WCC Welcomes New Associate Director

This fall, Wisconsin Catholic Conference Executive Director Kim Wadas announced the appointment of Larry Haas of Waunakee, Wisconsin, as Associate Director for Education and Health Care Policy. Haas began his duties October 1, 2016.

Larry earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from St. Norbert College and his Master’s degree in Business Management from Cardinal Stritch University.

The majority of Haas’s career was with American Family Insurance, but more recently he worked for Minacs, USA, in Milwaukee, and CUNA Mutual Group in Madison. Larry is married to Cindy and has three sons, Andrew, Jonathan, and Daniel.

“We are extremely excited to have Larry serve as our new Associate Director for Education and Health Care,” noted Executive Director Wadas. “His commitment to faith, combined with his experience of dealing with health care issues, will prove extremely valuable in addressing the wealth of policy issues that we speak to at the WCC.”

In addition to being a St. Norbert and Cardinal Stritch graduate, Haas has extensive personal experience with Catholic education as a graduate of Our Lady Queen of Peace elementary school and Edgewood High School. “It is a blessing to be able to blend my business and health care background with my Catholic faith by serving the Wisconsin Catholic Conference and Catholics statewide, especially with the ever-changing issues associated with education and health care policy.”

Haas is a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Waunakee, where he served two terms on the Parish Council and lectors on Sundays. He also volunteers at the Catholic Multicultural Center, serving meals to the hungry and homeless, and regularly donates platelets (apheresis) to the Red Cross for cancer patients.
Every year around this time, the Catholic Church takes time to recognize the achievements of Catholic education by celebrating Catholic Schools Week. There are all-school masses, spirit days, invited guests, and special recognitions, including a proclamation from the Governor. It is a time to honor the dedicated work of our school faculty and staff, who also frequently serve as tutors, lunch room monitors, coaches, mentors, chaperones, etc.

Over the past few decades, Catholic schools have gone through an unexpected transition. The dedicated men and women religious who faithfully served Catholic schools have dwindled to a select few. Along with staffing concerns, Catholic schools must address the same emerging challenges all schools face, such as improving technology, enhancing school safety, and increasing academic achievement.

The recent federally-enacted Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) assists schools with some of these challenges. By amending existing law, ESSA facilitates effective cooperation among public and private school partners, allowing all students to experience growth in learning. Under ESSA, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is charged with developing a state plan that provides a comprehensive design of how the state will address academic assessment, accountability, school support and improvement, and support for students and educators. By law, the DPI must seek input from stakeholders during plan’s development. The Governor, members of the Legislature, public school districts, tribal representatives, teachers and school leaders, and a host of organizations representing individuals, such as parents and families, students with unique needs, underserved populations, employers, and private school students, must all be consulted in the plan’s design. Once implemented, private and public schools leaders must meet enhanced consultation requirements to determine how to best assist underserved students and those with unique needs.

Through ESSA, public and private schools have a new tool for improving as partners in education. By working with public education colleagues, Catholic schools aspire to live out the Catholic Schools Week theme of being “Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.”

WCC Opposes Physician-Assisted Suicide

At its June 2016 meeting, the American Medical Association’s (AMA) House of Delegates adopted a resolution to consider changing the AMA’s decades-long position against physician-assisted suicide (PAS) to one of “neutrality.” Opposition to PAS by national and state medical associations has been critical to preserving laws against the practice. In Oregon, Vermont, and California the change from opposition to “neutrality” by state medical associations was a key factor in the legalization of PAS in those states.

In November, the WCC wrote to the AMA, urging it to maintain its opposition PAS.

“Human life is a sacred gift from God and an inalienable right, deserving of protection. While physicians cannot cure every illness, they can and must show love and support for every human life and resist the temptation to facilitate death. Increased use of palliative care is the proper response to human suffering, not assisted suicide.”

The WCC noted that groups such as Disability Rights Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, and countless other individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions have opposed measures to legalize PAS in Wisconsin.

“Those living with disabilities, illness, and chronic conditions understand that neutrality to assisted suicide by medical professionals will result in societal coercion, abuse, pressure, and a devaluing of those who are vulnerable.”

“Unless our society and medical professionals remain committed to protecting human life, it will become easier to justify death for a host of non-medical reasons.” The letter concluded by urging the AMA to “reaffirm the role of physician as healer – one who seeks to eliminate the pain and not the patient.”

AMA leadership has indicated that its Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs is currently reviewing the issue and will offer future reflections on AMA policy in this area.
WCC 2017 Public Policy Positions

For the 2017-2018 legislative session, the bishops of Wisconsin have approved the following public policy positions, organized around the seven principles of Catholic social teaching. A short version of the document follows. The full version is available at www.wisconsincatholic.org.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person. Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, each person’s life and dignity must be respected from conception to natural death.
• Protect each and every human life.
• Affirm the dignity of human life in medical and life science research.
• Support women facing unplanned pregnancies.
• Stop domestic abuse and human trafficking.
• Support the aging, those with disabilities, the chronically ill, and the terminally ill.
• Reject the death penalty.

