

MARCH 2019

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Catholic Social Workers' National Association



Loving and compassionate God, we celebrate with great joy the faith and works of our patroness St. Louise de Marillac. Instill in us the fire of her love, the tenacity of her belief, and the tenderness of her care for the most abandoned. Draw us together into the light of your presence and help us to trust in the power of your Spirit, leading us to ever closer to you, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

St. Louise De Marillac, pray for us.

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ABORTION LEGISLATION - HOW THIS WILL IMPACT CATHOLIC SOCIAL WORKERS

Abortion laws are being examined at the state level, with many states voting on elective abortion-up-to birth. One of the most extreme abortion bills being voted on in New Mexico would allow abortions for all nine months, eliminate restrictions that require parental involvement, and force medical professionals to “participate in this practice by stripping away explicit conscience protections from the current statutes” (Life Site News). Other states that have been voting and passing extreme abortion laws include New York and Vermont.

As Catholics we see this abortion law as a threat to religious freedom and our practice. Not only could we lose our jobs and licensing, but there could be lawsuits, fines, and criminalization. Choosing not to comply with pro-abortion laws should be the right of every professional. We need to follow this legislation, call our representatives, and spread the word that we do not support these horrendous laws.

The fight for our religious freedom will be challenging, but we hold on to hope. There are numerous states who are preparing to pass legislation that will ban or criminalize abortion if Roe v. Wade is overturned. Kentucky, Arkansas, and Tennessee are just a few that are preparing for the end to abortion.

Join the CSWNA in fighting for an end to abortion and the protection of our rights as Catholic Social Workers.

More information available at CSWNA and Life Site News - Source from:
<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/new-mexico-house-passes-most-extreme-pro-abortion-bill-in-america>

"For you created
my inmost
being; you knit
me together in
my mother's
womb. I praise
you because I
am fearfully and
wonderfully
made; your
works are
wonderful, I
know that full
well."-Psalm
139 13-14



FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE
ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT.
PASSIONATELY CATHOLIC.

The Social Work Program at Franciscan University is full of promise and potential with the addition of new program faculty and committed social work students. Dr. Kathleen Belanger, Professor Kathleen Neher, and Professor Ricardo Chapparo-Pacheco are the newest additions to the program and are working to expand the student body, grow the field placement experience, and infuse all the classes with a strong Catholic foundation. The students have been excited to welcome the new faculty and are eager to learn from the expansive knowledge and unique career experiences they offer. The future of Catholic Social work is promising with the growth of the program at Franciscan University of Steubenville.



Kathleen Neher



Ricardo Chapparo-Pacheco



Kathleen Belanger

MARCH. 2019

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The Career Inspiration of a Social Work Student
- Written by Therese Burnham



"Every life
has dignity
and worth"

My earliest memory is kissing my mom's growing stomach and whispering, "I love you, baby." I was just two and a half, the youngest of a family of six, and I was beyond psyched to finally know what it was like to be a big sister. Nothing could ruin this bliss for me, I was so happy that I was pretty much oblivious to how scared my parents and older siblings were. I didn't notice the anxiety and fear my parents felt as my sibling's due date approached. I finally realized this might be a tricky situation when my little brother, Max, arrived two months early. Max had to stay in the hospital for two more months before he could come home. He battled hard and had to keep fighting, but boy did he come out on top. Most of my early memories involve me going with my parents to Max's appointments and interventions. I loved it. I went everywhere with him, and I always held his hand in the car. In my mind, this was an awesome adventure. Max was a little slower than the other kids his age, but he was still smart. He still laughed at all his siblings' shenanigans and as soon as he was able to, he joined in! He fit perfectly into the family. He made us stronger and taught us about this whole kind of new joy that we had never known before. Having Max as the youngest member of the family just added this extra spark into our lives.

When I was growing up, it never occurred to me that I should be upset or angry that Max was not like everyone else. Max was Max. He had this unique quality about himself that drew everyone in and made them feel so incredibly loved. He was not Down syndrome, that was just something he had. I never realized that others couldn't see this though. In other's eyes, Max talked slower and kind of funny, plus he didn't quite look like everybody else. The first time I realized that I had this whole other perspective of my brother was when someone apologized to me after hearing I had a brother with Down syndrome. I was about 8 years old and I remember laughing it off and saying, "I'm not, he's the coolest person I know."



"It lit a fire within me to help others, especially those who are misunderstood"



I could go on and on with stories about my brother; he is amazing and has taught me so much. The greatest of these is that every life has dignity and worth, and it is with this core foundation that I chose to go into the social work profession. Max's love for life and everyone in it showed me how to see the world differently. It lit a fire within me to help others, especially those who are misunderstood. St. Catherine of Siena once said, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire," and that is exactly what Max has done with his life. Max has been that spark in so many people's lives, and I am lucky to say that I am one of them.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

by Mary Clare O'Brien

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) is a theory that categorizes Abuse, Neglect, and Trauma experienced in childhood to determine the long-term effects. There are ten ACE's: Emotional Abuse, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Neglect, Physical Neglect, Household Mental Illness, Household Substance Abuse, Parental Separation or Divorce, Incarcerated Household Member, and Mother treated violently. The Center for Disease Control, Kaiser Permanente, and the Department of Health and Human Services have done recent studies that show Adverse Childhood Experiences are extremely common. Out of the over 17,000 individuals looked at in their study, almost two-thirds of participants had at least one ACE. It was also found that more than one in five participants reported three or more ACE 's.

he long term effects of ACE's are negative health and well-being outcomes throughout the life course. The higher the ACE score, the higher the risk for the following: alcoholism and alcohol abuse, smoking, illicit drug use, depression, suicide attempts, poor academic achievement, financial stress, multiple sexual partners, STD's, risk for sexual or intimate partner violence, as well as countless health issues and early initiation of risky behavior. This list is not exhaustive and there are countless other risk factors that individuals with ACE's are at high risk to experience. This pyramid shows the progression of negative outcomes that occur due to ACE's



For more information on ACE's and to learn about implementing screening in your local community visit: <https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/practicing-effective-prevention/prevention-behavioral-health/adverse-childhood-experiences>

SOCIAL WORK MONTH

March is Social Work Month and this provides us a great opportunity to celebrate our profession and our Catholic faith!

Ways you can celebrate this month:

Become a member to the CSWNA

Sign up for the Passionately Catholic conference this fall



The theme for this years conference is:

Passionately Catholic Social Work.

Be sure to check our website and your email for our flyers, registration forms, and the Call for Presentations.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference at Franciscan University this fall!



Be sure to check out the newest updates to our website.

USCCB's Action Center to stay current on legislation

Revised Code of Ethics and Bylaws

New board members to the association

NEW Catholic Social Work gear coming soon

LENT 2019

“Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ.”- Pope Francis



Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that draws us closer to the Lord and prepares us for the season of Easter. During this time of sacrifice we can reflect on our patroness, St. Louise de Marillac. Her life was dedicated to serving the poor, marginalized, and oppressed. She oversaw many women and helped train them in her own home, to serve those in need. St. Louise helped establish her congregation in over forty homes, hospitals, orphanages, and institutions. Through her dedication and commitment, she impacted countless lives. Following her example, we can use the Lenten season to reflect on ways we can be more involved in serving those in need. Is there an individual, family, or community need that we can help address? What ways can we bring the light and love of Christ to those we serve? Let us use this season of prayer to grow closer to Christ and show others his love and mercy.