be blessed as an organization. CSWNA has had many changes over the last couple months. We are now working collaboratively with our new sponsor, Catholic University of America promoting Catholic Social Work. In addition, Dean Will Rainford has accepted a position to serve as the Chairman of the Board for CSWNA. We are very excited for this relationship and look forward to other Catholic universities to follow suit.

Liz Barry is a social work student at Catholic University of America and will be working with CSWNA on many projects, including this newsletter. We are grateful for her time and talent. Liz will also be helping us market and communicate the message of CSWNA through social media. Please join us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. Please feel free to start discussions.

In September, the association will be hosting a booth at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. The events on Saturday and Sunday with Pope Francis are free to the public. I would love to see you there. Please take part in this event if you can.

We are also planning our annual conference at Catholic University of America. The final dates will be announced soon. If you would like to help plan the conference or even have ideas for speakers and topics please contact me at [system@cswna.org](mailto:system@cswna.org).

One last note, please log into your account at [www.cswna.org](http://www.cswna.org) and update your demographic information. The association mailed out Christmas cards and several were returned due to change in address. Please contact me if you cannot remember your log in information.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [system@cswna.org](mailto:system@cswna.org).

Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our joy, pray for us

Kathleen Neher, LISW-S  
President