Abstract

On February 2nd, 2014, the University of Dayton sent a delegation of students and faculty to the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, DC. During this four day gathering of educators, policy makers, religious and lay people, and social justice advocates from all over the world, the group lobbied Congress on Capitol Hill, learned about the extensive civic engagement and advocacy work being done by agencies, academics, and workers of all stripes for the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, participated in policy sessions, plenary discussions, and dialogues about issues facing the world and Church today, and reflected on how the two pillars of the social teaching of the Church—justice and charity—are lived out on Dayton's own campus, in the city of Dayton, and beyond. This presentation explores and highlights some of the extraordinary lessons the delegation learned, and highlights the implications and steps forward they are taking to help improve Dayton's own community through "connecting, learning, praying, and advocating!"