





# Legislative Advocacy Committee

WHO, WHAT AND HOW

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# Legislative Advocacy Committee

Rita Billingsley - Advisor Southern Deanery  
 Katherine Martin - Intern Western Deanery  
 Lauren Morris - Member Eastern Deanery  
 Ann Fivie - Chair Central Deanery

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## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (LAC) DUTIES

The LAC monitors issues that impact the Catholic Church teaching and USCCB priorities positively or negatively and initiates education on or action by members.

The LAC shares Action Alerts and Legislative information with members.  
 (Both must be acted upon quickly because time is usually very short before legislature is voting on the issue.)

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LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (LAC) DUTIES (Cont'd)

- Affiliations write monthly report on activity to send to Deanery LAC.
- Deanery writes monthly report on activity to send to Orlando Diocesan LAC.
- Affiliations write annual recognition report on a project.

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LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY RESOURCES (WEBSITES)

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – usccb.org

<b>About</b>	<b>Prayer &amp; Worship</b>	<b>Bible</b>	<b>Issues &amp; Actions</b>
Role & Mission	Daily Readings Calendar	Bible FAQ	Take Action
Strategic Plan	How to pray the Rosary	Study materials	USCCB Calendar
Leadership Bishops & Dioceses	Search for Mass Times	Rediscovering the Mass	Contact Officials Pray
	<b>News</b>	<b>Resources</b>	

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LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY RESOURCES (WEBSITES)

- Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops - flaccb.org
- Florida Catholic Advocacy Network (FLCAN) is a statewide, online community established by bishops of Florida that exists to connect, education and mobilize Catholics across Florida's seven dioceses on public policy issues pertaining to life, dignity and the common good.

<b>Advocacy Areas</b>	<b>News</b>
Life	News Briefs
Family & Social Concerns	Press Releases
Health	FLCAN Newsletter
Education	

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Northern Deanery Legislative Report Spring Board Meeting – February 18, 2023			
Parish: CCW Legislative Chair Contact & CCW President	Plans	Sources of Information & ODCCW Legislative Agenda 2022-2023	Attend Catholic Days @ the Capitol (CDAC) March 7-8, 2023
Blessed Sacrament Loretta Ferrara 407-654-3230 H 352-988-3840 C <a href="mailto:Lorita99@aol.com">Lorita99@aol.com</a>  President Diane Owen 630-414-1652 <a href="mailto:Diane.dian.owen@gmail.com">Diane.dian.owen@gmail.com</a>	Spring – 2023 1. Loretta is keeping track of 30 Bills. 2. HR 26 Born Alive Survivors Protection Act shared with the CCW members and asked them to contact their senators. 3. Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty Presented it to the Board. FADP.org. 4. Members were asked to pray for the end of the Death Penalty also. 5. Members are being given information on the Catholic Days at the Capitol both in the CCW Bulletin directly in emails.  Fall – 2022 1. Introduce the USCCB's "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility" and the FDCCB 2022 Voter Guide. 2. Review the USCCB positions on the different bills at each CCW meeting. 3. In the Spring, we will deliver information on the various bills that were addressed at CDAC to our members.	- Northern Deanery - Catholic Vote - USCCB & FLCCB - Catholic News - Loop - Florida Catholic Advocacy <a href="https://catholiccenter.org/loop/">https://catholiccenter.org/loop/</a>	Catholic Days at the Capitol Mar. 7-8, 2023  Will encourage others to go.

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## PROTECTIONS OF MEDICAL CONSCIENCE



**Allows health care workers & payors the right to opt out of participation or Payment of any health care Services based upon CONFLICT OF CONSCIENCE**

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## EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

**Education Savings Accounts (ESA's) are now available to ALL Florida Students:**



**PUBLIC SCHOOL  
HOMESCHOOL  
PRIVATE  
PAROCHIAL**

[Download by permission Author's Personal under CC BY-NC](#)

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**CHILD PROTECTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



- **Prohibits classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity in grades K-8.**

**PROHIBITS PERSONAL PRONOUNS**

**PARENTS CAN RESTRICT BOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT THEIR CHILD CAN ACCESS.**




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**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS RECEIVED \$11 MILLION**

Community Partnership Schools provide resources to Title 1 schools to "give fish to students and families while teaching them to fish".

- Food pantries, free and reduced meals
- Safe environments to learn, play, be tutored and enriched
- Wellness and healthcare resources

We can take action here by a letter/email writing activity to thank the legislators for supporting this and the Governor for approving it in his budget.





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**Reduction in Funding for Public Colleges and Universities for Programs involving DEI**



Dropping the Ball

May 2023: Gov. DeSantis signed a bill into law in which public colleges and universities can not use federal or state money to fund programs involved with Diversity, Equity, or Inclusion - From apnews.com

Woke Definition: aware of and actively attentive to important societal facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice) - from Merriam-Webster

Only 5 Catholic Colleges/Universities in Florida - from USCCB

In light of the fact that funding has been reduced to public universities, and they may no longer be the excellent resource for cultural education, we, as Catholics, have to be sure that we are educating our own youth about the gifts that we all bring as individuals and the gifts that come from different cultural groups.


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**Catholic Charities**



**Our Mission**

Catholic Charities serves with charity and compassion to promote the sanctity and dignity of all people with God. As a member of Church, Catholic Charities offers hope by helping those in need and unites with others in service.



**Our Values**

Catholic Charities makes a Commitment to Serve all people with Respect, Compassion and Cooperation in the spirit of a unifying God.

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**One Topic to Work on this Coming Year: Supporting Legal Immigrants**



Get involved with Catholic Charities Immigration Programs and bring information back to your affiliation.

<p>Catholic Charities of Central Florida - Immigration &amp; Refugee Services (Orlando Office)</p> <p>Location: 1771 N. Semoran Blvd, Suite C Orlando, FL 32807 Website: <a href="http://www.cfcc.org">http://www.cfcc.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:legalservices@cfcc.org">legalservices@cfcc.org</a> Phone: 407-658-1818 Contact methods: Email, Mail/Letter, Phone calls</p> <p>Main office focuses on Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties</p>	<p>Catholic Charities of St. Petersburg - Immigration Services (Tampa Office)</p> <p>Location: 2021 E. Busch Blvd Tampa, FL 33612 Website: <a href="http://www.ccdosp.org/immigration-services/">http://www.ccdosp.org/immigration-services/</a> Phone: (813) 631-4370 Contact methods: Drop-in, Phone calls</p>
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**One Topic to Work on this Coming Year: Ending Human Trafficking**



Human trafficking, especially of children, continues to be a humanitarian crisis. In light of the new movie, "The Sound of Freedom", this will certainly have the attention of the Bishops in the next year and should have our attention as well.



Contact Susie Harding for more information:  
[hardinj.@bellsouth.net](mailto:hardinj.@bellsouth.net)

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**Five Bible Verses to Reflect On**



"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." - James 2:14-17

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." -Proverbs 1:7

"Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." -Philippians 2:4

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." -Hosea 4:6

"Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance." -Proverbs 1:5

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