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## Michigan Catholic Conference hosts human trafficking conference

On Feb. 11, the Michigan Catholic Conference hosted "From Darkness to Light: Human Trafficking and Our Response" at Lansing Catholic High School. This day-long conference was about human trafficking or modern-day slavery and highlighted organizations that work to combat this crime and provided ways for individuals to get involved in awareness efforts.



Bishop Earl Boyea began the conference with prayer. Keynote speakers were: Bridgette Carr, founding director of the University of Michigan Human Trafficking Law Clinic and Andrew Soper, founder of The Manassah Project and owner of Five Arrows Consulting.



There were a number of breakout sessions including: "Addressing human trafficking in the health care setting" with Cherie Sammis, director of Ethics Integration for Ascension Health; "Community outreach: human trafficking education and prevention initiatives" with Tracy Montgomery, Michigan Abolitionist Project Mid-Michigan group leader; and "Foreign born victims: unique needs, available services and opportunities for advocates" with Dr. Hilary Chester, associate director of the Anti-Trafficking Program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services.

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