Family, Community, and Participation. The human person is not only sacred, but social. Marriage and family should be supported and strengthened, not undermined. Every person has a right to participate in social, economic, and political life, and a corresponding duty to work for the advancement of the common good and the well-being of all, especially the poor and weak.
• Keep children safe.
• Encourage and strengthen marriage.
• Respect and promote family relationships.
• Support choice in education.
• Strengthen support for education.
• Promote adoption and foster care.
• Require parental consent for medical treatments.
• Promote responsible sexuality.
• Assist veterans, their families, and those affected by armed conflict.
• Support family farms.

Rights and Responsibilities. Every person has a fundamental right to life – the right that makes all other rights possible. Each person also has a right to the conditions for living a decent life – food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care, the freedom of communication and expression, and the protection of religious freedom.
• Support equitable taxation and sound fiscal policies.
• Protect religious freedom and conscience.
• Support healthy lifestyles.
• Support crime victims and restorative justice for offenders.
• Support law enforcement personnel and all who help preserve public safety.
• Promote racial justice and reconciliation.

Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. The Church calls on all of us to embrace a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, to embody it in our lives, and to work to have it shape public policies and priorities.
• Make affordable health care available to all.
• Eliminate hunger.
• Increase funding for safe and affordable housing.
• Prohibit predatory lending practices.
• Reform the juvenile justice system.
• Strengthen public transportation.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. The economy must serve people, not the other way around. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers, owners, and others must be respected.
• Provide living wages.
• Protect workers’ rights.
• Remove barriers to employment.
• Foster employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Solidarity. We are one human family. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbors has global dimensions in a shrinking world.
• Uphold human rights of immigrants and refugees.
• Participate justly in the global economy.

Care for God’s Creation. The world that God created has been entrusted to us. Our use of it must be directed by God’s plan for creation, not simply for our own benefit.
• Promote sustainable farming.
• Support clean land, air, and water.
• Encourage conservation and sustainable energy.
For up-to-date information, join the WCC’s free e-advocacy network and get the bi-weekly Capitol Update.

Visit www.wisconsincatholic.org to sign up!

CAPITOL REPORT is published quarterly by the WCC to inform Catholics and policy decision makers of the WCC’s activities and positions on state and federal legislation.

WCC Staff
Kim Wadas, Executive Director
Cathy Coyle-Kaufmann, Admin. Assistant
Barbara Sella, Associate Director for Respect Life/Social Concerns
Larry Haas, Associate Director for Education/Health Care

Wisconsin Legislature Starts New Session

The 103rd State Legislature was inaugurated into office on January 3, 2017. Compared to the last legislative session, the Republicans have gained a seat in each house with 20 Republicans and 13 Democrats in the Senate, and 64 Republicans and 35 Democrats in the Assembly.

There are 11 new Representatives: seven Republicans and four Democrats. Of the four new Senators, three are Republican and one is a Democrat, though two incoming Senators were previously members of the Assembly, Senators David Craig (R-Big Bend) and LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee). Newly-elected Representative Jason Fields (D-Glendale) has previously served in the Assembly as well. Committee assignments for the members and the 2017-2018 session calendar can be found at http://legis.wisconsin.gov.

Governor Scott Walker immediately called the Legislature into a Special Session to address heroin and opioid addiction and also published several new agency directives aimed at combatting addiction.

Beyond the special session, the main focus of the Legislature early on will be to work with the Governor in crafting and passing the 2017-2019 state budget bill. The Governor has identified several elements that will likely be a part of his state budget proposal, which he will summarize in an address before a joint session of the Legislature on Wednesday, February 8, 2017. The Governor has stated that the proposed budget will include increased public school funding, reduced tuition within the University of Wisconsin system, expanded broadband access, increased local transportation aids and state highway rehabilitation funding, and public benefit reform.

Once proposed, the budget will be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Finance. This committee will once again be led by co-chairs Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette).
A Day of Prayer, Formation & Advocacy
Tuesday, March 28, 2017
8:45am - 4:00pm
Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center
Madison, Wisconsin

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Catholic Conference in cooperation with Catholic Charities, Diocesan Offices of Social Action and Respect Life, the Diocesan Councils of Catholic Women–Province of Milwaukee, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious Region 9, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Councils.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** All those interested in learning more about Catholic social teaching and how to advocate effectively.

**COST:**
- $40/adult advance registration
- $12/student (secondary, full-time post-secondary, advance or same-day)
- $50/adult same-day registration (check/cash)

*Includes continental breakfast and lunch*

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**

**REFUND POLICY:** Refunds will be available to those cancelling registration prior to March 23, 2017. Cancellations received after this date are not eligible for a registration fee refund, including those due to inclement weather.

**CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION:**
Once your registration is received, a confirmation will be sent to you, including a map, parking information, and instructions for those who wish to coordinate meetings with their legislators. Attendees are encouraged to set up appointments with legislators in advance of the day. Please contact the WCC for assistance, or visit www.wisconsincatholic.org for more information and updates on the day’s events.

**PARKING:** The Monona Terrace Parking Ramp is open to the public and costs $1 per half hour with a $12 a day maximum until 5pm (payment by cash, Visa, or MasterCard). Entrances to the ramp are located on W. Wilson St., just south of Carroll St., or off John Nolen Dr. Disabled parking stalls are available on the top ramp and in front of the Level Three entrance.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The Capitol Building is located two blocks from the Monona Terrace. Those who need assistance traveling to the Capitol should request accommodation in advance (see reverse).

Certain dioceses are arranging for transportation. Please contact your diocesan office for social concerns or justice for more information. If you are traveling from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, please indicate if you have registered, or will register, for the Badger Coach bus (see reverse).

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:**
Please make arrangements for accommodations directly with the hotel. The WCC has acquired a special room rate at the [Hilton Madison Monona Terrace](http://hiltonmadison.com). See the WCC website or call for details.

- [Hilton Madison Monona Terrace](http://hiltonmadison.com), 1-800-445-8667
- [Best Western Premier Park Hotel](http://parkhotelmadison.com), 1-800-780-7734
- [Madison Concourse Hotel](http://concoursehotel.com), 1-800-356-8293

**Keynote address by Colleen Stratton**
Speaker, Writer, and Survivor of Human Trafficking

[www.wisconsincatholic.org](http://www.wisconsincatholic.org)
Catholics at the Capitol
A Day of Prayer, Formation & Advocacy
Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Madison

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Registration with Continental Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45am</td>
<td>Opening Prayer Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10am</td>
<td>Introduction and Keynote Address</td>
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<td><strong>Planted Seeds of Hope – Finding Life After the Life:</strong> Learn how human trafficking is occurring throughout Wisconsin, examine the horrific realities of this modern-day slave trade, and discover how to aid victims of trafficking.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15am</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A1.</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching:</strong> Review the principles that are the basis for the Church’s public policy advocacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2.</td>
<td><strong>Fostering Ethical Research:</strong> Examine ethical standards in medical research and discuss ethical alternatives to questionable research practices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A3.</td>
<td><strong>The Challenges of Poverty:</strong> Examine the challenges that frequently cause people to remain in poverty and learn about programs that effectively combat poverty.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A4.</td>
<td><strong>Reducing Recidivism:</strong> Review policies designed to prevent ex-offenders from returning to the corrections system and discuss effective ways to reduce state incarceration rates.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A5.</td>
<td><strong>Immigration and Refugee Policy:</strong> Discuss recent changes to immigration and refugee policies and examine what the Church can do to accompany families and ensure basic human rights.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Breakout Sessions B</td>
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<tr>
<td>B1.</td>
<td><strong>Servant Leadership:</strong> Discuss what it means to become a servant leader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2.</td>
<td><strong>End Human Trafficking:</strong> Discuss practical ways to identify and aid trafficked persons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B3.</td>
<td><strong>Water Stewardship:</strong> Learn about the importance of safeguarding clean water and discuss how Wisconsin is a leader in freshwater preservation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B4.</td>
<td><strong>Confronting Issues of Race:</strong> Examine the lived reality of people of color, learn how to accompany those who experience racism, and discuss how to better facilitate healing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B5.</td>
<td><strong>Helping Every Student Succeed:</strong> Learn how Catholic schools are meeting unique challenges in education, especially for students in need, and discuss how federal and state education requirements impact Catholic students and schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45pm</td>
<td>General Session: <strong>Advocating for the Common Good – Tips on Contacting Lawmakers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15pm</td>
<td>Leave for Capitol Visits</td>
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**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** **MARCH 20, 2017**

Registration with credit card payment is also available online, visit http://www.wisconsincatholic.org/catholics_at_the_capitol.cfm

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Please make check payable to: Wisconsin Catholic Conference, 131 W. Wilson St., Suite 1105, Madison, WI, 53703

**NAME:** ___________________________ **DIOCESE:** ___________________________

**ADDRESS:**

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**PHONE:** ___________________________ **EMAIL:** ___________________________

**BREAKOUT SESSION PREFERENCE:** Session A ___________(please select from 1-5)  
Session B ___________(please select from 1-5)

☐ I have registered for the Milwaukee Badger Coach at 414-758-2285/shinek@archmil.org.

Please identify special needs:

☐ I have a special accommodation request. Please contact me.

☐ I have dietary restrictions. (Some requirements may incur an additional fee.)

Please describe: ___________________________

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**ADVANCE REGISTRATION FEES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Registration Deadline: March 20, 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual: $40</td>
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<td>Student (full-time): $12</td>
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Only cash or check accepted via mail.

**TOTAL Enclosed $__________**